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Salem Press Announces the First Edition of a Brand New Series; *Critical Approaches to Literature: Moral*

Edited by Robert C. Evans, an I.B. Young Professor of English at Auburn University at Montgomery, *Critical Approaches to Literature: Moral* is a deliberately diverse collection of essays on literature across the genres approached specifically with a moral lens. Widely utilized and equally practical, moral approaches focus on marginalized characters and historical or cultural approaches, allowing the reader to utilize outside knowledge or research to analyzed literary elements such as characterization and setting.

The volume opens with **Critical Contexts**, and begins with an overview by the editor on love poetry of the English Renaissance which uses satire to mock the self-obsessed voices of such works. This is followed up with Stephen Paul Bray's survey of recent arguments for morality readings in literature. The third work is an essay by Brian Yothers and offers a sample of how to approach an avowedly moral writer in explicitly moral terms using Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Last of all, Kelley Jeans compares and contrasts moral with non-moral approaches to a short story by Jack London.

The book's second major section, which consists of **Critical Readings** of particular texts, is organized chronologically with an essay by Robert C. Evans that examines a famous poem by the seventeenth-century poet John Donne. Building on his earlier approach to Wyatt, Evans here argues that Donne's sexually provocative poem "To His Mistress Going to Bed" is an ironic send-up of the conceited male speaker. Rather than endorsing the speaker's obsessive interest in his mistress's body (Evans argues), the poem in fact undercuts the speaker's crass materialism.

Other Critical Reading essay topics include:

- "Moral Irony in John Donne's 'To His Mistress Going to Bed'" Robert C. Evans
- "'These hard hearts': Aristotelian Morality and Peter Brook's *King Lear*" Christopher Baker
- "The Blinding of Gloucester: Trauma and Morality in Some Films of Shakespeare's *King Lear*" Robert C. Evans
- "Poe's Ethics: A Reading of 'The Man of the Crowd,' 'Landor's Cottage,' and 'Hop-Frog'" Jeffrey J. Folks
- "The Man That Corrupted Huckleberry—Making Greed a Driving Force" R. Kent Rasmussen

- “One from the Many: Morality in John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*” Nicolas Tredell

Each essay in *Critical Approaches to Literature: Moral* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of "Works Cited," along with endnotes. Finally, the volume’s appendixes offer a section of useful reference resources including additional works on Moralistic Approaches to Literature, an annotated bibliography for readers seeking to study more about this subject, about the editor, contributors, and a subject index.

The *Critical Approaches* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most-studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Approaches to Literature: Moral* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

Free Online with Print Purchase

In addition, *Critical Approaches to Literature: Moral* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

Critical Approaches to Literature: Moral

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