



Literature and Moral Reform: Melville and the Discipline of Reading (Hardback)

By Carol Colatrella

University Press of Florida, United States, 2002. Hardback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Persuasive, instructive, and revisionary. Serves as complementary, complicating, or corrective to much of the scholarship on Melville, especially to very recent scholarship. . . . I will never teach or discuss Melville's texts in exactly the same ways again. --Jamie Barlowe, University of Toledo By delineating the connections between nineteenth-century penitentiary reforms and the narrative structures and strategies of Herman Melville's fictions, this book explores the ways literature reflects and refracts ideas about the influence of reading on moral rehabilitation. The author shows that Melville, who engaged often and profoundly with reform issues, reacted against the reading-as-discipline approach recommended by penal reformers. Carol Colatrella's approach is highly original not only in its historicizing of Melville's treatment of penitentiaries, reform, and rehabilitation of moral character but in its consideration of reading in relation to reform. Her book is the first to explore the ideological, literary, and rhetorical relationships of fictional narrative, authors, law, and social institutions to disciplinary literacy and to theories of readership. No other study so richly connects thematic and cultural analyses to evaluate how Melville's narrative...



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