

(Download free pdf) The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms

Chris Baldick

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#2298749 in Books 1990-09-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.81 x .82 x 5.75l, #File Name: 0198117337246 pages | File size: 19.Mb

Chris Baldick : The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms:

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Handy desktop reference, esp for novicesBy richardpinneau.comThis is a quite serviceable dictionary, with 1000-odd entries. At only 250 pages, however, the treatment of complex terms, schools, and issues must often be cursory. This second edition, is however, nicely updated from the 1990 first edition, and presents a more readable typeface on better paper. Being relatively small, it may be the most convenient literary dictionary to keep by your side. For a similar investment, however, you might consider the vastly more thorough 1000-page PENGUIN Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory (4th edn by Cuddon Preston, 1998, ISBN: 0140513639) - possibly out of print as of this writing, but a bargain reference at the used price being asked by some Amz connections [perhaps Penguin is on verge of releasing a 5th edition?].For more *depth* of coverage for important literary concepts and controversies, serious literary students will more appreciate the BEDFORD Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms (Murfin Ray, 1998). While the Oxford aims more at comprehensiveness in including terms (so that the reader can find "memoir-novel" and "misprision" for example), the Bedford strives for depth of explorations and interrelations of terms (a dictionary that could be considered "authored" as well as edited) - see review at ISBN 0312115601 .In summary, OXFORD is a *concise* dictionary; PENGUIN is a comprehensive dictionary; BEDFORD is a stimulating exploration and integration of terms and concepts.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must have for literatureBy John D. LeeI am an English literature teacher. As I was getting ready to teach poetry for the first time, I realized I needed a concise resource booklet of literary terms.

Though it is possible to find any term you are interested in on the Internet, it is not nearly as convenient as having a book in hand. Also, I have learned quite a few new terms simply flipping through it. I have used this book now for years as a teacher and found it to be invaluable. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Better than described. By LJMBetter than what was described for my needs.

From Jacques Derrida's *différance* to Henry James's *ficelle*, the vocabulary of literary theory and criticism can seem difficult if not opaque. Yet a grasp of these terms can often enhance our enjoyment and understanding of literature. To help clarify the reader's bafflement, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* provides succinct and often witty explanations of over one thousand terms, covering everything from the ancient dithyramb to the contemporary dub poetry, from the popular bodice-ripper to the aristocratic masque, and from the social realism of Stalin's era to the magic realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Salman Rushdie. Baldick provides the clearest coverage available of the newly coined terms of important contemporary theories--such as post-structuralism, deconstruction, semiotics, reader-response criticism--offering lucid, up-to-date definitions of terms such as logocentrism, metacriticism, gynocriticism, narratology, and foregrounding. Of course, he also includes extensive coverage of traditional drama, versification, rhetoric, and literary history, of literary schools from Alexandrianism to Transcendentalism, and of terms from languages other than English, such as *samizdat*, *Grand Guignol*, and *negritude*. Throughout, the author's emphasis is on helping readers use these terms more confidently, whether in writing (he includes plural and adjectival forms, and other relevant derivations) or in speaking (easy-to-use pronunciation guides clarify more than 200 potentially troublesome terms). In addition, the dictionary is thoroughly cross-referenced. A model reference book, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* will prove invaluable for both general readers and literature students at all levels.

From *Library Journal* Of the many recent dictionaries of literary terms, Baldick's is the one most likely to satisfy today's student. Rejecting "encyclopaedic completeness," it omits commonly understood general terms that are not specifically literary (e.g., art, culture, etc.). Included instead are "many terms generated by the growth of academic literary theory in recent years." The explanations are clear and succinct, and often employ illustrative examples. An uncommon feature of this work is its pronunciation guide, applied to some 200 of the 1000 terms here defined. In addition to the attention paid to the terminology of classical rhetoric, there is a distinct emphasis on French deconstructionist terms derived from Derrida, Barthes, et al. Baldick's chief rival is Northrop Frye's *Harper Handbook to Literature* (1985), which is more comprehensive but lacks Baldick's currency. For larger libraries and academic collections.- Jeffrey R. Luttrell, Youngstown State Univ., Ohio Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This dictionary's virtues and its plain-spokenness make it...as apt to the bedside table as to the desk."--*Times Literary Supplement* About the Author About the Author: Chris Baldick is Senior Lecturer in English at Edge Hill College of Higher Education in Ormskirk, Scotland.