

# Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction

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What is literary theory? Is there a relationship between literature and culture? In fact, what is literature, and does it matter? These questions and more are addressed in *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*, a book which steers a clear path through a subject which is often perceived to be complex and impenetrable.

Jonathan Culler, an extremely lucid commentator and much admired in the field of literary theory, offers discerning insights into such theories as the nature of language and meaning, and whether literature is a form of self-expression or a method of appeal to an audience. Concise yet thorough, *Literary Theory* also outlines the ideas behind a number of different schools: deconstruction, semiotics, postcolonial theory, and structuralism, among others.

From topics such as literature and social identity to poetry, poetics, and rhetoric, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* is a welcome guide for anyone interested in the importance of literature and the debates surrounding it.

## About the Series:

Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style,

### Very Short Introductions

offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

Jonathan Culler is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Cornell University and a leading figure in the world of literary theory. Praised by Frank Kermode for his "remarkable expository skills," his publications include seminal works on deconstruction and semiology as well as studies of individual authors.

'It is impossible to imagine a clearer treatment of the subject, or one that is, within the given limits of length, more comprehensive. Culler has always been remarkable for his expository skills, and here he has found exactly the right method and tone for his purposes.'

Sir Frank Kermode

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