

THE EDINBURGH
INTRODUCTION TO
STUDYING ENGLISH
LITERATURE

SECOND EDITION

Edited by Dermot Cavanagh, Alan Gillis,
Michelle Keown, James Loxley and
Randall Stevenson

EDINBURGH
University Press

Contents

Preface to the Second Edition vii

Section I – Introductory

- 1 What is Literature? 3
Alex Thomson
- 2 English Literary Studies: Origins and Nature 16
Robert Irvine
- 3 Kinds of Literature 25
David Salter

Section II – Poetry

- 4 Poetry: An Introduction 37
Alan Gillis
- 5 Metre and Rhythm 47
Lee Spinks
- 6 Verse Forms 57
Penny Fielding
- 7 Poetic Imagery 67
Sarah M. Dunnigan
- 8 Poetry and History 78
Greg Walker
- 9 Vernacular Poetry 88
Colin Nicholson

Section III – Narrative

10	Genre and Form: The Short Story <i>Kenneth Millard</i>	101
11	Narrative Language <i>Keith Hughes</i>	110
12	Narrative Structure and Technique <i>Randall Stevenson</i>	120
13	Constructing Character <i>Rajorshi Chakraborti</i>	129
14	Narrative, Society and History <i>Aaron Kelly</i>	139
15	Life Writing <i>Laura Marcus</i>	148

Section IV – Drama

16	Introducing Drama <i>Roger Savage</i>	161
17	Text and Performance <i>Olga Taxidou</i>	171
18	Tragedy <i>Simon Malpas</i>	180
19	Comedy <i>Jonathan Wild</i>	189
20	History and Politics <i>Dermot Cavanagh</i>	199
21	Sex, Gender and Performance <i>Suzanne Trill</i>	208

Section V – Reading, Writing, Reflecting

22	Reading <i>Anna Vaninskaya</i>	223
23	Writing an Essay <i>David Farrier</i>	228
24	Reflecting <i>Paul Crosthwaite</i>	234
	<i>Works Cited</i>	239
	<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	249
	<i>Index</i>	254