

## The Pooh Perplex: A Student Casebook

Frederick Crews

Robin Clark 1979 [1964]

---

A book review by [Danny Yee](http://dannyreviews.com/) © 1993 <http://dannyreviews.com/>

---

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Of course *The Pooh Perplex* is now out of date — someone needs to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\*](#).]

October 1993

**External links:**

- buy from [Amazon.com](#) or [Amazon.co.uk](#)

**Related reviews:**

- [Frederick Crews - \*Postmodern Pooh\*](#)
- more [humour](#)
- more [literary criticism](#)

%T The Pooh Perplex  
%S A Student Casebook  
%A Crews, Frederick  
%I Robin Clark  
%D 1979 [1964]  
%O paperback  
%G ISBN 0860720268  
%P 150pp

[Subjects](#) | [Titles](#) | [Authors](#) | [Best Books](#) | [Search](#) | [Latest Book Reviews by Danny Yee](#)