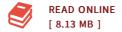




## Mere Reading: The Poetics of Wonder in Modern American Novels (Paperback)

## By Lee Clark Mitchell

Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Mere Reading argues for a return to the foundations of literary study established nearly a century ago. Following a recent period dominated by symptomatic analyses of fictional texts (new historicist, Marxist, feminist, identity-political), Lee Clark Mitchell joins a burgeoning neoformalist movement in challenging readers to embrace a rationale for literary criticism that has too long been ignored-a neglect that corresponds, perhaps not coincidentally, to a flight from literature courses themselves. In close readings of six American novels spread over the past century-Willa Cather s The Professor s House, Vladimir Nabokov s Lolita, Marilynne Robinson s Housekeeping, Cormac McCarthy s Blood Meridian and The Road, and Junot Diaz s The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao-Mitchell traces a shifting strain of late modernist innovation that celebrates a species of magic and wonder, of aesthetic bliss (as Barthes and Nabokov both coincidentally described the experience) that dumbfounds the reader and compels a reassessment of interpretive assumptions. The novels included here aspire to being read slowly, so that sounds, rhythms, repetitions, rhymes, and other verbal features take on a heightened poetic status-in critic Barbara Johnson s words, the...



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