Theory, criticism, and pedagogy are interlocked. This has been contested not only by those like Leavis who performed a determinedly theory-less approach in criticism and its teaching, but openly by those like Brook Thomas in the present Reorientations volume, who wish to preserve the notion of a disinterested critical enquiry even while conceding that no enquiry can wholly be so. Already ten years ago the opposite view was put by Catherine Belsey: 'There is no practice without theory, however much that theory is suppressed, unformulated or perceived as "obvious"'.(1) That was said after the remarkable burgeoning of literary theory in the 1970s, but now one can speak of a wider awareness of the problem of the relation of theory to practice, and in particular to pedagogical practice. The result is that theory is an issue on three interconnected levels: the conflict of theories as such, each of which has articulate supporters who, well informed of rival positions, are engaged in debate; the practice of criticism that results from this range of opinion, the analyses, interpretations, and cultural explorations that form the core of literary and textual studies; and the methods of teaching in schools as well as universities.

What both these books make clear, like many others now being published, is that teachers are faced with an unavoidable conscious decision. The crisis of choice cannot be ignored;...
Criticism. Critical Theory: Approaches to the Analysis and Interpretation of Literature. Taken from: DiYanni, Robert. Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and the Essay. reading refers to interpreting the words on the page, making sense of them in a way that seems reasonable. But a number of assumptions lie behind this notion. One such assumption is that the meaning of a literary work is available to anyone willing to read it carefully. Another is that literary works contain layers or levels of meaning, that they have to be analyzed to understand their complex meanings. Interpreting the Text: A Critical Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Literary Interpretation [Book Review]. Gert Buelens. Revue Belge de Philologie Et D'Histoire 70 (3):749-750 (1992).