

the art of the short story dana gioia pdf

the art of the short story dana gioia pdf is a sought-after resource for students, writers, and literary enthusiasts interested in mastering the craft of short fiction. Dana Gioia, a renowned poet and critic, offers insightful analysis and guidance on the unique challenges and techniques involved in writing short stories. The availability of this work in PDF format makes it accessible for study and reference, supporting both academic and creative pursuits. This article explores the contents, significance, and practical applications of Dana Gioia's work, emphasizing its value in understanding narrative structure, character development, and thematic expression within limited word counts. Readers will find an overview of the key concepts, a breakdown of the book's main sections, and tips on how to utilize the art of the short story dana gioia pdf effectively. The discussion will also touch upon the relevance of Gioia's insights in contemporary literary education and writing workshops.

- Overview of Dana Gioia and His Contributions
- Key Themes in The Art of the Short Story
- Structural Elements Highlighted in the PDF
- Techniques for Effective Short Story Writing
- Using The Art of the Short Story Dana Gioia PDF for Study
- Impact on Contemporary Literature and Writing Practices

Overview of Dana Gioia and His Contributions

Dana Gioia is a distinguished American poet, critic, and educator known for his significant contributions to contemporary literature. His work encompasses poetry, essays, and critical studies, with a particular focus on the short story as a literary form. The art of the short story dana gioia pdf provides readers with an in-depth exploration of the nuances that define and elevate short fiction. Gioia's expertise allows him to dissect complex narrative techniques in accessible language, making his analyses invaluable for both novice and experienced writers. This resource encapsulates his views on the importance of brevity, precision, and emotional resonance in short stories, reinforcing his standing as a leading voice in literary criticism.

Key Themes in The Art of the Short Story

The art of the short story dana gioia pdf covers a range of themes central to understanding and creating compelling short fiction. These themes address both the theoretical and practical aspects of storytelling, focusing on the balance between form and content. Gioia emphasizes the power of suggestion and the economy of language, illustrating how short stories rely heavily on

implication rather than explicit detail. The PDF also discusses the importance of a strong central idea or motif, which serves as the story's anchor. Additionally, there is considerable attention given to the emotional impact of short stories and how writers can evoke profound responses within a limited word count.

Economy of Language

One of the primary themes in the art of the short story dana gioia pdf is the economy of language. Gioia explains that every word in a short story must serve a purpose, whether advancing the plot, developing character, or enhancing the atmosphere. This focus on conciseness challenges writers to eliminate unnecessary details and sharpen their narrative focus.

Emotional Resonance

Gioia highlights the importance of creating an emotional connection between the story and the reader. The brevity of the short story demands that emotions be conveyed efficiently yet deeply, often through subtle cues and symbolic elements rather than overt exposition.

Structural Elements Highlighted in the PDF

The art of the short story dana gioia pdf provides a detailed examination of the structural components that contribute to a successful short story. Unlike longer forms of fiction, short stories require a tightly woven plot and a clear narrative arc that culminates in a powerful climax or revelation. Gioia outlines the significance of beginning in medias res, the use of carefully crafted openings and closings, and the role of tension and pacing in maintaining reader engagement.

Plot and Narrative Arc

Gioia discusses how short stories often focus on a single incident or moment of change, emphasizing clarity and intensity over complexity. The narrative arc must be concise yet compelling, with a clear progression towards a meaningful resolution.

Character Development

While character development is necessarily limited by the story's length, the art of the short story dana gioia pdf stresses that well-drawn characters are essential. Gioia explores techniques for revealing character traits quickly through dialogue, action, and suggestion, allowing readers to form strong impressions with minimal exposition.

Techniques for Effective Short Story Writing

The art of the short story dana gioia pdf serves as a practical guide for

writers seeking to refine their craft. Gioia presents various techniques that enhance storytelling within the constraints of the short story format. These include the use of symbolism, imagery, and narrative voice, as well as strategies for creating suspense and surprise. The PDF offers concrete examples and exercises designed to develop a writer's skill in these areas.

- Utilizing Symbolism and Metaphor
- Establishing a Distinct Narrative Voice
- Crafting Effective Dialogue
- Balancing Show and Tell
- Maintaining Pacing and Tension

Symbolism and Imagery

Gioia highlights the importance of symbolic elements and vivid imagery in enriching the narrative and adding layers of meaning. These tools help compensate for the brevity of the form by suggesting broader themes and emotions.

Narrative Voice and Point of View

The choice of narrative voice greatly influences the tone and clarity of a short story. The art of the short story dana gioia pdf examines first-person and third-person perspectives, advising writers on how to select the most effective point of view to convey their story's essence.

Using The Art of the Short Story Dana Gioia PDF for Study

Accessing the art of the short story dana gioia pdf offers numerous benefits for students, educators, and writers. It serves as both a theoretical framework and a practical workbook, providing exercises and questions that encourage critical thinking and creative experimentation. The PDF format allows for easy annotation and reference, making it a convenient tool for classroom instruction and individual study.

Study Tips and Strategies

To maximize the value of the art of the short story dana gioia pdf, readers should approach it with active engagement. This includes:

- Taking detailed notes on key concepts and examples
- Practicing writing exercises included in the PDF

- Analyzing short stories using Gioia's criteria
- Comparing different narrative techniques discussed in the text
- Participating in discussions or workshops based on the material

Integration into Curriculum

The art of the short story dana gioia pdf is well-suited for incorporation into literature and creative writing courses. Its structured approach helps students develop a comprehensive understanding of short fiction, from analysis to application.

Impact on Contemporary Literature and Writing Practices

Dana Gioia's insights into the short story form continue to influence contemporary authors and educators. The art of the short story dana gioia pdf underscores the enduring relevance of the short story in an era dominated by digital media and brief content consumption. By emphasizing craftsmanship and artistic intention, Gioia's work encourages writers to uphold literary quality despite changing reader habits. Furthermore, the PDF contributes to ongoing discussions about the evolution of narrative forms and the place of the short story in modern literary culture.

Influence on Emerging Writers

The accessibility and clarity of the art of the short story dana gioia pdf make it a valuable resource for emerging writers seeking to develop their voice and technique. Gioia's focus on foundational principles helps new authors build strong storytelling skills that can be adapted across genres.

Role in Literary Criticism

Beyond its practical applications, the PDF also serves as a critical tool for literary scholars examining the short story's function and form. Gioia's analytical approach provides a framework for evaluating narrative effectiveness and thematic depth in short fiction.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find a PDF of 'The Art of the Short Story' by Dana Gioia?

You can find 'The Art of the Short Story' by Dana Gioia through academic libraries, official publisher websites, or authorized ebook platforms. Be cautious of unauthorized PDF downloads to respect copyright.

What topics does Dana Gioia cover in 'The Art of the Short Story'?

Dana Gioia's 'The Art of the Short Story' explores elements such as narrative structure, character development, themes, and stylistic techniques essential to crafting compelling short stories.

Is 'The Art of the Short Story' by Dana Gioia suitable for beginner writers?

Yes, Dana Gioia's book is accessible for beginners and offers insightful guidance on understanding and writing short stories, making it a helpful resource for new writers.

Are there any study guides available for Dana Gioia's 'The Art of the Short Story'?

Yes, several study guides and summaries are available online, which provide chapter overviews, key themes, and analysis to complement Dana Gioia's 'The Art of the Short Story.' These can often be found on educational websites and literature forums.

Can I use 'The Art of the Short Story' PDF by Dana Gioia for academic purposes?

You can use 'The Art of the Short Story' by Dana Gioia for academic purposes if you access it through legitimate sources and properly cite the book according to your institution's guidelines.

Does Dana Gioia's 'The Art of the Short Story' include examples from famous short stories?

Yes, Dana Gioia's book often references classic and contemporary short stories to illustrate literary techniques and concepts, enhancing readers' understanding of the art form.

Additional Resources

1. The Art of the Short Story by Dana Gioia

This book is a comprehensive guide to understanding and appreciating the short story as a literary form. Dana Gioia explores the history, structure, and thematic elements that define short stories, providing insights into both classic and contemporary works. It is an essential resource for students, writers, and readers who wish to deepen their knowledge of short fiction.

2. On Writing Short Stories by Tom Bailey

Tom Bailey offers practical advice and techniques for crafting compelling short stories. The book covers key aspects such as character development, plot construction, and narrative style. It serves as a useful companion for aspiring writers looking to master the short story format.

3. The Making of a Story: A Norton Guide to Creative Writing by Alice LaPlante

This guide provides detailed instruction on the elements of storytelling, with a strong emphasis on short fiction. Alice LaPlante combines theoretical insights with exercises and examples to help writers hone their craft. The book encourages creativity while grounding lessons in literary tradition.

4. *Short Story Theory at a Crossroads* by Charles E. May

Charles E. May examines the evolving theories behind short story writing and criticism. The book discusses various approaches to understanding short stories, from classical frameworks to contemporary perspectives. It is valuable for readers interested in literary analysis and theory.

5. *The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers* by John Gardner

Though focused broadly on fiction, this seminal work by John Gardner is influential for short story writers as well. Gardner delves into the principles of narrative craft, including voice, plot, and character. His passionate and clear guidance inspires writers to elevate their storytelling.

6. *Steering the Craft: A Twenty-First-Century Guide to Sailing the Sea of Story* by Ursula K. Le Guin

Ursula K. Le Guin offers a masterful workshop in narrative technique applicable to short stories and beyond. Through exercises and examples, she explores voice, sentence structure, and point of view. This book is celebrated for its approachable yet profound teaching style.

7. *Writing Short Stories: A Hands-On Program* by Courtenay Grimwood

This practical workbook provides step-by-step guidance for writing original short stories. Courtenay Grimwood includes prompts, examples, and exercises aimed at developing essential storytelling skills. It is ideal for beginners seeking structured support.

8. *Flash Fiction Forward: 80 Very Short Stories* edited by James Thomas and Robert Shapard

This anthology showcases the art of flash fiction, a form closely related to the short story. The collection features diverse voices and styles, illustrating the power of brevity in storytelling. It serves as inspiration for writers interested in ultra-short narratives.

9. *The Short Story: An Introduction* by Paul March-Russell

Paul March-Russell provides a scholarly yet accessible overview of the short story genre. The book covers historical development, key authors, and thematic concerns, offering a broad understanding of the form. It is suitable for students and general readers keen on literary study.

[The Art Of The Short Story Dana Gioia Pdf](#)

The Art of the Short Story: Dana Gioia's Guide to Mastering the Craft

Delving into the intricacies of Dana Gioia's "The Art of the Short Story," we'll explore its profound impact on aspiring and established writers alike, examining its timeless techniques and

contemporary relevance in the ever-evolving landscape of literary fiction. This ebook unpacks Gioia's insightful approach to crafting compelling narratives, providing a roadmap for mastering the art of the short story.

Ebook Outline: "Unlocking the Power of the Short Story: A Deep Dive into Dana Gioia's Masterpiece"

Introduction: The Enduring Appeal of the Short Story

Chapter 1: The Essence of Narrative: Plot, Character, and Setting

Chapter 2: Mastering the Art of Dialogue and Voice

Chapter 3: Point of View and its Impact on Narrative Perspective

Chapter 4: Theme and Subtext: Unveiling Deeper Meaning

Chapter 5: Structure and Pacing: The Architectonics of a Short Story

Chapter 6: Revision and Refinement: Polishing Your Prose

Chapter 7: The Short Story in the Modern World: Contemporary Trends and Influences

Conclusion: Embracing the Craft and Finding Your Voice

Detailed Outline Explanation:

Introduction: The Enduring Appeal of the Short Story: This section will establish the significance of the short story form, exploring its historical context, its unique advantages over longer forms, and its continued relevance in contemporary literature. We will highlight why Gioia's work remains essential reading for aspiring writers.

Chapter 1: The Essence of Narrative: Plot, Character, and Setting: This chapter will delve into the foundational elements of storytelling as presented by Gioia. We'll analyze his insights on crafting compelling plots, developing believable and multi-faceted characters, and creating vivid and evocative settings that immerse the reader.

Chapter 2: Mastering the Art of Dialogue and Voice: This section will focus on Gioia's guidance on crafting realistic and engaging dialogue, showcasing how effective dialogue reveals character, advances plot, and enhances the overall narrative. We'll explore the concept of "voice" and its importance in creating a unique and memorable short story.

Chapter 3: Point of View and its Impact on Narrative Perspective: Here, we'll examine the different narrative perspectives (first-person, third-person limited, third-person omniscient) and how choosing the right perspective significantly shapes the reader's experience and understanding of the story. Gioia's insights on the impact of perspective will be thoroughly discussed.

Chapter 4: Theme and Subtext: Unveiling Deeper Meaning: This chapter will discuss how to imbue short stories with meaningful themes and subtext. We'll explore Gioia's approach to creating stories that resonate on a deeper level, going beyond surface-level narratives.

Chapter 5: Structure and Pacing: The Architectonics of a Short Story: This section will analyze Gioia's perspective on the importance of structure and pacing in creating a compelling and effective short story. We'll explore techniques for building suspense, creating climaxes, and achieving satisfying resolutions.

Chapter 6: Revision and Refinement: Polishing Your Prose: This chapter will address the crucial role of revision in the writing process. We'll examine Gioia's advice on refining style, improving clarity,

and ensuring the overall coherence of the short story.

Chapter 7: The Short Story in the Modern World: Contemporary Trends and Influences: This chapter will bring Gioia's insights into a modern context, exploring how his teachings resonate with contemporary short story writers and the evolving landscape of literary fiction. We'll discuss current trends and influences impacting the form.

Conclusion: Embracing the Craft and Finding Your Voice: This concluding section will summarize the key takeaways from Gioia's work, encouraging readers to embrace the craft of short story writing and develop their unique voice. We will reiterate the importance of practice, perseverance, and a deep appreciation for the art form.

Keywords:

Dana Gioia, The Art of the Short Story, short story writing, creative writing, fiction writing, narrative techniques, plot, character development, setting, dialogue, point of view, theme, structure, pacing, revision, contemporary short stories, literary fiction, writing craft, storytelling, writer's guide, writing tips, how to write a short story.

Recent Research and Practical Tips:

Recent research in the field of creative writing pedagogy emphasizes the importance of iterative writing processes, incorporating reader feedback, and exploring diverse narrative techniques. Gioia's text aligns with this research by advocating for meticulous revision and a deep understanding of narrative structure. Practical tips based on Gioia's work would include:

Show, don't tell: Focus on using vivid descriptions and actions to convey information rather than simply stating facts.

Develop compelling characters: Create characters with depth, flaws, and motivations that drive the plot.

Master the art of dialogue: Use dialogue to reveal character, advance the plot, and create tension.

Experiment with point of view: Understand how different perspectives shape the reader's experience.

Refine your prose: Pay close attention to word choice, sentence structure, and overall flow.

Read widely: Immerse yourself in the work of other short story writers to expand your understanding of the craft.

FAQs:

1. What makes Dana Gioia's "The Art of the Short Story" unique? Gioia combines theoretical insights with practical advice, making it accessible to both beginners and experienced writers.
2. Is this book suitable for beginners? Absolutely. Gioia's clear and concise writing style makes the book accessible to writers at all levels.
3. What are the key takeaways from Gioia's book? The importance of strong characters, compelling plots, effective dialogue, and meticulous revision.
4. How does Gioia approach the topic of theme? He emphasizes the importance of subtext and allowing themes to emerge organically from the story rather than being explicitly stated.
5. What kind of short stories does Gioia analyze? The book analyzes a wide range of short stories, spanning different eras and styles.
6. Is this book just about theory or does it provide practical exercises? While it focuses on theory and analysis, the practical applications are clear and implied throughout.
7. How can I apply Gioia's advice to my own writing? By consciously considering each element of the short story—plot, character, setting, dialogue, point of view, and theme—during both the writing and revision processes.
8. What makes a short story "good" according to Gioia? A good short story is well-crafted, engaging, and leaves a lasting impression on the reader. It demonstrates mastery of the techniques discussed in the book.
9. Where can I find "The Art of the Short Story"? It's widely available online and in bookstores, both in print and digital formats.

Related Articles:

1. The Elements of Style: A Timeless Guide to Writing Well: A classic guide to grammar, style, and composition that complements Gioia's focus on narrative.
2. Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life: Anne Lamott's humorous and insightful guide to overcoming writer's block and finding your voice.
3. On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft: Stephen King's memoir offers valuable insights into the writing process and the challenges of a writing career.
4. Save the Cat! Writes a Novel: A guide to structuring novels that can also be adapted to provide a framework for longer short stories.
5. Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within: Natalie Goldberg's guide to creative writing emphasizes intuition and experimentation.

6. Story: Robert McKee's comprehensive guide to storytelling, emphasizing structure and character development.
7. The Writer's Digest Guide to Writing Short Stories: A practical guide packed with exercises and advice specifically focused on short stories.
8. The Art of Fiction: Short Stories by Great Writers: An anthology showcasing a variety of short stories and writing styles.
9. Ten Lessons in Clarity & Grace: Joseph M. Williams' guide to writing clear and concise prose, which can significantly improve the quality of your short stories.

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the art of the short story dana gioia pdf: To Read Or Not to Read: A Question of National Consequence Dana Gioia, 2008-03 Executive Summary for a report which gathers & collates the best national data available to provide a reliable & comprehensive overview of American reading today. This report relies on large, nat. studies conducted on a regular basis by U.S. fed. agencies, supplemented by academic, foundation, & business surveys. Although there has been measurable progress in recent years in reading ability at the elementary school level, all progress appears to halt as children enter their teenage years. There is a general decline in reading among teenage & adult Americans. Both reading ability & the habit of regular reading have greatly declined among college grad. The declines have demonstrable social, economic, cultural, & civic implications. Charts & tables.

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the art of the short story dana gioia pdf: A Little History of Poetry John Carey, 2020-04-21 A vital, engaging, and hugely enjoyable guide to poetry, from ancient times to the present, by one of our greatest champions of literature The Times and Sunday Times, Best Books of 2020 "[A] fizzing, exhilarating book."—Sebastian Faulks, Sunday Times What is poetry? If music is sound organized in a particular way, poetry is a way of organizing language. It is language made special so that it will

be remembered and valued. It does not always work—over the centuries countless thousands of poems have been forgotten. But this Little History is about some that have not. John Carey tells the stories behind the world's greatest poems, from the oldest surviving one written nearly four thousand years ago to those being written today. Carey looks at poets whose works shape our views of the world, such as Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Whitman, and Yeats. He also looks at more recent poets, like Derek Walcott, Marianne Moore, and Maya Angelou, who have started to question what makes a poem "great" in the first place. For readers both young and old, this little history shines a light for readers on the richness of the world's poems—and the elusive quality that makes them all the more enticing.

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the art of the short story dana gioia pdf: *The Yellow Wall-Paper* Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2024-03-21 She has just given birth to their child. He labels her postpartum depression as »hysteria.« He rents the attic in an old country house. Here, she is to rest alone – forbidden to leave her room. Instead of improving, she starts hallucinating, imagining herself crawling with other women behind the room's yellow wallpaper. And secretly, she records her experiences. *The Yellow Wall-Paper* [1892] is the short but intense, Gothic horror story, written as a diary, about a woman in an attic – imprisoned in her gender; by the story. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's feminist novella was long overlooked in American literary history. Nowadays, it is counted among the classics. CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN (1860–1935), born in Hartford, Connecticut, was an American feminist theorist, sociologist, novelist, short story writer, poet, and playwright. Her writings are precursors to many later feminist theories. With her radical life attitude, Perkins Gilman has been an inspiration for many generations of feminists in the USA. Her most famous work is the short story *The Yellow Wall-Paper* [1892], written when she suffered from postpartum psychosis.

the art of the short story dana gioia pdf: *A Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Poetry, 1960 - 2015* Wolfgang Gortschacher, David Malcolm, 2020-12-21 A comprehensive and scholarly review of contemporary British and Irish Poetry With contributions from noted scholars in the field, *A Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Poetry, 1960-2015* offers a collection of writings from a diverse group of experts. They explore the richness of individual poets, genres, forms, techniques, traditions, concerns, and institutions that comprise these two distinct but interrelated national poetries. Part of the acclaimed Blackwell Companion to Literature and Culture series, this book contains a comprehensive survey of the most important contemporary Irish and British poetry. The contributors provide new perspectives and positions on the topic. This important book: Explores the institutions, histories, and receptions of contemporary Irish and British poetry Contains contributions from leading scholars of British and Irish poetry Includes an analysis of the most prominent Irish and British poets Puts contemporary Irish and British poetry in context Written for students and academics of contemporary poetry, *A Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Poetry, 1960-2015* offers a comprehensive review of contemporary poetry from a wide range of diverse contributors.

the art of the short story dana gioia pdf: *Old School* Tobias Wolff, 2005 At one prestigious American public school, the boys like to emphasise their democratic ideals -the only acknowledged snobbery is literary snobbery. Once a term, a big name from the literary world visits and a contest takes place. The boys have to submit a piece of writing and the winner receives a private audience with the visitor. But then it is announced that Hemingway, the boys' hero, is coming to the school. The competition intensifies, and the morals the school and the boys pride themselves on - honour, loyalty and friendship - are crumbling under the strain. Only time will tell who will win and what it will cost them.

the art of the short story dana gioia pdf: *Pity the Beautiful* Dana Gioia, 2012-05-08 The

long-awaited fourth collection by one of America's foremost poets O Lord of indirection and ellipses, ignore our prayers. Deliver us from distraction. Slow our heartbeat to a cricket's call. --from *Prophecy Pity the Beautiful* is Dana Gioia's first new poetry book in over a decade. Its emotional revelations and careful construction are hard won, inventive, and resilient. These new poems show Gioia's craftsmanship at its finest, its most mature, as they make music, crack wise, remember the dead, and in a long, central poem even tell ghost stories.

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the art of the short story dana gioia pdf: Refractions Makoto Fujimura, 2024-08-06 Embark on a profound journey through the depths of human emotion and spirituality in the updated anniversary edition of *Refractions* by renowned artist Makoto Fujimura. This timeless collection of reflective essays invites you to explore themes of grief, loss, tragedy, and disruption through the eyes of an artist's soul. Originally conceived in the shadow of the fallen twin towers of the World Trade Center, near where Fujimura's New York art studio stood, this anniversary edition includes new essays unpacking the author's further insights into his concepts of culture care and a theology of making. *Refractions* carries the weight of history and the urgency of the moment, illuminating beauty, healing, and hope. A gift for any artist or supporter of the arts, *Refractions* connects faith, art, and life, offering insight into healing with the wisdom and perspective of a leading contemporary artist and follower of Jesus, making beauty from ashes, and the gospel as a message as breathtaking and intricate as the lives it touches. In a world marred by violence and despair, Fujimura guides you toward a deep understanding of life's intricate tapestry, where beauty emerges from unexpected places, and healing finds its roots in the goodness of God and human resilience.

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elegance, close attention to the human world, and generosity of spirit.

the art of the short story dana gioia pdf: Keywords in Creative Writing Wendy Bishop, David Starkey, 2006-01-15 Wendy Bishop and David Starkey have created a remarkable resource volume for creative writing students and other writers just getting started. In two- to ten-page discussions, these authors introduce forty-one central concepts in the fields of creative writing and writing instruction, with discussions that are accessible yet grounded in scholarship and years of experience. *Keywords in Creative Writing* provides a brief but comprehensive introduction to the field of creative writing through its landmark terms, exploring concerns as abstract as postmodernism and identity politics alongside very practical interests of beginning writers, like contests, agents, and royalties. This approach makes the book ideal for the college classroom as well as the writer's bookshelf, and unique in the field, combining the pragmatic accessibility of popular writer's handbooks, with a wider, more scholarly vision of theory and research.

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processing, Keen brings together resources and challenges for the literary study of empathy and the psychological study of fiction reading. Empathy robustly enters into affective responses to fiction, yet its role in shaping the behavior of emotional readers has been debated for three centuries. Keen surveys these debates and illustrates the techniques that invite empathetic response. She argues that the perception of fictiveness increases the likelihood of readers' empathy in part by releasing them from the guarded responses necessitated by the demands of real others. Narrative empathy is a strategy and subject of contemporary novelists from around the world, writers who tacitly endorse the potential universality of human emotions when they call upon their readers' empathy. If narrative empathy is to be taken seriously, Keen suggests, then women's reading and responses to popular fiction occupy a central position in literary inquiry, and cognitive literary studies should extend its range beyond canonical novels. In short, Keen's study extends the playing field for literature practitioners, causing it to resemble more closely that wide open landscape inhabited by readers.

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self-imposed exile came Erewhon, one of the world's masterpieces of satire, which contained the germ of Butler's intellectual output for the next twenty years. The Cradle of Erewhon is an examination and interpretation of the special ways in which these few crucial years affected Butler's life and work, particularly Erewhon and Erewhon Revisited. It shows us Butler the sheep farmer, explorer, and mountain climber, as well as Butler the newcomer to The Colonies, accepting--and accepted by--his intellectual peers in the unpioneerlike little city of Christchurch, sharpening and disciplining his mind through his controversial contributions to the Christchurch Press. But more importantly, the book suggests the depth to which New Zealand penetrated the man and reveals new facets of influence hitherto unnoticed in Erewhon and Erewhon Revisited. The Southern Alps (Oh, Wonderful! Wonderful! so lonely and so solemn), the perilous rivers and passes, the character and customs of the Maoris--all these blend to afford new insights into a complex book. Butler was not the first to create an imaginary world as asylum from the harsh realities of this one (Vergil did the same in the Eclogues), nor was he the first, even in his own time, to protest against the machine as the enslaver of man, but his became the clearest and the freshest voice. On the biographical side, The Cradle of Erewhon offers new evidence for reappraising the man who for so long has been a psychological and literary puzzle. Why, for instance, did he repudiate his first-born book, A First Year in Canterbury Settlement? And why, once safely away from the entanglements of London, did he voluntarily return to them? Answers to these and other Butlerian riddles are suggested in the engrossing account of the satirist's sojourn in the Antipodes.

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