



doing english

A GUIDE FOR LITERATURE STUDENTS

ROBERT EAGLESTONE

ROUTLEDGE

**Also available as a printed book
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Doing English

In the last twenty years, the discipline of English has been transformed. Key to this transformation was the introduction of literary theory to the majority of English degree courses. This has challenged traditional ideas about English literature and how the subject should be studied, leading many people to ask what ‘doing English’ actually means. Strangely, secondary-level courses do not reflect this change: literary theory is only slowly filtering into A-level English courses and debates about the discipline are generally kept out of the classroom.

This book seeks to bridge the often daunting gap between traditional approaches to literature, still dominant in schools, and the new world of literary theory which dominates university English. The author shows how and why English is changing, explains current key ideas about English and literature, and introduces the study of literary theory. All that is central to English comes into question: how we read, what we read, reading and meaning, and English studies itself.

By introducing new and challenging ideas in an extremely accessible manner, this volume serves as the perfect springboard into degree-level English.

Robert Eaglestone is Lecturer in English at Royal Holloway, University of London, UK.

Doing English

A guide for literature students

Robert Eaglestone



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Dedicated to my parents, Alex and Clare Eaglestone

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