

The Seagull Reader

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in 1859 samuel butler a young cantabrigian out of joint with his family with the church and with the times left england to hew out his own path in new zealand at the end of just five years he returned with a modest fortune in money and an immense fortune in ideas for out of this self imposed exile came erewhon one of the world s masterpieces of satire which contained the germ of butler s intellectual output for the next twenty years the cradle of erewhon is an examination and interpretation of the special ways in which these few crucial years affected butler s life and work particularly erewhon and erewhon revisited it shows us butler the sheep farmer explorer and mountain climber as well as butler the newcomer to the colonies accepting and accepted by his intellectual peers in the unpioneerlike little city of christchurch sharpening and disciplining his mind through his controversial contributions to the christchurch press but more importantly the book suggests the depth to which new zealand penetrated the man and reveals new facets of influence hitherto unnoticed in erewhon and erewhon revisited the southern alps oh wonderful wonderful so lonely and so solemn the perilous rivers and passes the character and customs of the maoris all these blend to afford new insights

into a complex book butler was not the first to create an imaginary world as asylum from the harsh realities of this one vergil did the same in the eclogues nor was he the first even in his own time to protest against the machine as the enslaver of man but his became the clearest and the freshest voice on the biographical side the cradle of erewhon offers new evidence for reappraising the man who for so long has been a psychological and literary puzzle why for instance did he repudiate his first born book a first year in canterbury settlement and why once safely away from the entanglements of london did he voluntarily return to them answers to these and other butlerian riddles are suggested in the engrossing account of the satirist s sojourn in the antipodes

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students in first year composition courses across the country discuss and write about touchy subjects like race class gender and religion this book focuses on the latter offering a pragmatic way of working with religious belief as a subject of study in the secular setting of the university classroom based on the work of american pragmatists like charles peirce william james and john dewey this approach considers what religious belief does in the world the tangible consequences of believing or not believing and steers away from questions concerning god's existence or benevolence religion is viewed as a social and political force affecting human interaction drawing on years of experience teaching composition in chile and the united states the author explores real world events such as chile's 1973 coup d'etat the resignation of pope benedict xvi and the daily interplay of religious beliefs among family members reading and writing assignments geared for believers and nonbelievers alike are provided including student essays that make various arguments about religion

authors shannon hengen and ashley thomson have assembled a reference guide that covers all of the works written by the acclaimed canadian author margaret atwood since 1988 including her novels *Cat's Eye* *The Robber Bride* *Alias Grace* and the 2000 booker prize winner *The Blind Assassin* rather than just including atwood's books this guide includes all of atwood's works including articles short stories letters and individual poetry adaptations of atwood's works are also included as are some of her more public quotations secondary entries i.e. interviews scholarly resources and reviews are first sorted by type and then arranged alphabetically by author to allow greater ease of navigation the individual chapters are organized chronologically with each subdivided into seven categories atwood's works adaptations quotations interviews scholarly resources reviews of atwood's works and reviews of adaptations of atwood's works the book also includes a chapter entitled *Atwood on the* as well as extensive author and subject indexes this new bibliography significantly enhances access to atwood material a feature that will be welcomed by university public and school librarians *Margaret Atwood: A Reference Guide 1988-2005* will appeal not only to atwood scholars but to students and fans of one of canada's greatest writers

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