Anyone who enjoys literary criticism but has their doubts about some of it will find *The Pooh Perplex* hilariously funny. It is a collection of parodies of different schools of criticism, cast in the form of a student casebook on *Winnie the Pooh*. The volume as a whole, with bibliographic notes at the beginning and study questions at the end of each essay, is a parody of student study guides in general. Frederick Crews knows his stuff, and is equally at home lampooning Freudian, Marxist, or Leavisite theory (to mention just a few). I don't understand why it took so long for me to discover Crew's delicious volume; just go out and buy a copy now; you won't regret it!

The essays:

- Paradoxical Persona: The Hierarchy of Heroism in *Winnie-the-Pooh* (Harvey C. Windrow)
- A Bourgeois Writer's Proletarian Fables (Martin Tempralis)
- The Theory and Practice of Bardic Verse: Notations on the Hums of Pooh (P.R. Honeycomb)
- Poisoned Paradise: The Underside of *Pooh* (Myron Masterson)
- *O Felix Culpa!* The Sacramental Meaning of *Winnie-the-Pooh* (C.J.L. Culpepper, D.Litt., Oxon)
- *Winnie* and the Cultural Stream (Murphy A. Sweat)
- *A la recherche du Pooh perdu* (Woodbine Meadowlark)
- A Complete Analsis of *Winnie-the-Pooh* (Duns C. Penwiper)
- Another Book to Cross Off Your List (Simon Lacerous)
- The Style of *Pooh*: Sources, Analogues, and Influences (Benjamin Thumb)
- A.A. Milne's Honey-Balloon-Pit-Gun-Tail-Bathtubcomplex (Karl Anschauung, M.D.)
- Prolegomena to Any Future Study of *Winnie-the-Pooh* (Smedley Force)

Of course *The Pooh Perplex* is now out of date — someone needs to
produce a second edition that covers structuralist, post-structuralist and deconstructionist approaches. [Note: In 2001 Frederick Crews did just that with *Postmodern Pooh*.]

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**External links:**
- buy from [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [Amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

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