

# **The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics**

**Christopher Clausen** 

#### The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics:

**The Moral Imagination** Christopher Clausen, 1986 Spanning many historical and literary contexts Moral Imagination brings together a dozen recent essays by one of America's premier cultural critics David Bromwich explores the importance of imagination and sympathy to suggest how these faculties may illuminate the motives of human action and the reality of justice These wide ranging essays address thinkers and topics from Gandhi and Martin Luther King on nonviolent resistance to the dangers of identity politics to the psychology of the heroes of classic American literature Bromwich demonstrates that moral imagination allows us to judge the right and wrong of actions apart from any benefit to ourselves and he argues that this ability is an innate individual strength rather than a socially conditioned habit Political topics addressed here include Edmund Burke and Richard Price s efforts to define patriotism in the first year of the French Revolution Abraham Lincoln s principled work of persuasion against slavery in the 1850s the erosion of privacy in America under the influence of social media and the use of euphemism to shade and anesthetize reactions to the global war on terror Throughout Bromwich considers the relationship between language and power and the insights language may offer into the corruptions of power Moral Imagination captures the singular voice of one of the most forceful thinkers working in America today **Imagination** David Bromwich, 2014-03-23 Compelling essays from one of today s most esteemed cultural critics Spanning many historical and literary contexts Moral Imagination brings together a dozen recent essays by one of America's premier cultural critics David Bromwich explores the importance of imagination and sympathy to suggest how these faculties may illuminate the motives of human action and the reality of justice These wide ranging essays address thinkers and topics from Gandhi and Martin Luther King on nonviolent resistance to the dangers of identity politics to the psychology of the heroes of classic American literature Bromwich demonstrates that moral imagination allows us to judge the right and wrong of actions apart from any benefit to ourselves and he argues that this ability is an innate individual strength rather than a socially conditioned habit Political topics addressed here include Edmund Burke and Richard Price's efforts to define patriotism in the first year of the French Revolution Abraham Lincoln's principled work of persuasion against slavery in the 1850s the erosion of privacy in America under the influence of social media and the use of euphemism to shade and anesthetize reactions to the global war on terror Throughout Bromwich considers the relationship between language and power and the insights language may offer into the corruptions of power Moral Imagination captures the singular voice of one of the most forceful thinkers working in America today The Essential Wayne Booth Wayne C. Booth, 2006-07-15 Publisher description Toni Morrison Carmen Gillespie, 2012-11-30 Toni Morrison the only living American Nobel laureate in literature

Toni Morrison Carmen Gillespie,2012-11-30 Toni Morrison the only living American Nobel laureate in literature published her first novel in 1970 In the ensuing forty plus years Morrison s work has become synonymous with the most significant literary art and intellectual engagements of our time The publication of Home May 2012 as well as her 2011 play Desdemona affirm the range and acuity of Morrison s imagination Toni Morrison Forty Years in The Clearing enables

audiences readers critics and students to review Morrison's cultural and literary impacts and to consider the import and influence of her legacies in her multiple roles as writer editor publisher reader scholar artist and teacher over the last four decades Some of the highlights of the collection include contributions from many of the major scholars of Morrison's canon as well as art pieces music photographs and commentary from poets Nikki Giovanni and Sonia Sanchez novelist A J Verdelle playwright Lydia Diamond composer Richard Danielpour photographer Timothy Greenfield Sanders the first published interview with Morrison's friends from Howard University Florence Ladd and Mary Wilburn and commentary from President Barack Obama What distinguishes this bookfrom the many other publications that engage Morrison s work is that the collection is not exclusively a work of critical interpretation or reference This is the first publication to contextualize and to consider the interdisciplinary artistic and intellectual impacts of Toni Morrison using the formal fluidity and dynamism that characterize her work This book adopts Morrison's metaphor as articulated in her Pulitzer Prize winning novel Beloved The narrative describes the clearing as a wide open place cut deep in the woods nobody knew for what In the heat of every Saturday afternoon she sat in the clearing while the people waited among the trees Morrison's Clearing is a complicated and dynamic space Like the intricacies of Morrison's intellectual and artistic voyages the Clearing is both verdant and deadly a sanctuary and a prison Morrison's vision invites consideration of these complexities and confronts these most basic human conundrums with courage resolve and grace This collection attempts to reproduce the character and spirit of this metaphorical terrain An Aesthetics of Morality John Krapp, 2002 Focusing on instances of moral pedagogy in novels by Thomas Mann Albert Camus Joseph Conrad and Fyodor Dostoevsky he suggests that literature uses an aesthetic portrayal of personal relations to introduce scenes of moral tension that illustrate the way ethical claims are made and validated BOOK **JACKET** Renegotiating Ethics in Literature, Philosophy, and Theory Jane Adamson, Richard Freadman, David Parker, 1998-12-10 Is it possible for postmodernism to offer viable coherent accounts of ethics Or are our social and intellectual worlds too fragmented for any broad consensus about the moral life These issues have emerged as some of the most contentious in literary and philosophical studies In Renegotiating Ethics in Literature Philosophy and Theory a distinguished international gathering of philosophers and literary scholars address the reconceptualisations involved in this turn towards ethics An important feature of this has been a renewed interest in the literary text as a focus for the exploration of ethical issues Exponents of this trend include Charles Taylor Bernard Williams Iris Murdoch Cora Diamond Richard Rorty and Martha Nussbaum the latter a contributor and a key figure in this volume This book assesses the significance of this development for ethical and literary theory and attempts to articulate an alternative postmodern account of ethics which does not rely on earlier appeals to universal truths Morality and Moral Theory Robert B. Louden, 1992-05-28 Contemporary philosophers have grown increasingly skeptical toward both morality and moral theory Some argue that moral theory is a radically misguided enterprise that does not illuminate moral practice while others simply deny the value of

morality in human life In this important new book Louden responds to the arguments of both anti morality and anti theory skeptics In Part One he develops and defends an alternative conception of morality which he argues captures more of the central features of both Aristotelian and Kantian ethics than do other contemporary models and enables the central importance of morality to be convincingly reaffirmed In Louden's model morality is primarily a matter of what one does to oneself rather than what one does or does not do to others. This model eliminates the gulf that many anti morality critics say exists between morality s demands and the personal point of view Louden further argues that morality s primary focus should be on agents and their lives rather than on right actions and that it is always better to be morally better i e it is impossible to be too moral Part Two presents Louden's alternative conception of moral theory. Here again he draws on the work of Aristotle and Kant showing that their moral theories have far more in common than is usually thought and that those features that they share can be the basis for a viable moral theory that is immune to the standard anti theory objections Louden reaffirms the necessity and importance of moral theory in human life and shows that moral theories fulfill a variety of genuine and indispensable human needs Explanation and Value in the Arts Salim Kemal, Ivan Gaskell, 1993-04-15 An interdisciplinary study of explanation and the construction of value regarding works of literature and painting **Key Concepts in Literary** Theory Julian Wolfreys, Ruth Robbins, Kenneth Womack, 2016-04-15 This book provides students with lucid and authoritative definitions of some of the most significant terms and concepts employed in the study of literary theory It offers 250 terms from many areas of literary theory including cultural studies psychoanalysis poststructuralism Marxist and feminist studies postcolonialism and other areas of identity politics In addition it provides definitions of principal areas of literary study and a chronological chart of major critics and philosophers Key Concepts in Literary Theory is an indispensable reference work for anyone interested in the complexities of the theories currently discussed in literary and cultural studies *Kurt Vonnegut's* Crusade; or, How a Postmodern Harlequin Preached a New Kind of Humanism Todd F. Davis, 2012-02-01 I ve worried some about why write books when presidents and senators and generals do not read them and the university experience taught me a very good reason you catch people before they become generals and senators and presidents and you poison their minds with humanity Encourage them to make a better world Kurt Vonnegut Kurt Vonnegut s desire to save the planet from environmental and military destruction to enact change by telling stories that both critique and embrace humanity sets him apart from many of the postmodern authors who rose to prominence during the 1960s and 1970s This new look at Vonnegut s oeuvre examines his insistence that writing is an act of good citizenship or an attempt at any rate to be a good citizen By exploring the moral and philosophical underpinnings of Vonnegut's work Todd F Davis demonstrates that over the course of his long career Vonnegut has created a new kind of humanism that not only bridges the modern and postmodern but also offers hope for the power and possibilities of story Davis highlights the ways Vonnegut deconstructs and demystifies the grand narratives of American culture while offering provisional narratives petites histoires that may serve as tools for daily

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### **Table of Contents The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics**

- 1. Understanding the eBook The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - The Rise of Digital Reading The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics User Reviews and Ratings
  - The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics and Bestseller Lists

- 5. Accessing The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics Free and Paid eBooks
  - The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics Public Domain eBooks
  - The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics eBook Subscription Services
  - The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics eBook Formats
  - ∘ ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics Compatibility with Devices
  - The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Interactive Elements The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
- 8. Staying Engaged with The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Setting Reading Goals The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of The Moral Imagination Essays On Literature And Ethics
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning

- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
- Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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