

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xi
1 Introductory	1
<i>Opening questions</i>	1
<i>Understanding "literature"</i>	4
<i>Literary instrumentalism</i>	6
<i>The aesthetic tradition</i>	10
<i>Beyond aesthetics?</i>	13
2 Creation and the other	17
<i>Creating</i>	17
<i>Culture and idioculture</i>	21
<i>The creation of the other</i>	22
<i>Accommodating the other</i>	27
<i>Versions of "the other"</i>	28
<i>The encountered other</i>	32
3 Originality and invention	35
<i>The concept of originality</i>	35
<i>Experiencing originality</i>	40
<i>Inventiveness and invention</i>	41
<i>Invention in art</i>	44
<i>How invention begets invention</i>	49
<i>Cultural distance</i>	50
4 Inventive language and the literary event	55
<i>Verbal invention</i>	55

	<i>Language as event</i>	56
	<i>The literary event</i>	58
5	Singularity	63
	<i>The event of singularity</i>	63
	<i>The singularity of the literary work: an example</i>	65
	<i>The distinctiveness of poetry</i>	71
	<i>Translation and imitation</i>	73
	<i>Intimacy and strangeness</i>	75
6	Reading and responding	79
	<i>Creative reading</i>	79
	<i>Surprise and wonder</i>	83
	<i>Literary reading</i>	86
	<i>Re-reading</i>	88
	<i>Reading as response</i>	89
	<i>Reading as invention</i>	92
7	Performance	95
	<i>Literary performance</i>	95
	<i>Literary performance: an example</i>	98
	<i>Authoredness</i>	100
	<i>The temporality of the literary work</i>	103
8	Form, meaning, context	107
	<i>Form and the literary</i>	107
	<i>Form and meaning</i>	109
	<i>The performance of form: an example</i>	111
	<i>Form and instrumentalism</i>	118
9	Responsibility and ethics	123
	<i>Responsibility for the other</i>	123
	<i>Ethics</i>	126
	<i>The ethics of literature</i>	128
10	An everyday impossibility	133
	<i>Appendix: debts and directions</i>	139
	<i>Notes</i>	147
	<i>Bibliography</i>	163
	<i>Index</i>	173