



# Reading Philosophy: Selected Texts with a Method for Beginners

By Samuel Guttenplan, Jennifer Hornsby, Christopher Janaway

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This flexible introductory textbook explores several key themes in philosophy, and helps the reader learn to engage with the key arguments by introducing and analysing a selection of classic readings.

- Fully integrated introductory text with readings for beginning students of philosophy.
- Each chapter focusses on a core philosophical topic, and contains an introduction to the topic, 2 classic readings and interactive commentaries on the readings.
- An introductory book which doesn't merely *tell* the reader about the subject, but requires them to engage philosophically with the text.
- A pedagogical resource developed in the classroom by the authors at the University of London.

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- Sales Rank: #772776 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Wiley-Blackwell
- Published on: 2002-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.70" h x .95" w x 6.80" l, 1.21 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 312 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*Reading Philosophy* is an excellent introduction to philosophy, especially as it is practiced in the analytic tradition. I know of no other text which introduces students to the practice of philosophy as this one does." *Roger P. Ebertz, University of Dubuque*

"The book is very well done, with an attractive combination of breadth and depth. Too often, introductory textbooks are comprehensive at the cost of serious attention to important specifics. This book helps the introductory student get down to the careful work of *doing* philosophy." *David Sosa, University of Texas at Austin*

"*Reading Philosophy* is useful and rewarding, and a natural for the philosophy shelves of any academic or academic's collection." *Reference Reviews, 2003*

#### From the Back Cover

*Reading Philosophy* will appeal to both those beginning their study of philosophy at a university and those who want to engage with the subject on their own. Unlike introductory books which *tell* the reader about the subject, this one requires the reader to *do* philosophy. Its direct approach makes the book valuable both for students and for other readers. It can be used as the set reading in seminars in introductory courses: each chapter can act as a focal point for extended discussion week by week. But it is also well adapted for self-sufficient use by individuals working without a teacher.

The volume provides eighteen examples of high-quality philosophical texts, covering nine philosophical topics: Doubt; Self; Tragedy; Equality; Dilemma; Identity; Freedom; Causality; Qualities. The texts include writings by Descartes, Boyle, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Schopenhauer and J. S. Mill, as well as eight written by philosophers in the late twentieth century. Each chapter contains an introduction to the problem, introductions to the texts and their authors, and interactive commentaries on the texts.

#### About the Author

**Samuel Guttenplan** is a Reader in Philosophy at Birkbeck College, University of London. He is the author of *The Languages of Logic* (2nd edn, Blackwell, 1997), editor of *A Companion to the Philosophy of Mind* (Blackwell, 1994) and executive editor of the journal *Mind & Language*.

**Jennifer Hornsby** taught philosophy at Oxford from 1978 to 1994, when she moved to Birkbeck College, as Professor. Her chief areas of publication are the philosophy of mind, action and language. She has also written about the impact of feminism on philosophy.

**Christopher Janaway** was educated at Oxford and has taught for the past twenty years at Birkbeck College, where he is currently Professor of Philosophy. His chief areas of publication are aesthetics, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche.

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#### **Michael Campbell:**

Reading can be called a head hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specially a book entitled Reading Philosophy: Selected Texts with a Method for Beginners your head will drift away through every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a reserve then become one type conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get before. The Reading Philosophy: Selected Texts with a Method for Beginners giving you yet another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life within this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

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