



Understanding Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing

Walter Kalaidjian, Judith Roof, Stephen Watt

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"Understanding Literature" is an innovative anthology and technology package representing the next generation of literary pedagogy for introduction to literature and literature for composition courses. Built on a balanced foundation of canonical and nontraditional reading selections, this text includes discussions of the formal literary elements--and integrates relevant and accessible coverage of contemporary criticism. This unique, integrated coverage of contemporary critical approaches offers students a richer, more engaging introduction to reading critically and writing about literature. "Critical Perspectives" offer concise, insightful discussions of how literary and cultural theories are used to explore meaning in literature. Casebooks, excerpts from classic and contemporary critical essays, and in-text discussions offer students critical perspectives on how literary theory can facilitate a deeper understanding of literary texts. "Critical Perspectives" can also be used as a springboard for class discussion and writing. In-depth treatment of "Featured Writers" in each section allows more focused study of a single writer. This feature includes multiple reading selections showing the range of the writer's work, more extensive biographical information, and additional materials on the CD-ROM and web site. Two unique interdisciplinary, multi-genre chapters ("The Beat Movement" and "Performative Poetics") focus on the spoken and performed aspects of literature. Coverage includes several works from key writers in both movements as well as discussions of how these movements use a mixture of media--language, film, jazz, photography, and art--to showcase their work and provide social and political commentary.

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