

*Literature and psychoanalysis* looks at Freud, Melanie Klein, and Lacan, to explain their key concepts, and to suggest why they are essential for the study of literature.

With a range of examples from Shakespeare, Blake, Ibsen, Wordsworth, the Sherlock Holmes stories, and Surrealism, the book traces through the significance of literature in psychoanalysis, and why psychoanalysis is essential reading for those who are interested in literature. It looks at Freud on memory, and guilt, and on repression, and narcissism, and traces his key concepts as these morph into Melanie Klein's work on the mother, and into Jacques Lacan's studies of the Imaginary, the Symbolic and the Real. Each of these concepts are illustrated through plentiful literary examples. Psychoanalysis is seen to be absolutely engaged with language in all its richness and power of ambiguity.

All those who have wondered what Freud really said, and why he remains so important, and all those who want to follow the story of psychoanalysis through the twentieth century, will want to read this book, and to see how it intersects with, and is virtually identical with, the study of literature, and how both relate to writing as a kind of madness.

The book is for students and teachers alike in literary and cultural studies, for those interested in gender studies, feminism and queer theory, and for all who are interested in what criticism and the study of texts means in Arts and Humanities departments in Universities, and for society outside.