
On Moral Fiction John Gardner

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Law as a Leap of Faith HarperCollins
At the heart of John Gardner's *Nickel Mountain* is an uncommon love story set in a small Catskill community in the 1950s: when, at forty-two, the obese, gentle, and anxious Henry Soames marries seventeen-year-old Callie Wells -- who is pregnant with the child of a local boy -- it is much more than age that defines the gulf between them. The plot turns on tragic events -- they might be accidents or they might be acts of will -- involving a cast of rural eccentrics that includes a lonely amputee veteran, a religious hysteric (thought by some to be the devil himself), and an itinerant "Goat Lady." Questions of guilt and innocence, and even murder, are ultimately eclipsed by Henry Soame's quiet discovery of grace. Novelist William H. Gass, a friend and

colleague to the author, has written an introduction that shines new light on the work and career of the much praised and often misunderstood John Gardner.

Freddy's Book University of Iowa Press
From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Children of Crisis*, a profound examination of how listening to stories promotes learning and self-discovery. As a professor emeritus at Harvard University, a renowned child psychiatrist, and the author of more than forty books, including *The Moral Intelligence of Children*, Robert Coles knows better than anyone the transformative power of learning and literature on young minds. In this "persuasive" book (*The New York Times Book Review*), Coles convenes a virtual symposium of college, law, and medical school students to explore the phenomenon of

storytelling as a source of values and character. Here are transcriptions of classroom conversations in which Coles and his students discuss the impact of particular works of literature on their moral development. Here also are Coles's intimate personal reflections on his experiences in the civil rights movement, his child psychiatry practice, and his interactions with his own literary mentors including William Carlos Williams and L.E. Sissman. The life lessons learned from these stories are of special resonance to doctors and teachers looking to apply them in classroom and clinical environments. The rare public intellectual to be honored with a MacArthur Award, a Presidential Medal of Freedom, and a National Humanities Medal, Robert Coles is a true national treasure, and *The Call of Stories* is, in the words of National Book Award winner

Walker Percy, "Coles at his wisest and best." **The Art of Fiction** Vintage Gardner's final novel: a delicate tapestry of literary genres that create a wonderfully mysterious and ambitious narrative As Peter Mickelsson's brilliant career as a professor at Brown University winds down, he suffers from alcoholism and is on the brink of divorce. Seeking a new start, Mickelsson moves to an old farmhouse in the Pennsylvania countryside to take a position at Bingham University. But when

mysterious supernatural events begin to occur, it becomes clear that these new surroundings will not provide a refuge for this troubled man, but rather prompt an introspective look into the ultimate value of his life's work. With distinctive style and linguistic mastery, author John Gardner weaves together a string of extraordinary plots that culminate in an unforgettable conclusion. This ebook features a new illustrated biography of John Gardner, including original letters, rare photos, and

never-before-seen documents from the Gardner family and the University of Rochester Archives.

John Gardner punctum books

The first and most terrifying monster in English literature, from the great early epic Beowulf, tells his own side of the story in this frequently banned book. This classic and much lauded retelling of Beowulf follows the monster Grendel as he learns about humans and fights the war at the center of the Anglo Saxon classic epic. This is the book William Gass called "one of the finest of our contemporary fictions."

On Moral Fiction On Moral Fiction ?I hope they're interesting, I hope not more interesting than the fiction, " says John Gardner in his

Afterword to these twelve essays that probe deeply into each of his major novels, his epic poem, his children's stories, and his work as a librettist. Contents include: "Et in Arcadia Ego: Gardner's Early Novels" by David Cowart; "Into the Farther Darkness': The Manichaeic Pastoralism of John Gardner" by Samuel Coale; "A Babylonian in Batavia: Mesopotamian Literature and Lore in The Sunlight Dialogues" by Greg Morris; and "Grendel and Blake: The Contraries of Existence" by Helen B. Ellis and Warren U. Ober. "John Gardner's Grendel" by Jerome Klinkowitz; "Survival and Redemptive Vision in Jason and Medeia" by John Trimbur; "Sailing Through The King's Indian with John Gardner and His Friends" by Donald J. Greiner; "Modern Moralities for Children: John Gardner's Children's Books" by Geraldine DeLuca and Roni Natov. "John Gardner, Librettist: A Composer's Notes" by Joseph Baber; "The Real Monster in Freddy's Book" by Walter Cummins; "Magical Prisons: Embedded Structures in the Work of John Gardner" by Kathryn Van-Spanckeren; and "New Fiction, Popular Fiction, and John Gardner's Middle/Moral Way" by Robert A. Morace.

The Sunlight Dialogues Vintage

The activist tradition in American literature has long testified to the power of words to change people and the power of people to change the world, yet in recent years many professional humanists have chosen to distract themselves with a postmodern fundamentalism of indeterminacy and instability rather than engage with social and political issues. Throughout her bold and provocative call to action, Elizabeth Ammons argues that the responsibility now facing humanists is urgent: inside and outside academic settings, they need to revive the liberal arts as a

progressive cultural force that offers workable ideas and inspiration in the real-world struggle to achieve social and environmental justice. *Brave New Words* challenges present and future literary scholars and teachers to look beyond mere literary critique toward the concrete issue of social change and how to achieve it. Calling for a profound realignment of thought and spirit in the service of positive social change, Ammons argues for the continued importance of multiculturalism in the twenty-first century despite attacks on the concept from both right and left. Concentrating on activist U.S. writers—from ecocritics to feminists

to those dedicated to exposing race and class biases, from Jim Wallis and Cornel West to Winona LaDuke and Paula Moya and many others—she calls for all humanists to link their work to the progressive literature of the last half century, to insist on activism in the service of positive change as part of their mission, and to teach the power of hope and action to their students. As Ammons clearly demonstrates, much of American literature was written to expose injustice and motivate readers to work for social transformation. She challenges today 's academic humanists to address the issues of hope and purpose by creating a practical activist pedagogy that gives students the knowledge to connect their theoretical learning to the outside world. By relying on the transformative power of literature and replacing nihilism and powerlessness with conviction and faith, the liberal arts can offer practical, useful inspiration to everyone seeking to create a better world.

John Gardner Basic Books
This classic guide, from the renowned novelist and professor, has helped transform generations of aspiring writers into masterful writers—and will continue to do so

for many years to come. John Gardner was almost as famous as a teacher of creative writing as he was for his own works. In this practical, instructive handbook, based on the courses and seminars that he gave, he explains, simply and cogently, the principles and techniques of good writing.

Gardner's lessons, exemplified with detailed excerpts from classic works of literature, sweep across a complete range of topics—from the nature of aesthetics to the shape of a refined sentence. Written with passion, precision, and a deep respect for the art of writing, Gardner's book serves by turns as a

critic, mentor, and friend. Anyone who has ever thought of taking the step from reader to writer should begin here.

The Art of John Gardner Open Road Media

NEW & NOTEWORTHY ~ THE NEW YORK TIMES With a Foreword by Susan Orlean, twenty-three of today's living literary legends, including Donna Tartt, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Andrew Sean Greer, Laila Lalami, and Michael Chabon, reveal the books that made them think, brought them joy, and changed their lives in this intimate, moving, and insightful collection from "American's Librarian" and

recipient of the National Book Foundation's Literarian Award for Outstanding Service Nancy Pearl and noted playwright Jeff Schwager that celebrates the power of literature and reading to connect us all. Before Jennifer Egan, Louise Erdrich, Luis Alberto Urrea, and Jonathan Lethem became revered authors, they were readers. In this ebullient book, America's favorite librarian Nancy Pearl and noted-playwright Jeff Schwager interview a diverse range of America's most notable and influential writers about the books that shaped them and inspired them to leave their own literary mark. Illustrated with

beautiful line drawings, *The Writer's Library* is a revelatory exploration of the studies, libraries, and bookstores of today's favorite authors—the creative artists whose imagination and sublime talent make America's literary scene the wonderful, dynamic world it is. A love letter to books and a celebration of wordsmiths, *The Writer's Library* is a treasure for anyone who has been moved by the written word. The authors in *The Writer's Library* are: Russell Banks TC Boyle Michael Chabon Susan Choi Jennifer Egan Dave Eggers Louise Erdrich Richard Ford Laurie Frankel Andrew Sean Greer Jane

Hirshfield Siri Hustvedt Charles
Johnson Laila Lalami Jonathan
Lethem Donna Tartt Madeline Miller
Viet Thanh Nguyen Luis Alberto
Urrea Vendela Vida Ayelet Waldman
Maaza Mengiste Amor Towles
A Study Guide for John Gardner's
"Redemption" Catapult

"This tale left me mystified and
satisfied to the highest
degree." - Ursula LeGuin, The
Washington Post
Letters SUNY Press

Thom Jones made his literary debut
in The New Yorker in 1991. Within
six months his stories appeared in
Harper's, Esquire, Mirabella, Story,
Buzz, and in The New Yorker twice

more. "The Pugilist at Rest" - the
title story from this stunning
collection - took first place in Prize
Stories 1993: The O. Henry Awards
and was selected for inclusion in
Best American Short Stories 1992.
He is a writer of astonishing talent.
Jones's stories - whether set in the
combat zones of Vietnam or the
brittle social and intellectual milieu
of an elite New England college,
whether recounting the poignant last
battles of an alcoholic ex-fighter or
the hallucinatory visions of an
American wandering lost in Bombay
in the aftermath of an epileptic
fugue - are fueled by an almost
brutal vision of the human condition,

in a world without mercy or redemption. Physically battered, soul-sick, and morally exhausted, Jones's characters are yet unable to concede defeat: his stories are infused with the improbable grace of the spirit that ought to collapse, but cannot. For in these extraordinary pieces of fiction, it is not goodness that finally redeems us, but the heart's illogical resilience, and the ennobling tenacity with which we cling to each other and to our lives. The publication of *The Pugilist at Rest* is a major literary event, heralding the arrival of an electrifying new voice in American fiction, and a writer of magnificent

depth and range. With these eleven stories, Thom Jones takes his place among the ranks of this country's most important authors.

Standing by Words Simon and Schuster
This guide to creative writing by the acclaimed novelist examines diverse facets of writing technique and contains analyses of works by writers from Homer to Mark Twain

Grendel SUNY Press

125 drawings exhibited by the Dusseldorf Museum in 1988. The collection and accompanying narrative essays tell the story of Julio Levin, artist and teacher, and the survival of the drawings. Finely reproduced color and bandw photos of Levin's work, that of his circle of friends, and, of course,

that of the children. A translation from the German (1988, Dusseldorf: Claassen). An analysis of the work of American writer Gardner (1933-82), emphasizing his compositional method, as manifested in *Grendel*, *The King's Indian*, *The Sunlight Dialogues*, and *Jason and Medeia*. Revised from a 1985 doctoral dissertation at Oslo University. Paper edition (unseen), \$12.95. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Four for a Quarter Macmillan

John Gardner's career was permanently changed by his publication of *On Moral Fiction* (1978), a controversial and derided assessment of the state of literature as Gardner saw it. By arguing for a

return to greater seriousness and moral commitments in literature, Gardner found himself attacked on all sides by critics and writers who found his conservatism suspicious or simply irrelevant. In this short tribute to Gardner's late intellectual concerns, Phil Jourdan looks at some of the difficulties in *On Moral Fiction*, and asks whether Gardner was rigorous enough in his deployment of various philosophical concepts through his book. Convinced that, despite any problems of argumentative method or intellectual honesty, *On Moral Fiction*'s basic message should not be dismissed outright, Jourdan tries

to determine what is superfluous to the book, so that we may focus on its core: a call for writers not to forget their moral influence on readers. Now that Gardner's career is half-forgotten, it is worth remembering this impassioned and public debate on the role of literature has been around far longer than we care to pretend: throughout the centuries, as literature attempts to define itself over and over, the question of morality is always lurking in the background. In *John Gardner: A Tiny Eulogy*, Phil Jourdan tries to separate the man from the argument, and insists that the latter should not be dismissed

because of the imperfection of the former.

All the Time in the World Open Road Media

Four fairy tales featuring a stupid coppersmith's son, a witch unhappy in her profession, a gnome with power to change things, and a fat, bespectacled Jewish boy who hopes to marry a princess.

The Writer's Library New York : Basic Books

Gathers interviews with John Gardner from each period of his career, and offers a brief profile of his life and accomplishments

Conversations with John Gardner New Directions Publishing

A Study Guide for John Gardner's

"Redemption," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.

The Way of the Writer HMH
Contains advice to young writers organized around three main questions: Am I talented enough? How should I educate myself? Can I make a living from writing fiction?

On Moral Fiction New York : Putnam

A story of an old man and an old

woman--brother and sister--living together on a farm in Vermont.

John Gardner Algonquin Books

A genuine classic of literary criticism, *On Moral Fiction* argues that "true art is by its nature moral."

John Gardner, *Critical Perspectives*
Gale, Cengage Learning

An urgent, visionary, and heartfelt collection of essays focused on recovering deeper, time-honored values against the ravages of modern society. In six elegant, linked literary essays, Berry considers the degeneration of language that is manifest throughout our culture, from poetry to politics, from conversation to advertising, and he shows how the

ever – widening cleft between the words and their referents mirrors the increasing isolation of individuals and their communities from the land. “ This skillfully conceived book is one of the strongest contemporary arguments for literary tradition: a challenging credo, un – glib, calmly assured, clearly illuminating—and required reading for those seriously interested in the interplay between literature, ethics, and morality. ” —Kirkus Reviews “ [Berry ’ s] poems, novels and essays . . . are probably the most sustained contemporary articulation of America ’ s agrarian, Jeffersonian ideal. ” —Publishers Weekly