

Shedding light on everything from literature and social identity, to poetry, poetics, and rhetoric, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* is a welcome guide for all students and readers of literature. Answering questions such as 'What is literary theory?' and 'Why have theorists been arguing about the distinction between humans and animals?', Jonathan Culler explains 'theory' by sketching key 'moves' that theory has encouraged, and by speaking directly about the implications of theory for thinking about literature, human identity, and the power of language.

In this new edition, Culler includes a new chapter on 'Ethics and aesthetics' and examines new developments in critical theory, including such questions as the alleged 'death of theory' and the links between the theory of narrative and cognitive science.