



The Secret Life of Literature

Lisa Zunshine

The MIT Press Cambridge, Massachusetts London, England

© 2022 The Massachusetts Institute of Technology

This work is licensed to the public under a CC-BY_NC_SA license. Subject to such license, all rights are reserved.



The MIT Press would like to thank the anonymous peer reviewers who provided comments on drafts of this book. The generous work of academic experts is essential for establishing the authority and quality of our publications. We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of these otherwise uncredited readers.

This book was set in Stone Serif and Stone Sans by Westchester Publishing Services.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Zunshine, Lisa, author.

Title: The secret life of literature / Lisa Zunshine.

Description: Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, [2022] | Includes

bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021031221 | ISBN 9780262046336 (hardcover)

 $Subjects: LCSH: Literature — Psychological \ aspects. \ | \ Cognition \ in \ literature. \ |$

Psychology and literature. | Narration (Rhetoric)—Psychological aspects. |

Discourse analysis, Literary—Psychological aspects.

Classification: LCC PN56.P93 Z86 2022 | DDC 801/.9—dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021031221

Contents

List of Illustrations vii

Preface ix

Index 305

1	The Secret Life of Literature 1
2	Mindreading and Social Status 59
3	"Deep" History: Evolutionary and Neurocognitive Foundations of Complex Embedment 99
4	Cultural History: Ideologies of Mind 113
5	Literary History: The Importance of Being Deceived 141
6	Embedded Mental States in Children's Literature 193
Con	iclusion: On the Future of the "Secret Life" of Literature 219
Not	es 223
Bibl	iography 273

