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

Edited by Robert C. Evans, an I.B. Young Professor of English at Auburn University at Montgomery, *Critical Approaches to Literature: Psychological* is a deliberately diverse collection of essays on literature across the genres examined specifically with psychoanalytic theory. Widely utilized and equally practical, psychological approaches focus on freedom of association in the reader, textual evidence and symbolism, and require less historical or cultural background reading. Psychoanalytic literary theory is derived from the psychological writings of early innovators such as Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Jacques Lacan, and others.

The volume opens with **Critical Contexts**, and begins with an overview by the editor on Freudian literary analysis and the benefits and drawbacks when utilizing it to examine literature. This is followed up with a compilation by Evans in the various methods of approaching a work psychologically. In the third chapter, Allen Chavkins and Nancy Feyl Chavkin exemplify psychological analysis by utilizing Family Systems Theory in their essay examining Saul Bellow's *Humboldt's Gift*. The fourth chapter is devoted to an Freudian/ Anti-Freudian dialogue on Edgar Allen Poe between James S. Baumlin and Tita French Baumlin regarding authorial intent.

The book's second major section, which consists of **Critical Readings** of particular texts, is organized chronologically. Thus Michelle Scalise Sugiyama's essay discusses the origins of psychology and literature. Focusing on evolutionary psychology, Sugiyama considers the development of the oral story telling. She connects basic human desires and needs such as to inform and delight, to propagate social norms, and the need to subsist and survive with engaging in the oral tradition and its eventual development toward the short story and longer, written works. Other Critical Reading essay topics include:

- "Is This Her Fault or Mine?": Hysteria, Misogyny, and Voice in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*" Laura B. Vogel
- "Trauma in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*" Robert C. Evans
- "John Donne, Neuroscience, and the Experience of Empathy" David Strong
- "Poe's Ideal of Love and the Broken World: Crowd Psychology in Some Tales and Poems" Jeffrey Folks
- "Death and Freud in the Poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay" Jenna Lewis
- "Grasping *The Great Gatsby*: A Cognitive Approach" Nicolas Tredell

Each essay in *Critical Approaches to Literature: Psychological* 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 Psychological 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: Psychological* 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: Psychological* 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: Psychological

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