

# Contents

- 1** What is Theory? 1
  - 2** What is Literature and Does it Matter? 17
  - 3** Literature and Cultural Studies 40
  - 4** Language, Meaning, and Interpretation 52
  - 5** Rhetoric, Poetics, and Poetry 66
  - 6** Narrative 78
  - 7** Performative Language 90
  - 8** Identity, Identification, and the Subject 104
- Appendix: Theoretical Schools and Movements 117
- References 129
- Further Reading 135
- Index 141