



Narrative and Genre: Key Concepts in Media Studies

By Nick Lacey

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Narrative and Genre introduces students to two key concepts in Media Studies, complementing *Image and Representation* published in 1998. The book covers the major narrative theorists and is illustrated with numerous case studies including *The X-Files*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Se7en*, and newspaper reporting. A brief history of narrative in literature surveys text from *The Epic of Gilgamesh* to Paul Auster's postmodern *Ghost*. The section on genre offers exhaustive case studies on *film noir* and the "hard-boiled" detective novel, the TV cop genre, and soap opera.

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Review

'The second in the Key Concepts series, this clearly presented textbook should reassure A-level pupils new to the subject and yet avoid patronising undergraduates. The exercises are humorously presented and Lacey negotiates the complexities of narrative theory with confidence.' - *Sight and Sound* 'An admirable effort at achieving a balance between the complexity of the codes and conventions and the need for accessibility.' - Des Murphy, *Media Education Journal* 'A logically organised and concise introduction to the basic ideas related to narrative and genre. The book 'works' because it is structured the way the material might be taught - in a cumulative manner... His strategy for interweaving concrete examples and theoretical concepts is particularly effective. Its exercises have been thoughtfully conceived to encourage students to think laterally about the concepts.' - Laurie E. Harnick, *Scope*

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About the Author

Nick Lacey is head of Media Studies at Benton Park School in West Yorkshire.

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