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The past several decades have seen an explosion of interest in narrative, with this multifaceted object of inquiry becoming a central concern in a wide range of disciplinary fields and research contexts. As accounts of what happened to particular people in particular circumstances and with specific consequences, stories have come to be viewed as a basic human strategy for coming to terms with time, process, and change.

However, the very predominance of narrative as a focus of interest across multiple disciplines makes it imperative for scholars, teachers, and students to have access to a comprehensive reference resource.

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'Potentially daunting, this complex subject is made a snap by clever arrangements for entries: five different types, from mini-essay to thumbnail definition, all cross-indexed. The helpful navigational aids include coded typeface, a thematically-organized reader's guide, and an excellent comprehensive index. Thorough, accessible, and remarkably free of obfuscating language. Highly recommended.'—
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About the Author

David Herman teaches in the Department of English at Ohio State University. He has published several studies in the field, including *The Cambridge Companion to Narrative*, *Narrative Theory and the Cognitive Sciences*, *Story Logic*, and *Narratologies*.

Manfred Jahn is based at the University of Cologne in Germany and has published articles on focalization, represented speech and thought, and cognitive narratology in venues such as the *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Poetics Today*, *Style*, and *Narratologies*. He has also authored a widely used online guide to narratology and narrative theory, freely available at .

Marie-Laure Ryan is an independent scholar and a former recipient of NEH and Guggenheim Fellowships. She has published widely in the areas of narrative theory, electronic textuality, and media studies. Her most recent studies include *Narrative across Media* and *Avatars of Story*.

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