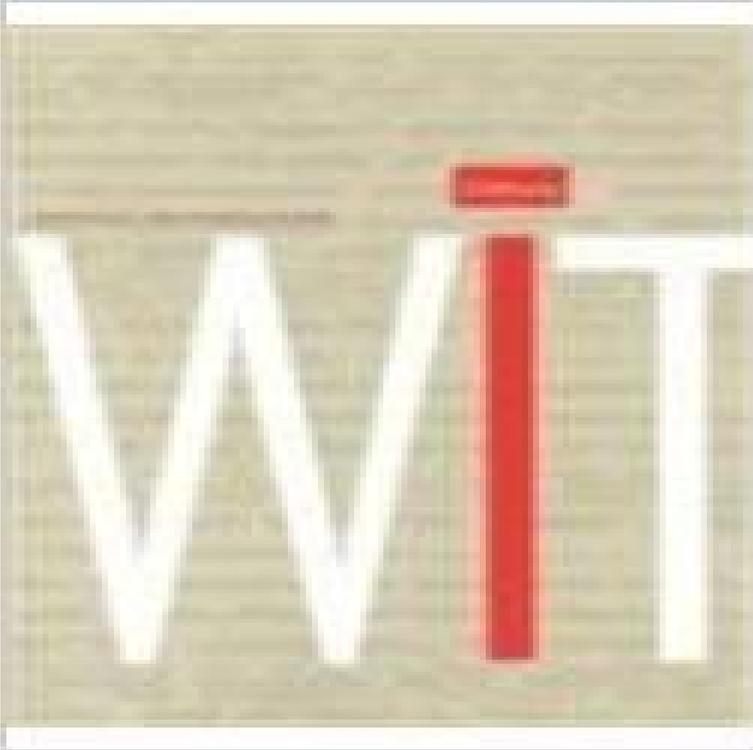


# Literary Wit



Written with verve and clarity, this book offers a fresh examination of literary wit as a distinct variety of discourse—one that is fundamentally different from wit, humor, and laughter in nonliterary contexts. Bruce Michelson moves beyond outmoded assumptions and canonical authorities to explore how wit can transform fiction, plays, and poetry, providing a fire that keeps our imaginative literature hot. Michelson argues that to achieve a modernized and less-reductive understanding of the comic mode, conventional ideas must be extended, refreshed, qualified, and ultimately left behind. Revisiting Bergson, Freud, Bakhtin, and other authorities, he develops a new description of literary wit, with an emphasis on brevity, eloquence, and surprise, and gives special attention to the power and provenance of the modern epigram. To develop this new approach, Michelson explores Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar* and Oscar Wilde's *Preface to The Picture of Dorian Gray*. He also offers the first extended discussion of two celebrated recent dramas—Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* and Margaret Edson's Pulitzer-winning *Wit*—as well as insightful readings of major poems by Richard Wilbur. He concludes with a suggestive look at the contemporary revolution in cognitive science and its implications for our understanding of the comic dimension in modern literature.

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to know, a term whose meaning has changed several times over the centuries. In the late Middle Ages, wit referred to intellect and intelligence as opposed to knowledge. **The Patient as Text: Literary Scholarship and Medical Practice** in Clear definition and examples of Wit. Wit is a biting or insightful kind of humor. It includes sharp comebacks, clever banter, and dry, one-line jokes. **Literary Wit and Wisdom: Quips and Quotes to Suit All - Whitcoulls** Feb 28, 2017 From Chinua Achebe to Emile Zola, Jorge Luis Borges to Edith Wharton, explore some of the worlds greatest writers words on life, love, and **Literary Wit** **University of Massachusetts Press** Relation between humor and wit: Humor in contrast to wit is funny in and of itself, whereas wit Literary criticism, however, observes the following differences:.

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