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# Reading stories

Mellor, Bronwyn, O'Neill, Marnie, & Patterson, Annette J. (1988) *Reading stories*. Chalkface Press, Scarborough, Western Australia.

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## Abstract

What expectations do readers have of stories? Where do readers' expectations come from? Do certain kinds of readings serve to support particular beliefs and assumptions? These and other questions are raised in *Reading Stories*, a collection of eleven short stories that have been very popular with Year 10 classes and above, accompanied by activities for talk and writing that encourage students to reflect on stories and their reading of them. *Reading Stories* aims to make recent literary theory accessible to students through a range of practical activities that work well in the classroom. Each story's accompanying activities are designed to give students not only the opportunity but also the support they might need to construct and analyse possible readings of the text. There are five chapters - offering a cumulative learning experience - that consider such areas as readers' expectations, how and why readings change, what is at stake in the disagreements between readings, and reading for gender, race and class.

The approaches used begin with students' familiarity with stories and then work to make available for analysis aspects of reading and 'interpretation' that are often taken for granted. While the concepts addressed are complex, the book aims to encourage participation from all students.

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