

Companion to the Works of Hermann Hesse: Studies in German Literature

Hermann Hesse (1877-1962) was a German-Swiss writer, poet, and painter. He is best known for his novels, which explore themes of identity, spirituality, and the search for meaning in life. Hesse's work has been translated into more than 50 languages and has sold over 100 million copies worldwide. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1946.



A Companion to the Works of Hermann Hesse (Studies in German Literature Linguistics and Culture Book 50)

by Anne B. Ragde

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

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The *Companion to the Works of Hermann Hesse* is a comprehensive guide to Hesse's life and work. The book is divided into three parts:

* **Part I: Biography** provides an overview of Hesse's life and career, from his early childhood to his death in 1962. * **Part II: Works** discusses each of Hesse's major works, including *Siddhartha*, *Steppenwolf*, and *The Glass*

Bead Game. * **Part III: Reception** examines the critical reception of Hesse's work, both in Germany and abroad.

The *Companion to the Works of Hermann Hesse* is an essential resource for anyone interested in learning more about this important writer. The book is written by a team of leading Hesse scholars and provides a wealth of information on Hesse's life, work, and legacy.

Biography

Hermann Hesse was born on July 2, 1877, in Calw, Germany. His father was a Protestant missionary and his mother was a devout Christian. Hesse had a difficult childhood and was often bullied by his classmates. He ran away from home at the age of 15 and spent the next few years wandering around Germany and Switzerland.

In 1899, Hesse published his first novel, *Peter Camenzind*. The novel was a critical and commercial success and established Hesse as a major literary figure. Hesse continued to write novels throughout his career, and his work became increasingly introspective and philosophical.

In 1946, Hesse was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. He was the first German-language writer to receive the prize since Thomas Mann in 1929. Hesse died in Montagnola, Switzerland, on August 9, 1962.

Works

Hesse's work is often divided into three periods:

* **Early period (1899-1914):** Hesse's early work is characterized by its focus on nature, youth, and the search for identity. His most famous early

novel is *Siddhartha* (1922), which tells the story of a young man's journey to enlightenment. * **Middle period (1914-1933):** Hesse's middle period is marked by a shift towards more introspective and philosophical themes. His most famous middle period novel is *Steppenwolf* (1927), which tells the story of a man who is torn between his human and animal instincts. * **Late period (1933-1962):** Hesse's late period work is characterized by its focus on spirituality and the search for meaning in life. His most famous late period novel is *The Glass Bead Game* (1943), which tells the story of a group of scholars who play a complex game that encompasses all of human knowledge.

Hesse's work has been translated into more than 50 languages and has sold over 100 million copies worldwide. He is one of the most widely read and influential German-language writers of the 20th century.

Reception

Hesse's work has been the subject of much critical debate. Some critics have praised his work for its insights into the human condition, while others have criticized it for its pessimism and its lack of social engagement.

Despite the critical debate, Hesse's work remains popular with readers around the world. His novels continue to be translated into new languages and are regularly adapted for film and television. Hesse's work is a valuable contribution to world literature and his legacy is secure.

Hermann Hesse was a major literary figure of the 20th century. His work continues to be read and enjoyed by people around the world. The *Companion to the Works of Hermann Hesse* is an excellent to Hesse's life

and work. The book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in learning more about this important writer.



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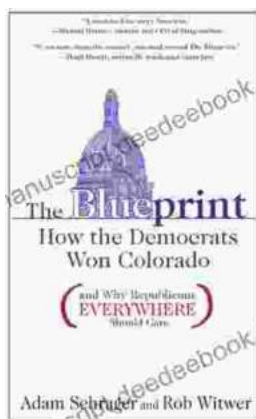
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