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The David Foster Wallace Reader

Marshall Boswell

The David Foster Wallace Reader:

The David Foster Wallace Reader David Foster Wallace, 2014-11-11 Where do you begin with a writer as original and brilliant as David Foster Wallace? Here with a carefully considered selection of his extraordinary body of work chosen by a range of great writers, critics, and those who worked with him most closely. This volume presents his most dazzling, funniest, and most heartbreakingly moving work: essays like his famous cruise ship piece *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again*; excerpts from his novels *The Broom of the System*, *Infinite Jest*, and *The Pale King*; and legendary stories like *The Depressed Person*. Wallace's explorations of morality, self-consciousness, addiction, sports, love, and the many other subjects that occupied him are represented here in both fiction and nonfiction. Collected for the first time are Wallace's first published story, *The View from Planet Trillaphon*, as seen in *In Relation to the Bad Thing*, and a selection of his work as a writing instructor, including reading lists, grammar guides, and general guidelines for his students. A dozen writers and critics, including Hari Kunzru, Anne Fadiman, and Nam Le, add afterwords to favorite pieces, expanding our appreciation of the unique pleasures of Wallace's writing. The result is an astonishing volume that shows the breadth and range of one of America's most daring and talented writers.

Los Angeles Times Book Review whose work was full of humor, insight, and beauty. **David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest** Stephen Burn, 2003-05-20 This is part of a new series of guides to contemporary novels. The aim of the series is to give readers accessible and informative introductions to some of the most popular, most acclaimed, and most influential novels of recent years, from *The Remains of the Day* to *White Teeth*. A team of contemporary fiction scholars from both sides of the Atlantic has been assembled to provide a thorough and readable analysis of each of the novels in question.

The Legacy of David Foster Wallace Samuel Cohen, Lee Konstantinou, 2012-04-15 In this elegant volume, literary critics scrutinize the existing Wallace scholarship and, at the same time, pioneer new ways of understanding Wallace's fiction and journalism. In critical essays exploring a variety of topics, including Wallace's relationship to American literary history, his place in literary journalism, his complicated relationship to his postmodernist predecessors, the formal difficulties of his 1996 magnum opus *Infinite Jest*, his environmental imagination, and the social life of his fiction and nonfiction, contributors plumb sources as diverse as Amazon.com reader recommendations, professional book reviews, the 2009 *Infinite Summer* project, and the David Foster Wallace archive at the University of Texas's Harry Ransom Center.

Wallace's Dialects Mary Shapiro, 2020-05-14 Mary Shapiro explores the use of regional and ethnic dialects in the works of David Foster Wallace, not just as a device used to add realism to dialogue but as a vehicle for important social commentary about the role language plays in our daily lives, how we express personal identity, and how we navigate social relationships. Wallace's Dialects straddles the fields of linguistic criticism and folk linguistics, considering which linguistic variables of Jewish American English, African American English, Midwestern, Southern, and Boston regional dialects were salient enough for Wallace to represent and how he showed the intersectionality of these with gender and social class. Wallace's own use of language is examined with respect to how it

encodes his identity as a white male economically privileged Midwesterner while also foregrounding characteristic and distinctive idiolect features that allowed him to connect to readers across implied social boundaries *Conversations with David Foster Wallace* Stephen Burn,2012-03-08 Conversations with the author of A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again Brief Interviews with Hideous Men and Infinite Jest **Understanding David Foster Wallace** Marshall Boswell,2003 Marshall Boswell examines the four major works of fiction David Foster Wallace has produced thus far the novels The Broom of the System and Infinite Jest and the story collections Girl with Curious Hair and Brief Interviews with Hideous Men

The Narrative Game: The Reading of David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest as Play Rainer Holl,2013-06-01 In 1996 David Foster Wallace published his second major novel Infinite Jest that changed not only our understanding of what literature can do but also the way we read literature Despite its age the book has not lost a single bit of its fascination its actuality and its academic appeal With its hundreds of characters thousands of pages hundreds of endnotes and myriads of different perspectives sub plots and narrative digressions Infinite Jest was and still is an extraordinary challenge for its readers as well as literary critics One interesting question related to Wallace's work is to what extent readers are able to establish and defend their own way of approaching literature their natural reading habits their personal boundaries and their readerly authority that are challenged by their discourse with the book The author shows in how far the reader of Infinite Jest has to get involved in this work of play how it affects the way they read the book and how the idiosyncratic reading experience finally becomes an integral part of the whole book itself **The Cambridge Companion to David Foster Wallace** Ralph Clare,2018-09-20 A compelling comprehensive and substantive introduction to the work of David Foster Wallace **A Reader's Companion to Infinite Jest** William C. Dowling,Robert Bell,Robert H. Bell,2005 A Reader's Companion to Infinite Jest is a guide for readers who have heard about the literary genius of David Foster Wallace's huge and sprawling novel but have been put off by its length and narrative complexity Composed by two distinguished literary scholars the Companion is designed both for general readers and for college students taking courses on postmodern fiction Along with an detailed overview of narrative structure the Companion includes a synopsis of plot a compendium of major characters a directory of minor characters and real people a short dictionary of slang and idioms and a section listing and explaining Infinite Jest's acronyms **David Foster Wallace and "The Long Thing"** Marshall Boswell,2014-07-31 Of the twelve books David Foster Wallace published both during his lifetime and posthumously only three were novels Nevertheless Wallace always thought of himself primarily as a novelist From his college years at Amherst when he wrote his first novel as part of a creative honors thesis to his final days Wallace was buried in a novel project which he often referred to as the Long Thing Meanwhile the short stories and journalistic assignments he worked on during those years he characterized as playing hooky from a certain Larger Thing Wallace was also a specific kind of novelist devoted to producing a specific kind of novel namely the omnivorous culture consuming encyclopedic novel as described in 1976 by Edward Mendelson in a ground breaking

essay on Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow David Foster Wallace and The Long Thing is a state of the art guide through Wallace's three major works including the generation defining Infinite Jest These essays provide fresh new readings of each of Wallace's novels as well as thematic essays that trace out patterns and connections across the three works Most importantly the collection includes six chapters on Wallace's unfinished novel The Pale King which will prove to be foundational for future scholars of this important text **A Companion to David Foster Wallace Studies** M. Boswell,S. Burn,2013-03-20 Criticism of the work of David Foster Wallace has tended to be atomistic focusing on a single aspect of individual works A Companion to the Work of David Foster Wallace is designed as a professional study of all of Wallace's creative work This volume includes both thematic essays and focused examinations of each of his major works of fiction

David Foster Wallace in Context Clare Hayes-Brady,2022-12-01 David Foster Wallace is regarded as one of the most important American writers of the twentieth and twenty first centuries This book introduces readers to the literary philosophical and political contexts of Wallace's work An accessible and useable resource this volume conceptualizes his work within long standing critical traditions and with a new awareness of his importance for American literary studies It shows the range of issues and contexts that inform the work and reading of David Foster Wallace connecting his writing to diverse ideas periods and themes Essays cover topics on gender sex violence race philosophy poetry and geography among many others guiding new and long standing readers in understanding the work and influence of this important writer

Elegant Complexity Greg Carlisle,2007 Elegant Complexity is the first critical work to provide detailed and thorough commentary on each of the 192 sections of David Foster Wallace's masterful Infinite Jest No other commentary on Infinite Jest recognizes that Wallace clearly divided the book into 28 chapters that are thematically unified A chronology at the end of the study reorders each section of the novel into a sequential timeline that orients the reader and that could be used to support a chronological reading of the novel Other helpful reference materials include a thematic outline more chronologies a map of one the novel's settings lists of characters grouped by association and an indexed list of references Elegant Complexity orients the reader at the beginning of each section and keeps commentary separate for those readers who only want orientation The researcher looking for specific characters or themes is provided a key at the beginning of each commentary Carlisle explains the novel's complex plot threads and discrepancies with expert insight and clear commentary The book is 99% spoiler free for first time readers of Infinite Jest Publisher's website **The Reading of David Foster Wallace's "Infinite Jest" as Play** Rainer Holl,2013-08 Bachelor Thesis from the year 2010 in the subject American Studies Literature grade 1.0 TU Dortmund Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik language English abstract In 1996 David Foster Wallace published his second major novel Infinite Jest that changed not only our understanding of what literature can do but also the way we read literature With its hundreds of characters thousands of pages hundreds of endnotes and myriads of different perspectives sub plots and narrative digressions Infinite Jest was and still is an extraordinary challenge for its

readers An interesting question related to Wallaces work is to what extent readers are able to establish and defend their own rules and boundaries that are challenged by their discourse with the book The whole reading process can thus be seen as a work of play that is established between the poles of infinity and jest This opens up a new narratological dimension which has an immediate impact on the autonomy of the reader I want to find out in how far the readers of Infinite Jest have to get involved in this work of play how it affects the way they read the book and how the idiosyncratic reading experience finally becomes an integral part of the whole book itself *David Foster Wallace: Fiction and Form* David Hering,2016-09-08 In David Foster Wallace Fiction and Form David Hering analyses the structures of David Foster Wallace s fiction from his debut The Broom of the System to his final unfinished novel The Pale King Incorporating extensive analysis of Wallace s drafts notes and letters and taking account of the rapidly expanding field of Wallace scholarship this book argues that the form of Wallace s fiction is always inextricably bound up within an ongoing conflict between the monologic and the dialogic one strongly connected with Wallace s sense of his own authorial presence and identity in the work Hering suggests that this conflict occurs at the level of both subject and composition analysing the importance of a number of provocative structural and critical contexts ghostliness institutionality reflection to the fiction while describing how this argument is also visible within the development of Wallace s manuscripts comparing early drafts with published material to offer a career long framework of the construction of Wallace s fiction The final chapter offers an unprecedentedly detailed analysis of the troubled decade long construction of the work that became The Pale King **David Foster Wallace: The Last Interview**

Expanded with New Introduction David Foster Wallace,2018-08-28 An expanded edition featuring new interviews and an introduction by the editor a New York Times journalist and friend of the author A unique selection of the best interviews given by David Foster Wallace including the last he gave before his suicide in 2008 Complete with an introduction by Foster Wallace s friend and NY Times journalist David Streitfeld And including a new never before published interview between Streitfeld and Wallace *The Utne Reader* ,1997 *Reader's Block* David Markson,1996 Hypnotic a profoundly rewarding read Kurt Vonnegut **The Salon.com Reader's Guide to Contemporary Authors** Laura Miller,Adam Begley,2000 An all original A to Z guide to 225 of the most fascinating writers of our time penned by an international cast of talented young critics and reviewers Cover **The Best American Essays** ,2010

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The David Foster Wallace Reader Introduction

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