



## Theory of the Novel: A Historical Approach

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Michael McKeon, author of *The Origins of the English Novel, 1600-1740*, here assembles a collection of influential essays on the theory of the novel. Carefully chosen selections from Frye, Benjamin, Lévi-Strauss, Lukács, Bakhtin, and other prominent theorists explore the historical significance of the novel as a genre, from its early beginnings to its modern variations in the postmodern novel and postcolonial novel.

Offering a generous selection of key theoretical texts for students and scholars alike, *Theory of the Novel* also presents a provocative argument for studying the genre. In his introduction to the volume and in headnotes to each section, McKeon argues that genre theory and history provide the best approach to understanding the novel. All the selections in this anthology date from the twentieth century?most from the last forty years?and represent the attempts of different theorists, and different theoretical schools, to describe the historical stages of the genre's formal development.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

McKeon's dissections are often breathtaking... [his] anthology is solid, commandingly centered,... superbly energetic and uniquely powerful.

(Marshall Brown *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*)

As comprehensive an account of the genre as you could wish. What a marvelous collection and what a skillful editor McKeon is, marshalling the essays into an argument for the novel as a distinct 'literary historical genre' rather than as one element in a bland, all-embracing narrative theory... The outstanding feature of this fine collection is its firm commitment to the art of the novelist. Throughout, there is a profound recognition of the novel's ability to criticise the existing order, to create new and compelling worlds, to extend our grammar and enlarge our vocabulary for coping with the great dramas of life, love, death and the shoelace snapping when you are late for work.

(Gary Day *Times Higher Education Supplement*)

The anthology provides not only a splendid guide to thinking about the novel, but also a useful warning against assuming that fiction is merely the instrument of those who wish to dampen revolution, forge national identities, and build empires.

(Jonathan Lamb *Studies in English Literature*)

This breathtaking comprehensive collection of essays... is an amazingly ambitious project... McKeon has provided us with an invaluable map of the theoretical and literary-historical landscape surrounding the origins, theories, and developments of the novel.

(Ansgar Nünning Gießen *LWU*)

This is a richly stimulating volume, an invaluable resource and challenging intervention for all serious researchers into the novel.

(*This Year's Work in English Studies*)

As a teaching text this anthology can hardly be bettered.

(David Walker *British Journal for 18th-Century Studies*)

This collection of essays will be *the* anthology for all introductory courses on the novel. The approach through genre theory and history is refreshing, welcome, and long overdue.

(Ronald Paulson, The Johns Hopkins University)

By juxtaposing the classic theoretical texts with recent work ranging from film and cultural studies to postcoloniality and postmodernism, this rich collection places the 'theory of the novel' squarely back on the agenda of contemporary literary and cultural research.

(Fredric Jameson, Duke University)

Michael McKeon may be the only person in the world capable of bringing together sensibly so many positions on so complicated a topic. The selections are judicious and raise most of the issues?theoretical, historical, global?that a twenty-first century book on this topic requires, and McKeon's own commentary is erudite, cogent, and accessible.

(J. Paul Hunter, University of Chicago)

*The Theory of the Novel: A Historical Approach* organizes the study of the novel into a coherent intellectual field. What sets this volume apart from its competitors are McKeon's introductory materials, which develop an original and sophisticated historical argument about the genre. This is essential reading for anyone interested in the novel, in genre theory, or in historical analysis. The collection does for the novel in general what *The Origins of the English Novel* did for its early history. It also reinforces McKeon's position as our premier historian of the genre.

(Mary Poovey, New York University)

About the Author

**Michael McKeon** is a professor in the Department of English at Rutgers University. He is the author of *The Origins of the English Novel, 1600-1740*, also available from Johns Hopkins.

## Users Review

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**Christi Shoup:**

The book Theory of the Novel: A Historical Approach will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book you just read, this book very suited to you. The book Theory of the Novel: A Historical Approach is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

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Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride

on and with addition info. Even you love Theory of the Novel: A Historical Approach, you could enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its named reading friends.

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