

Wolfgang Iser The Act Of Reading

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Reception - Ika Willis 2017-10-04

Reception introduces students and academics alike to the study of the way in which texts are received by readers, viewers, and audiences. Organized conceptually and thematically, this book provides a much-needed overview of the field, drawing on work in literary and cultural studies as well as Classics, Biblical studies, medievalism, and the media history of the book. It provides new ways of understanding and configuring the relationships between the various terminologies and theories that comprise reception study, and suggests potential ways forward for study and research in the light of such new configurations. Written in a clear and accessible style, this is the ideal introduction to the study of reception.

Walter Pater - Wolfgang Iser 2011-02-17

Within this text, first published in German in 1960, the influential German literary scholar Wolfgang Iser writes engagingly of Pater's aesthetic.

Is There a Text in This Class? - Stanley Fish 1982-04-15

Stanley Fish is one of America's most stimulating literary theorists. In this book, he undertakes a profound reexamination of some of criticism's most basic assumptions. He penetrates to the core of the modern debate about interpretation, explodes numerous misleading formulations, and offers a stunning proposal for a new way of thinking about the way we read. Fish begins by examining the relation between a reader and a text, arguing against the formalist belief that the text alone is the basic, knowable, neutral, and unchanging component of literary experience. But in arguing for the right of the reader to interpret and in effect create the literary work, he skillfully avoids the old trap of subjectivity. To claim that each reader essentially participates in the making of a poem or novel is not, he shows, an invitation to unchecked subjectivity and to the endless proliferation of competing interpretations. For each reader approaches a literary work not as an isolated individual but as part of a community of readers. "Indeed," he writes, "it is interpretive communities, rather than either the text or reader, that produce meanings." The book is developmental, not static. Fish at all times reveals the evolutionary aspect of his work—the manner in which he has assumed new positions, altered them, and then moved on.

Previously published essays are introduced by headnotes which relate them to the central notion of interpretive communities as it emerges in the final chapters. In the course of refining his theory, Fish includes rather than excludes the thinking of other critics and shows how often they agree with him, even when he and they may appear to be most dramatically at odds. Engaging, lucid, provocative, this book will immediately find its place among the seminal works of modern literary criticism.

The Act of Reading - Wolfgang Iser 1980

Aesthetic Experience and Literary Hermeneutics - Hans Robert Jauss 1982

Critical Theory Today - Lois Tyson 2012-09-10

Critical Theory Today is the essential introduction to contemporary critical theory. It provides clear, simple explanations and concrete examples of complex concepts, making a wide variety of commonly used critical theories accessible to novices without sacrificing any theoretical rigor or thoroughness. This new edition provides in-depth coverage of the most common approaches to literary analysis today: feminism, psychoanalysis, Marxism, reader-response theory, new criticism, structuralism and semiotics, deconstruction, new historicism, cultural criticism, lesbian/gay/queer theory, African American criticism, and postcolonial criticism. The chapters provide an extended explanation of each theory, using examples from everyday life, popular culture, and literary texts; a list of specific questions critics who use that theory ask about literary texts; an interpretation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* through the lens of each theory; a list of questions for further practice to guide readers in applying each theory to different literary works; and a bibliography of primary and secondary works for further reading.

Thinking on Paper - V.a. Howard 1988-02-25

Most books on writing assume that the sole purpose of writing is communication. These manuals seldom go beyond teaching how to avoid the problems of punctuation, grammar, and style that at one time or another ensnare the best of writers. Few, if any, of these books explore writing as a way of shaping thought. V.A. Howard and J.H. Barton, two Harvard researchers in education, take a radically different approach. While they agree with their predecessors that an important function of writing is the clear, direct expression of thought, they point out that many of our thoughts first come into being only when put to paper. By failing to recognize the link between thinking and writing, we fall into the deadlock inappropriately named writer's block. *Thinking on Paper* shows how writer's block as well as many other writing problems are engendered by the tendency, supported by traditional approaches, to separate thinking from writing. Drawing on the developing field of symbol theory, Howard and Barton explain why this separation is unsound and demonstrate how to improve dramatically our ability to generate and express ideas. For everyone who writes, this is a readable, accessible manual of immense educational and practical value.

The Act of Reading - Wolfgang Iser 1980-02

By defining what happens during the act of reading, that is, how aesthetic experience is initiated, develops, and functions, Iser's book provides the first systematic framework for assessing the communicatory function of a literary text within the context from which it arises. It is an important work that will appeal to those interested in the reading process, aesthetic theory, literary criticism, and basic theoretical aspects of the novel. Book jacket.

The Act of Reading and After - 2004

Wolfgang Iser - Ben De Bruyn 2012-05-29

Although Wolfgang Iser is one of the most influential

literary theorists of the twentieth century, there is no authoritative study about his oeuvre. The present work remedies that problem by analysing Iser's German and English writings in detail. Apart from being the first comprehensive account of his work, this study also modifies the established view of Iser's theory. In contrast to the idea that his only contribution to literary studies is the reception theory of the 1970s, this account demonstrates the importance of Iser's work on history and anthropology from the 1950s and 1990s. Instead of exclusively focusing on familiar terms such as 'indeterminacy', this analysis also discusses Iser's view of modernity, fiction and culture. As this discussion shows, his writings develop a consistent theory of the novel and the way in which it allows its readers to articulate new views of reality. To situate this theory, Iser's institutional and intellectual background is described as well, paying special attention to the Poetik und Hermeneutik-circle and thinkers like Blumenberg and Kermode. The continued relevance of his theory is demonstrated via comparisons with recent research on the novel and memory as well as examples from contemporary novelists like Juli Zeh and Hilary Mantel.

How to Do Theory - Wolfgang Iser 2005-08-26

This succinct introduction to modern theories of literature and the arts demonstrates how each theory is built and what it can accomplish. Represents a wide variety of theories, including phenomenological theory, hermeneutical theory, gestalt theory, reception theory, semiotic theory, Marxist theory, deconstruction, anthropological theory, and feminist theory. Uses classic literary texts, such as Keats's Ode on a Grecian Urn, Spenser's The Shepheard's Calender and T. S. Eliot's The Waste Land to illustrate his explanations. Includes key statements by the major proponents of each theory. Presents the different theories objectively, allowing students to decide which if any, they subscribe to. Gives students a sense of the potential of theory. Includes a glossary of technical terms.

The act of reading and after: the reception of Wolfgang Iser in Britain - Elinor S. Shaffer 2004

Cognition of the Literary Work of Art - Roman Ingarden 1973

This long-awaited translation of *Das literarische Kunstwerk* makes available for the first time in English Roman Ingarden's influential study. Though it is interdisciplinary in scope, situated as it is on the borderlines of ontology and logic, philosophy of literature and theory of language, Ingarden's work has a deliberately narrow focus: the literary work, its structure and mode of existence. The *Literary Work of Art* establishes the groundwork for a philosophy of literature, i.e., an ontology in terms of which the basic general structure of all literary works can be determined. This "essential anatomy" makes basic tools and concepts available for rigorous and subtle aesthetic analysis.

The Deception of the Reader in "The French Lieutenant's Woman" by John Fowles - Alexandra Baum 2014-12-18

Seminar paper from the year 2014 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,7, University of Freiburg (Anglistik/Amerikanistik), language: English, abstract: John Fowles is a postmodern writer who was born March 31, 1926 in Leigh-on-Sea and who died in Lyme Regis, England in 2005. He was greatly inspired by the works of the French existentialists Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre, which is often mirrored in his narrations. Fowles is one of the most well-known authors of Postwar British Fiction and has published his famous book (a pastiche of the Victorian novel) *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, which has won several awards, in 1969. Due to its popularity the book has been made into a movie starring Meryl Streep and

Jeremy Irons in 1981. The novel takes place in Lyme Regis, England during the Victorian era in 1867 and is about the young gentleman Charles Smithson who, already engaged to a successful haberdasher's daughter, falls in love with Sarah Woodruff, who is disdained by the society of Lyme Regis for her alleged affair with a French lieutenant. John Fowles uses a postmodern narrator to tell a story that visibly has a very conventional Victorian framework. This narrator presents the love story of Charles and Sarah through a mixture of plot and personal comments by playing with the features of postmodern literature in order to deceive the reader and to challenge him into finding his own reality in the narration. The way the story is told shows a great interplay between the information the narrator gives to the reader and the information that is left out in order to mislead him. This technique therefore raises the question of how the reader is to understand the wholeness of John Fowles's novel when he is deceived throughout its plot. In this paper I am going to answer the question of how the reader is to understand the meaning of the book first, by giving a brief overview on Wolfgang Iser's reader-response theory and its importance in the reading experience of *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and second, by analyzing the different appearances of the narrator by using postmodern features like the creation of suspense, deception and illusion that Fowles used to manipulate the reader.

The act of reading and after: the reception of Wolfgang Iser in Britain - Elinor S. Shaffer 2004

Only Revolutions - Mark Z. Danielewski 2006

Moving back and forth in American history, a kaleidoscopic novel follows Hailey and Sam, two wayward teenagers, as they crash New Orleans parties, barrel up the Mississippi, head through the Badlands, and take on other adventures.

The Critical Circle - David Couzens Hoy 1982-01-01

Hoy shows that it is possible to bring the French, German, and Anglo-American critical traditions into meaningful relationship without blurring the distinctions that separate them. ... For an understanding of Gadamer's relevance to current criticism, his book is indispensable; many will find it useful as a synoptic account of the critical theories that have become prominent. -- *Comparative Literature*. -Page 4 of cover.

Stepping Forward - Wolfgang Iser 2008

Pinpointing a flaw in prevailing economic practices that explains why so many families in the richest nation on earth are mired in poverty, homelessness, joblessness, and hunger, this study suggests that a reform is available to correct this flaw that is corroding the enterprise system. This flaw is widely accepted and enshrined in law; certain taxation and land policies enable a powerful few to skim off a large share of the wealth created by the mass of citizens. How this injustice plays a major role in generating destructive boom and bust cycles is important, but the overprivileged who benefit from "legalized theft" are not vilified. Rather, the book calls for correcting the public policies that make slum ownership, land speculation, and other forms of parasitic and exploitive behavior more profitable than honest labor and productive enterprise. Accounts of places in the United States and elsewhere that are applying the proposed reform are presented, proving that it is politically feasible, and offers an ethical cleansing of the economy so that all people can enjoy all the fruits of their efforts.

Literary Hermeneutics - Tomasz Kalaga 2015-06-18

This book analyses the most significant aspects of the evolutionary process which occurred in literary hermeneutics: the shift from interpretation perceived as

a methodology of reading to the ontological function of exegesis. Through the discussion of the theories of Friedrich Schleiermacher, Eric Donald Hirsch, Hans-Georg Gadamer and Paul Ricoeur, it focuses on the metamorphosis of the concepts of meaning, interpretation and validity, and demonstrates how the correlative changes in the essence and functions of these three elements transformed the art of understanding from being a methodological discipline to an ontological instrument for a re-description of the interpreter's self. The book highlights the development of those aspects of hermeneutic thought which are of particular significance in the contemporary debate over validity and criteria of interpretation. The vision of hermeneutics proposed here contradicts the supposedly anachronistic character of the art of understanding, and, through a permanent departure from essentialist views and categories, enables it to enter into a discussion with such literary orientations as neo-pragmatism and reader-response theory.

Return Of Reader - Elizabeth Freund 2013-10-08

First Published in 2002. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

Bibliotherapy with Young People - Beth Doll 1997

Discusses how reading can be combined with therapeutic intervention, with guidelines for structuring school programs.

Theory of Literature - Paul H. Fry 2012-04-24

Bringing his perennially popular course to the page, Yale University Professor Paul H. Fry offers in this welcome book a guided tour of the main trends in twentieth-century literary theory. At the core of the book's discussion is a series of underlying questions: What is literature, how is it produced, how can it be understood, and what is its purpose? Fry engages with the major themes and strands in twentieth-century literary theory, among them the hermeneutic circle, New Criticism, structuralism, linguistics and literature, Freud and fiction, Jacques Lacan's theories, the postmodern psyche, the political unconscious, New Historicism, the classical feminist tradition, African American criticism, queer theory, and gender performativity. By incorporating philosophical and social perspectives to connect these many trends, the author offers readers a coherent overall context for a deeper and richer reading of literature.

Critical Understanding - Wayne C. Booth 1982-09

Critics will always disagree, but, maintains Wayne Booth, their disagreement need not result in critical chaos. In *Critical Understanding*, Booth argues for a reasoned pluralism—a criticism more various and resourceful than can be caught in any one critic's net. He relates three noted pluralists—Ronald Crane, Kenneth Burke, and M. H. Abrams—to various currently popular critical approaches. Throughout, Booth tests the abstractions of metacriticism against particular literary works, devoting a substantial portion of his discussion to works by W. H. Auden, Henry James, Oliver Goldsmith, and Anatole France.

Writing and Reading - Louise Michelle Rosenblatt 1988

An Organon of Life Knowledge - Michael Basseler 2019-02-28

Can fiction teach us how to live? This study offers a fresh take on the North American short story, exploring how the genre has engaged in the construction and circulation of 'life knowledge'. Echoing the resurgence of short story scholarship in recent years, it thus contributes a genre-focused perspective to the growing field of 'literature and knowledge' studies. Drawing on stories from the late 19th century to the present by authors such as Henry James, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Eudora Welty, Junot Díaz, and Alice Munro, Michael Basseler examines how knowledge about life and how to live it is generically constituted and, vice versa, how literary

genres such as the short story are embedded in broader cultural frameworks of knowledge production.

Prose Fiction: An Introduction to the Semiotics of Narrative - Ignasi Ribó 2019-12-13

This concise and highly accessible textbook outlines the principles and techniques of storytelling. It is intended as a high-school and college-level introduction to the central concepts of narrative theory – concepts that will aid students in developing their competence not only in analysing and interpreting short stories and novels, but also in writing them. This textbook prioritises clarity over intricacy of theory, equipping its readers with the necessary tools to embark on further study of literature, literary theory and creative writing. Building on a 'semiotic model of narrative,' it is structured around the key elements of narratological theory, with chapters on plot, setting, characterisation, and narration, as well as on language and theme – elements which are underrepresented in existing textbooks on narrative theory. The chapter on language constitutes essential reading for those students unfamiliar with rhetoric, while the chapter on theme draws together significant perspectives from contemporary critical theory (including feminism and postcolonialism). This textbook is engaging and easily navigable, with key concepts highlighted and clearly explained, both in the text and in a full glossary located at the end of the book. Throughout the textbook the reader is aided by diagrams, images, quotes from prominent theorists, and instructive examples from classical and popular short stories and novels (such as Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Franz Kafka's 'The Metamorphosis,' J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter*, or Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, amongst many others). *Prose Fiction: An Introduction to the Semiotics of Narrative* can either be incorporated as the main textbook into a wider syllabus on narrative theory and creative writing, or it can be used as a supplementary reference book for readers interested in narrative fiction. The textbook is a must-read for beginning students of narratology, especially those with no or limited prior experience in this area. It is of especial relevance to English and Humanities major students in Asia, for whom it was conceived and written.

The Routledge Handbook of Stylistics - Michael Burke 2017-11-27

The *Routledge Handbook of Stylistics* provides a comprehensive introduction and reference point to key areas in the field of stylistics. The four sections of the volume encompass a wide range of approaches from classical rhetoric to cognitive neuroscience and cover core issues that include: historical perspectives centring on rhetoric, formalism and functionalism the elements of stylistic analysis that include the linguistic levels of foregrounding, relevance theory, conversation analysis, narrative, metaphor, speech acts, speech and thought presentation and point of view current areas of 'hot topic' research, such as cognitive poetics, corpus stylistics and feminist/critical stylistics emerging and future trends including the stylistics of multimodality, creative writing, hypertext fiction and neuroscience Each of the thirty-two chapters provides: an introduction to the subject; an overview of the history of the topic; an analysis of the main current and critical issues; a section with recommendations for practice, and a discussion of possible future trajectory of the subject. This handbook includes chapters written by some of the leading stylistics scholars in the world today, including Jean Boase-Beier, Joe Bray, Michael Burke, Beatrix Busse, Ronald Carter, Billy Clark, Barbara Dancygier, Catherine Emmott, Charles Forceville, Margaret Freeman, Christiana Gregoriou, Geoff Hall, Patrick Colm Hogan, Lesley Jeffries, Marina Lambrou, Michaela Mahlberg, Rocio Montoro, Nina Nørgaard, Dan Shen, Michael Toolan and

Sonia Zyngier. The Routledge Handbook of Stylistics is essential reading for researchers, postgraduates and undergraduate students working in this area.

The Act of Reading "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde - Cristina Pascual Aransáez 2018-11-26

Research Paper (postgraduate) from the year 1999 in the subject English - Literature, Works, , course: Third-Cycle Education / Tercer Ciclo, language: English, abstract: This study analyses the act of reading The Picture of Dorian Gray from the perspective of Reception Theory. In his critical writings, Oscar Wilde asserts that the receiver of a work of art must play a dynamic role in the construction of its meaning, and the analysis of his only novel shows that Wilde encourages the reader to participate actively in its production in order to be able to find out the lesson which is inherent in it. As a result, the research shows that The Picture of Dorian Gray is representative of Wilde's aesthetic principles not only because it promotes the individuality of the reader but also because the moral in it is subordinated to its artistic effects.

The Implied Reader - Wolfgang Iser 1987

A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory - Raman Selden 1993-06-08

Unsurpassed as a text for upper-division and beginning graduate students, Raman Selden's classic text is the liveliest, most readable and most reliable guide to contemporary literary theory. Includes applications of theory, cross-referenced to Selden's companion volume, *Practicing Theory and Reading Literature*.

Powerful Prose - R. L. Victoria Pöhls 2021-10-31

What makes a reading experience »powerful«? This volume brings together literary scholars, linguists, and empirical researchers to elucidate the effects and reader responses to investigate just that. The thirteen contributions theorize this widely-used, but to date insufficiently studied notion, and provide insights into the therefore still mysterious-seeming power of literary fiction. The collection investigates a variety of stylistic as well as readerly and psychological features responsible for short- and long-term effects - topics of great interest to those interested or specialized in literary studies and narratology, (cognitive) stylistics, empirical literary studies and reader response theory.

Readers and Reading - Andrew Bennett 2014-07-15

Much literary criticism focuses on literary producers and their products, but an important part of such work considers the end-user, the reader. It asks such questions as: how far can the author condition the response of the reader, and how much does the reader create the meaning of a text? Dr Bennett's collection includes important essays from such writers and critics as Wolfgang Iser, Mary Jacobus, Roger Chartier, Michel de Certeau, Shoshana Felman, Maurice Blanchot, Paul de Man and Yves Bonnefoy. It looks in turn at deconstructionist, feminist, new historicist and psychoanalytical response to the school. The book then considers the act of reading itself, discussing such issues as the uniqueness of any reading and the difficulties involved in its analysis.

Mimesis - Erich Auerbach 2013-10-06

More than half a century after its translation into English, Erich Auerbach's *Mimesis* remains a masterpiece of literary criticism. A brilliant display of erudition, wit, and wisdom, his exploration of how great European writers from Homer to Virginia Woolf depicted reality has taught generations how to read Western literature. This new expanded edition includes a substantial essay in introduction by Edward Said as well as an essay, never before translated into English, in which Auerbach responds to his critics. A German Jew, Auerbach was forced out of his professorship at the University of Marburg in 1935. He left for Turkey, where he taught at

the state university in Istanbul. There he wrote *Mimesis*, publishing it in German after the end of the war. Displaced as he was, Auerbach produced a work of great erudition that contains no footnotes, basing his arguments instead on searching, illuminating readings of key passages from his primary texts. His aim was to show how from antiquity to the twentieth century literature progressed toward ever more naturalistic and democratic forms of representation. This essentially optimistic view of European history now appears as a defensive--and impassioned--response to the inhumanity he saw in the Third Reich. Ranging over works in Greek, Latin, Spanish, French, Italian, German, and English, Auerbach used his remarkable skills in philology and comparative literature to refute any narrow form of nationalism or chauvinism, in his own day and ours. For many readers, both inside and outside the academy, *Mimesis* is among the finest works of literary criticism ever written. This Princeton Classics edition includes a substantial introduction by Edward Said as well as an essay in which Auerbach responds to his critics.

The Performance of Reading - Peter Kivy 2008-04-15

The Performance of Reading argues that there are distinct analogies between "silent" reading and artistic performance, and so fashions the new role of the reader as performer. An original and insightful exploration of the act of reading by the leading scholar in the field. Discusses the history of reading and the transitions from reading aloud to reading silently, and the changing role of literature as communal, active experience to a more private endeavor.

A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory - Raman Selden 1989

Unsurpassed as a text for upper-division and beginning graduate students, Raman Selden's classic text is the liveliest, most readable and most reliable guide to contemporary literary theory. Includes applications of theory, cross-referenced to Selden's companion volume, *Practicing Theory and Reading Literature*.

Prospecting - Wolfgang Iser 1993-02

"An important transitional book, usefully summarizing the past and thoughtfully mapping out the future of a significant critic's theoretical project."- *Modern Philology*. "There is a much greater emphasis on the reader's function as 'performer' of the text in *Prospecting* than in Iser's other books. The two brilliant chapters on Beckett's fiction and drama are crucial here... Literature becomes 'play' and 'game,' and the reader becomes a performer of himself. This idea of performance becomes central to Iser's new theory. Art does not present life; it performs it."- *Yearbook of English Studies*.

The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine - Rita Charon 2017

The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine articulates the ideas, methods, and practices of narrative medicine. Written by the originators of the field, this book provides the authoritative starting place for any clinicians or scholars committed to learning of and eventually teaching or practicing narrative medicine.

The Fictive and the Imaginary - Wolfgang Iser 1993-03-01

The pioneer of "literary anthropology," Wolfgang Iser presents a wide-ranging and comprehensive exploration of this new field in an attempt to explain the human need for the "particular form of make-believe" known as literature. Ranging from the Renaissance pastoral to Coleridge to Sartre and Beckett, *The Fictive and the Imaginary* is a distinguished work of scholarship from one of Europe's most respected and influential critics.

The Range of Interpretation - Wolfgang Iser 2000

"The author formulates an anatomy of interpretation through which we can understand the many different forms that the act of interpretation takes. For Iser, there are several different genres of interpretation, all of

which are acts of translation designed to transpose something into something else. Obvious examples involve canonical texts, and here Iser explores, for example, the Rabbinical exegesis of the Torah and Dr. Johnson's reading of Shakespeare. But what happens when the matter that one seeks to interpret consists not of a text but of a welter of fragments, as in the story of history, or

is something hidden, as in the practice of psychoanalysis, or is as complex as a culture or a system? He concludes that if interpretation is a form of translation, then it is performative and will always depend on what it seeks to translate rather than on some absolute concept of truth." (Midwest).
The Act of Reading - Wolfgang Iser 1978