

<<文学批评>>

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前言

Early in Mark Twains *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* , we learn about Tom Sawyers gang and his “deep laid” plans , for Tom and his inner circle of friends dedicate one memorable occasion to working out such details: the name of the gang , its objectives , its general line of business—its modus operandi. But there are problems , namely , problems of interpretation. After all , not everybody defines “gang” the same way. These interpretive problems are not insurmountable , so we discover , but they are real , at least for a few enchanted moments in the narrative.

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内容概要

The third edition of *Literary Criticism : An Introduction to Theory and Practice* by Charles E. Bressler presents the eleven basic schools of twentieth-century literary theory and criticism in their historical and philosophical contexts. Unlike other introduction to literary criticism , this text explores the philosophical assumptions of each school of criticism , provides a clear methodology for writing essays according to each school's beliefs and tenets , and features accessible student-generated sample essays.

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章节摘录

HIPPOLYTE ADOLPHE TAINÉ (1828-1893) Wordsworths romanticism, with its stress on intuition as a guide to learning ultimate truth and its belief that emotions and the imagination form the core of poetrys content, dominated literature and literary criticism throughout the first three decades of the nineteenth century, and its influence still continues today. With the rise of the Victorian era in the 1830s, reason, science, and a sense of historical determinism began to supplant Romantic thought. The growing sense of historical and scientific determinism finally found its authoritative voice and culminating influence in Charles Darwin and his text *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859. Humankind was now demystified, for we finally knew our origins and understood our physiological development; science, it seemed, had provided us with the key to our past and an understanding of the present, and would help us determine our future if we relied on the scientific method in all our human endeavors. Sciences methodology, its philosophical assumptions, and its practical applications found an admiring adherent and a strong voice in French historian and literary critic Hippolyte Taine. Born in Vouziers, France, Hippolyte Taine was a brilliant but unorthodox student at the *École Normale Supérieure* in Paris. After finishing his formal education, he taught in various schools throughout France, continuing his investigations in both aesthetics and history. During the 1850s, he published various philosophical and aesthetic treatises, but his chief contribution to literary criticism and history is *The History of English Literature*, published in 1863. In this work, Taine crystallizes what is now known as the historical approach to literary analysis. In the introduction to *The History of English Literature*, Taine uses a scientific simile to explain his approach to literary criticism.

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