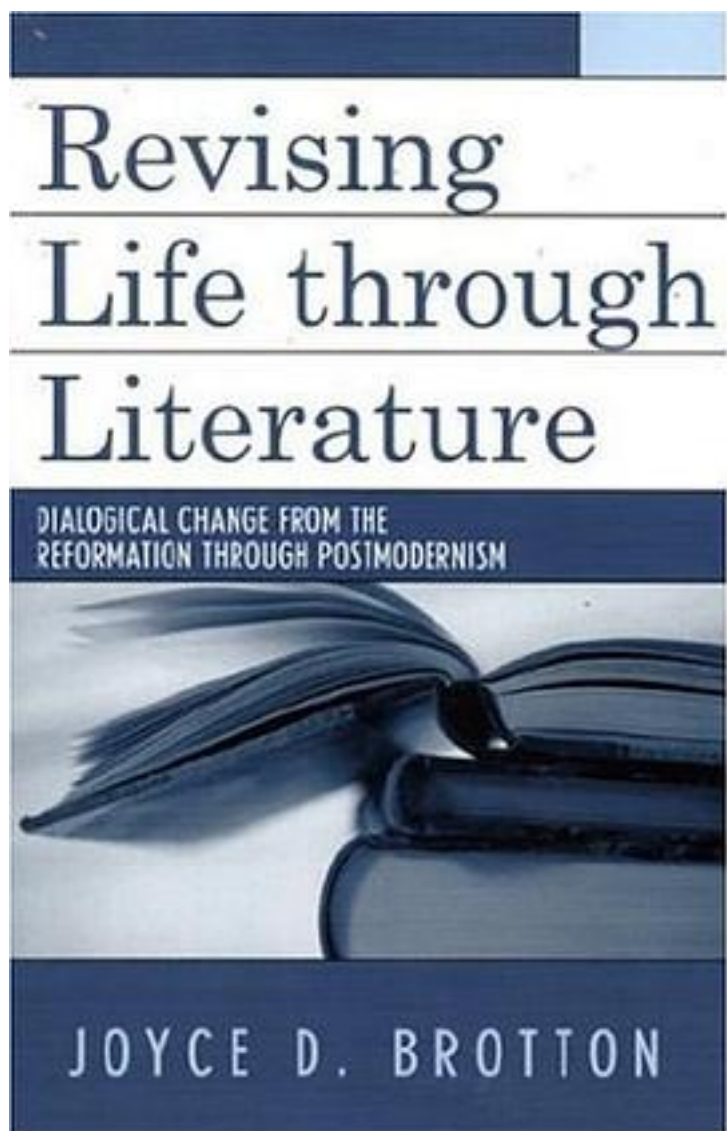


# Revising Life Through Literature



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著者:Brotton, Joyce D.

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After the Reformation, science superseded both religion and literature as the favored source of knowledge. As people became free of a catechism of rote responses, they found the concept of self-determination both liberating and terrifying. Literature stepped in by providing examples of fictional characters that made choices in circumstances similar to the quandaries faced by readers-situations that could not be easily resolved by scripture alone. As a critical theory, dialogism makes our literary heritage germane. It offers a strategy for readers to improve their immediate lives through literary insights. It also offers a means to employ literary theory to reveal overlooked clues and lingering inhibitions embedded in past literature that can affect the reader's present life. In *Revising Life Through Literature: Dialogical Change from the Reformation through Postmodernism*, Joyce Brotton cites topical examples of the past several centuries to argue the relevancy of literary works to everyday existence. Each chapter opens with a philosophical background that identifies conflict arising from a dichotomy between religion and science, followed by a literary discussion of works that respond to the needs of that age. Included in her discussion are *King Lear*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Paradise Lost*, *Candide*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *Adam Bede*. More recent examples include James Joyce's *Ulysses*, John Fowles' *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, Julian Barnes' *The History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters*, and Margaret Atwood's *The Blind Assassin*. This book is more than a teaching vehicle; it focuses on the parallel power of the imagination to create situations that may not reflect exactly the reader's own needs, but can boost confidence by offering a range of options for coping with life. This absorbing, entertaining, and informative resource encourages readers to use literature for relevancy rather than as a mere distraction.

作者介绍:

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