The Edinburgh Introduction to Studying English Literature
Dermot Cavanagh, Alan Gillis, Michelle Keown, James Loxley and Randall Stevenson

June 2010
Pb 978 0 7486 4025 6 £15.99

288pp 234 x 156 mm
Hb 978 0 7486 4026 3 £50.00

The Edinburgh Introduction provides a guide for students beginning their study of literature today

Description
What does advanced or university study of English Literature involve today? How should students read literary texts? Answers to these questions have substantially changed and developed over recent decades, particularly in response to advances in literary theory. In the light of this and other recent developments, the Edinburgh Introduction provides a new, updated guide for students beginning their study of literature today. Recent developments in theory are explained throughout, but they are not the only focus of attention. Instead, the emphasis is on clear, pragmatic explanation of critical practices, and of literary forms, styles and techniques. These explanations are carefully illustrated through examples taken from readily-available works - usually ones included in the Norton or other major anthologies. Each introduction is written by an experienced academic and teacher from Edinburgh University’s Department of English Literature, recently confirmed as one of the best in the United Kingdom.

The result is an unbeatable resource for new students: a thoroughly-stocked toolbox, offering foundational introductions to ways literary texts can be approached and readings made, as well as to the critical, formal and historical understanding this requires. New students will find new and essential insights on every page, directing their understanding for years to come and opening up all the imaginative promise of literary study.

Key Features
• An up-to-the-minute foundational guide for new students
• Comprehensive range of literary forms, styles and critical strategies introduced
• Careful exemplification, demonstrating ways reading strategies illuminate selected texts
• Based on successful introductory courses in one of the UK’s leading university literature departments

The Authors
Dermot Cavanagh is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Edinburgh.

Alan Gillis teaches creative writing as well as modern and contemporary poetry at the University of Edinburgh.

Michelle Keown is Lecturer in English Literature and the University of Edinburgh.

James Loxley is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh.

Randall Stevenson is Professor of Twentieth-Century Literature at the University of Edinburgh.

Readership
New students of English Literature at college/university level.