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The Bedford Glossary Of Critical And Literary Terms

The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms

THIRD EDITION

ROSS MURFIN • SUPRYIA M. RAY



Synopsis

Engaging, authoritative, and affordably priced, The Bedford Glossary is a comprehensive reference that clearly and accessibly defines hundreds of important literary and critical terms from classical times to the present, making them real and relevant to twenty-first century students through examples uniquely drawn from contemporary literary and popular culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

by Ross Murfin and Supriya M Ray. Reviewed by C. J. Singh (Berkeley, CA). The third edition of this comprehensive glossary of critical and literary extends to 593 pages. Of the numerous entries I have read, I will focus on a typical to illustrate the book's writing. The term anachrony (pages 15-17) is first succinctly introduced as "the literary technique of presenting material out of chronological order...." The next paragraph elaborates: "There are three major types of anachrony: (1) analepsis, the insertion of scenes that have occurred in the past; (2) prolepsis, the insertion of scenes that take place in the future; and (3) ellipsis, the omission of material in a narrative that creates a chronological gap. Analepsis, the most common form of which is flashback...." The eight-paragraph entry on anachrony runs to nearly 750 words. The subsequent paragraphs of this entry explain prolepsis as flashforward and the contribution of reader-response critic Gerard Genette, who "classified anachrony in greater detail, distinguishing internal, external, partial, completing, and repeating analepses and prolepses." Examples cited include selections from Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," Shakespeare's "Hamlet," the film "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," TV Series "The Simpsons

(1989-), and a reproduction of one of Gary Larson's cartoons "The Far Side." Within the entry bold face words lead to separate entries on narratives, plots, analepsis, prolepsis, ellipsis, gap, flashback, flashback, figure of speech, reader response critic, character, protagonist, and figurative. These links ensure the accessibility to readers at all levels. Want to look up Mikhail Bakhtin's contributions to critical theory?

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