



# Contents

To the Instructor *xi*

Acknowledgments *xv*

## **1 Criticism, Theory, and Literature 1**

What Is Literary Criticism? 3

What Is Literary Theory? 4

What Is Literature? 7

Further Reading 9

## **2 A Historical Survey of Literary Criticism 11**

Plato (*ca.* 427–347 B.C.) 11

Aristotle (384–322 B.C.) 13

Horace (65–8 B.C.) 16

Longinus (First Century A.D.) 17

Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) 17

Sir Philip Sidney (1554–1586) 18

John Dryden (1631–1700) 19

Alexander Pope (1688–1744) 20

William Wordsworth (1770–1850) 21

Hippolyte Adolphe Taine (1828–1893) 23

Matthew Arnold (1822–1888) 25

Henry James (1843–1916) 27

Modern Literary Criticism 29

Further Reading 30

### **3 New Criticism 31**

- Introduction 31
- Historical Development 32
- Assumptions 34
- Methodology 37
- Further Reading 40
- STUDENT ESSAY: Browning's Self-Revealing Duke 40

### **4 Reader-Response Criticism 45**

- Introduction 45
- Historical Development 47
- Assumptions 50
- Methodology 51
- Further Reading 54
- STUDENT ESSAY: "Young Goodman Brown" and Me 54

### **5 Structuralism 58**

- Introduction 58
- Historical Development 59
- Assumptions 62
- Methodology 64
- Further Reading 67
- STUDENT ESSAY: A Structuralist Look at Glaspell's  
*Trifles* 67

### **6 Deconstruction 71**

- Introduction 71
- Historical Development 72
- Assumptions 75
- Methodology 77
- Further Reading 82
- STUDENT ESSAY: A Deconstructor's View of "Young  
Goodman Brown" 83

### **7 Psychoanalytic Criticism 87**

- Introduction 87
- Historical Development 89

Assumptions	94
Methodology	95
Further Reading	96
STUDENT ESSAY: A Psychoanalytic View of Glaspell's <i>Trifles</i>	97

## 8 Feminism 102

Introduction	102
Historical Development	104
Assumptions	106
Methodology	108
Further Reading	110
STUDENT ESSAY: Feminist Criticism and Susan Glaspell's <i>Trifles</i>	110

## 9 Marxism 114

Introduction	114
Historical Development	115
Assumptions	118
Methodology	121
Further Reading	122
STUDENT ESSAY: A Marxist Interpretation of "My Last Duchess"	123

## 10 New Historicism 127

Introduction	127
Historical Development	129
Assumptions	130
Methodology	133
Further Reading	135
STUDENT ESSAY: Hawthorne's Ambiguity: A New Historical Point of View	136

## Literary Selections 143

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"	144
Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess"	153
Susan Glaspell, <i>Trifles</i>	155

Glossary 166

Bibliography 185

References 188

Index 201