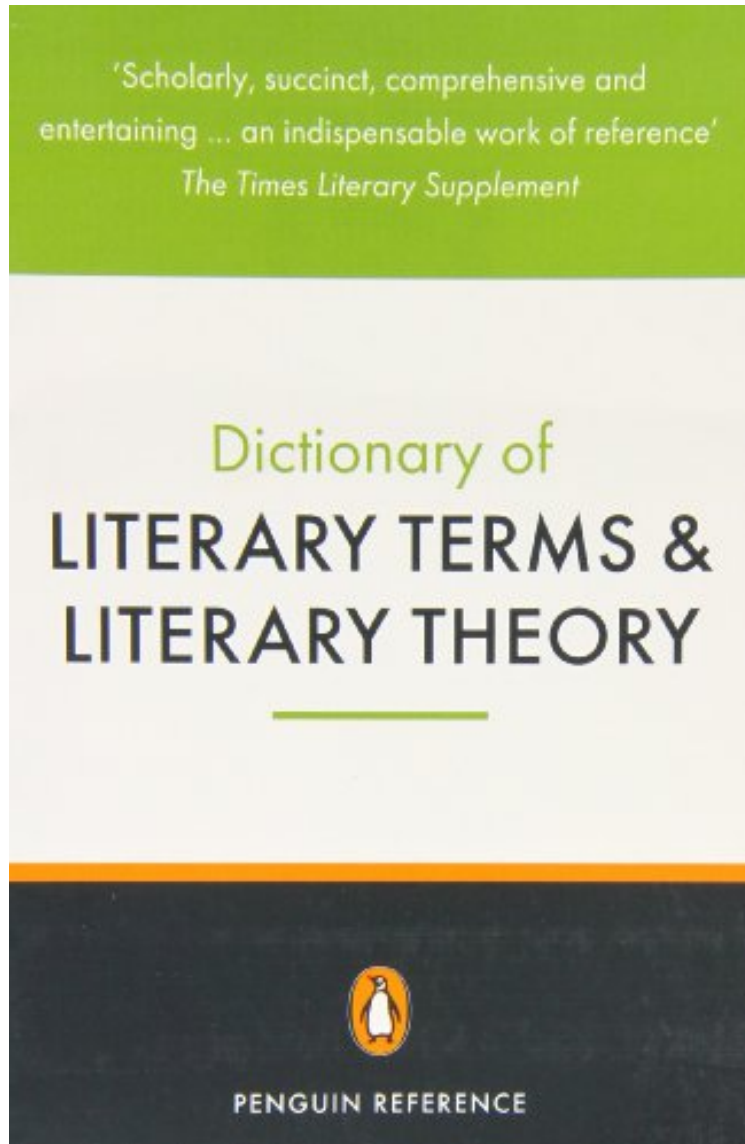


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The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory (Penguin Dictionary)

J. A. Cuddon, C. E. Preston

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J. A. Cuddon, C. E. Preston : The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory (Penguin Dictionary) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory (Penguin Dictionary):

31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. As fascinating as literature itself.By Piotr SzymczakThis addictive

dictionary can be (and frequently is, I believe) read from cover to cover. Hundreds of fascinating poetic forms, genres and movements are covered, the definitions are informative and often ironically detached (note the studiously lapidary comments on Welsh poetry), virtually all major European literatures are taken into account, plus there are comments on Slavonic folklore, Korean poetry, Welsh prosody, and ancient Greek literary theory. The wiring and plumbing of the book, its cross-referencing system, is admirably done and very helpful, luring the reader into a rollercoaster ride across centuries. Another notable quality is the rich number of examples, especially of the titles of a legion of important / interesting / fascinating / demented literary works often buried in the sands of time. Unfortunately, however, many metric and strophic forms must go without illustration for reasons of space: a fact deplored by Cuddon himself in the preface. But this does not detract from the book's worth: its logical structure and lucid explanations, combined with its author's awesome erudition, make this a priceless reference work.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love this book
By Deanna Stanwood I love this book. LOVE IT. There are great descriptions of all things literature in here. The book is larger than I expected it to be (which is a good thing) and I think it's going to be very useful for my classes... yes, I'm an English major. I purchased the book from thebookguys, and while I did receive the correct book on time, when I opened the package I noticed some things that were wrong with this seller: the book itself smells bad, there are marks on the outside of the pages, it looks like a sticker was ripped off the back cover, and overall looks like it has been used - however briefly. I did purchase a new copy of this book.
5 stars = book 3 stars = seller
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. much like the OED does
By Renee I'm using this book for a poetics class and we use it many times a week. Provides all the information I need for class plus some. It looks into historical context of the word, much like the OED does, so it's more well-rounded than a regular dictionary would be when considering the terms in class. I'm going to be hanging on to this one instead of selling it like most folks do when the semester is done.

The latest installment of this trusted literary companion covers all aspects of literary theory, from definitions of technical terms to characterizations of literary movements. Geared toward students, teachers, readers, and writers alike, *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* explains critical jargon (intertextuality, aporia), schools of literary theory (structuralism, feminist criticism), literary forms (sonnet, ottava rima), and genres (elegy, pastoral) and examines artifacts, historic locales, archetypes, origins of well-known phrases, and much, much more. Scholarly, straightforward, comprehensive, and even entertaining, this is a resource that no word-lover should be without.

From the Back Cover
The fourth edition of J.A. Cuddon's classic dictionary has been thoroughly revised and updated to maintain it as the most comprehensive and accessible work of its kind currently available, for students, teachers and general readers alike. Expanded to include many new entries, it has been improved throughout, in places rendered more concise, in others amended and extended, with both major and minor additions. The work of the third edition, to cover the schools and various terminologies of literary theory is continued, without compromising coverage afforded to more traditional critical terms and topics. At this untimely death in 1996, Charles Cuddon, as he was known, had completed much of the revisory and updating work involved in preparing the edition. That work and other unfinished plans and outlines have since been overseen and developed by C.E. Preston of Sidney Sussex college, Cambridge, helped, as she acknowledges, by several of her academic colleagues. Among the entries extensively rewritten or newly contributed are: "Crime Fiction", "Dramatic Monologue", "Ellipsis", "Punctuation", "Rhyme", "Verse Novel", and "Sonnet Cycle". After more than twenty years in print, Cuddon's *Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* remains "a superlative work of reference that will be read for pleasure", just as it was acclaimed to be when first published in 1976. There is now no better memorial to its author's extraordinary polymathy and literary scholarship.

About the Author
J. A. Cuddon (1928-1996) was a renowned expert in the fields of literature and linguistics. He also wrote several plays, libretti, novels, short stories, essays, and travel narratives.