

Foster Wallace  
**Understanding David  
Foster Wallace**

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## Understanding David Foster Wallace

*David Foster Wallace | Author*

*Spotlight Infinite Jest: A Reader's*

*Guide [David Foster Wallace] - The*

*View From Mrs. Thompson's Infinite*

*Jest by David Foster Wallace*

*Audiobook 1/7 The Broom Of The*

*System, David Foster Wallace BOOK*

*REVIEW ~~David Foster Wallace on~~*

*~~Commercial literature and reading~~*

*What is the genera of Infinite Jest? |*

*Cultural insights from David Foster*

*Wallace | BOOK REVIEW ~~David~~*

*~~Foster Wallace on Literature~~ ~~David~~*

*~~Foster Wallace~~ ~~David Foster Wallace~~*

*~~How Tracy Austin Broke My Heart~~*

*~~Cobain Factor: Why David Foster~~*

*~~Wallace Killed Himself~~ *David Foster**

*~~Wallace interview on Charlie Rose~~*

*~~(1997) David Foster Wallace: The~~*

*~~Oscars~~ ~~David Foster Wallace on~~*

*~~Education~~ ~~David Foster Wallace,~~*

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~~Jonathan Franzen and Mark Leyner interview on Charlie Rose (1996)~~ The Philosophy of Infinite Jest - (David Foster Wallace) #NoFearToughBooks David Foster Wallace on Political thinking in America

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David Foster Wallace on humor and Infinite Jest

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David Foster Wallace on Infinite Jest  
*David Foster Wallace on being alone*

~~David Foster Wallace on Responsibility and Maturity (2003)~~

David Foster Wallace: The future of fiction in the information age ~~David Foster Wallace reads \"Consider the Lobster\" (on the 2003 Maine Lobster Festival)~~ David Foster Wallace unedited interview (2003)

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David Foster Wallace on Ambition | Blank on Blank

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David Foster Wallace reads \"Big Red Son\" (his 1998 visit to the Adult Video

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News Expo) Wallace

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Book Review: Infinite Jest David Foster

Wallace The Problem with Irony

*Good Old Neon - David Foster*

*Wallace (Narration) Author John*

**Green talks David Foster Wallace**

**influences Understanding David**

**Foster Wallace**

""Understanding David Foster

Wallace"" guides readers through

thoughtful examinations of Wallace's

novels ""The Broom of the System""

and ""Infinite Jest"" and first two short

story collections, ""Girl with Curious

Hair"" and ""Brief Interviews with

Hideous Men"".

**Understanding David Foster**

**Wallace (Understanding ...**

Since its publication in 2003,

Understanding David Foster Wallace

has served as an accessible

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## Understanding David

Introduction to the rich array of themes and formal innovations that have made Wallace's fiction so popular and influential.

### **Understanding David Foster Wallace : Marshall Boswell ...**

In *Understanding David Foster Wallace*, Boswell goes through all of Wallace's published fiction (*The Broom of the System*, *Girl With Curious Hair*, *Infinite Jest*, and *Brief Interviews With Hideous Men*) and pretty much dissects the narrative, all without boring the reader. Well, he didn't bore me anyway.

### **Understanding David Foster Wallace by Marshall Boswell**

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Introduction to the rich array of themes and formal innovations that have made Wallace's fiction so popular and influential.

### **Understanding David Foster Wallace - uscpres.com**

"Understanding David Foster Wallace places incisive close readings in a rich context that Wallace's fiction emerged from and shaped--including literary postmodernism, popular culture, philosophies of language, politics, and ethics--to create an overview that is as accessible as it is illuminating. An excellent place to start and return

### **Understanding David Foster Wallace | calendar.pridesource**

"Since its publication in 2003, Understanding David Foster Wallace has served as an accessible

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Introduction to the rich array of themes and formal innovations that have made Wallace's fiction so popular and influential.

### **Understanding David Foster Wallace (eBook, 2020) [WorldCat ...**

The Lost Years and Last Days of David Foster Wallace (Rolling Stone, October 30th, 2008) Yesterday marks the 12th anniversary of David Foster Wallace passing away. I don't know how I missed this piece when it came out in October 2008, about 6 weeks after his death.

### **A few things worth sharing: 09-13-2020 - Peter Attia**

David Foster Wallace (February 21, 1962 – September 12, 2008) was an American author of novels, short stories and essays, as well as a

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Foster Wallace is a university professor of English and creative writing. Wallace is widely known for his 1996 novel *Infinite Jest*, which *Time* magazine cited as one of the 100 best English-language novels from 1923 to 2005.

### **David Foster Wallace - Wikipedia**

Asked in 2006 about the philosophical nature of his fiction, the late American writer David Foster Wallace replied, "If some people read my fiction and see it as fundamentally about philosophical ideas, what it probably means is that these are pieces where the characters are not as alive and interesting as I meant them to be." *Gesturing Toward Reality* looks into this quality of Wallace's work-when the writer dons the philosopher's cap-and sees something else.



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### **Gesturing Toward Reality: David Foster Wallace and ...**

Understanding David Foster Wallace guides readers through thoughtful examinations of Wallace's novels *The Broom of the System* and *Infinite Jest* and first two short story collections, *Girl with Curious Hair* and *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*.

### **Amazon.com: Understanding David Foster Wallace ...**

Understanding David Foster Wallace places incisive close readings in a rich context that Wallace's fiction emerged from and shaped-including literary postmodernism, popular culture, philosophies of language, politics, and ethics-to create an overview that is as accessible as it is illuminating.

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### **Wallace Wallace**

Summary: "In Understanding David Foster Wallace, Marshall Boswell examines the four major works of fiction Wallace has published thus far: the novels *The Broom of the System* and *Infinite Jest* and the story collections *Girl with Curious Hair* and *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*.

### **Understanding David Foster Wallace (Book, 2003) [WorldCat.org]**

Since its publication in 2003, *Understanding David Foster Wallace* has served as an accessible introduction to the rich array of themes and formal innovations that have made Wallace's fiction so popular and influential.

### **Understanding David Foster Wallace - Marshall Boswell ...**

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**DAVID FOSTER WALLACE** 1962 Born February 21, in Ithaca, New York, to James D. Wallace and Sally Foster Wallace. Six months later, the Wallace family move to Urbana, Illinois. Wallace attends Urbana High School. 1980 In the Fall, Wallace enrolls at Amherst College, where he rooms with Mark Costello.

### **David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest - The Eye**

The book gives a good overall review of David Foster Wallace's rendering of postmodernism and conventions of modernism. He is keenly observant of all the nefarious effects of pop culture and onslaught of TV on our life.

### **Understanding David Foster Wallace - Marshall Boswell ...**

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and get the best deals for Understanding David Foster Wallace by Marshall Boswell (Paperback, 2009) at the best online prices at eBay! Free delivery for many products!

### **Understanding David Foster Wallace by Marshall Boswell ...**

David Foster Wallace, who died in 2008, was the author of the acclaimed novels Infinite Jest and The Broom of the System. His final novel, The Pale King, was published posthumously in 2011. He is also the author of the short-story collections Oblivion, Brief Interviews with Hideous Men and Girl with Curious Hair.

### **David Foster Wallace - Amazon.co.uk**

Understanding David Foster Wallace. Since its publication in 2003,

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Understanding David Foster Wallace has served as an accessible introduction to the rich array of themes and formal innovations that have made Wallace's fiction so popular and influential.

Since its publication in 2003, Understanding David Foster Wallace has served as an accessible introduction to the rich array of themes and formal innovations that have made Wallace's fiction so popular and influential. A seminal text in the burgeoning field of David Foster Wallace studies, the original edition of Understanding David Foster Wallace was nevertheless incomplete as it addressed only his first four works of fiction—namely the novels *The Broom*

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of the System and Infinite Jest and the story collections *Girl with Curious Hair* and *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*. This revised edition adds two new chapters covering his final story collection, *Oblivion*, and his posthumous novel, *The Pale King*. Tracing Wallace's relationship to modernism and postmodernism, this volume provides close readings of all his major works of fiction. Although critics sometimes label Wallace a postmodern writer, Boswell argues that he should be regarded as the nervous leader of some still-unnamed (and perhaps unnamable) third wave of modernism. In charting a new direction for literary practice, Wallace does not seek to overturn postmodernism, nor does he call for a return to modernism. Rather his work moves resolutely forward while

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Hoisting the baggage of modernism and postmodernism heavily, but respectfully, on its back. Like the books that serve as its primary subject, Boswell's study directly confronts such arcane issues as postmodernism, information theory, semiotics, the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein, and poststructuralism, yet it does so in a way that is comprehensible to a wide and general readership—the very same readership that has enthusiastically embraced Wallace's challenging yet entertaining and redemptive fiction.

A gargantuan, mind-altering comedy about the Pursuit of Happiness in America Set in an addicts' halfway house and a tennis academy, and featuring the most endearingly screwed-up family to come along in

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Recent fiction, Infinite Jest explores essential questions about what entertainment is and why it has come to so dominate our lives; about how our desire for entertainment affects our need to connect with other people; and about what the pleasures we choose say about who we are. Equal parts philosophical quest and screwball comedy, Infinite Jest bends every rule of fiction without sacrificing for a moment its own entertainment value. It is an exuberant, uniquely American exploration of the passions that make us human - and one of those rare books that renew the idea of what a novel can do. "The next step in fiction...Edgy, accurate, and darkly witty...Think Beckett, think Pynchon, think Gaddis. Think." --Sven Birkerts, *The Atlantic*



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## Understanding David

In this elegant volume, literary critics scrutinize the existing Wallace scholarship and at the same time pioneer new ways of understanding Wallace's fiction and journalism. In critical essays exploring a variety of topics—including Wallace's relationship to American literary history, his place in literary journalism, his complicated relationship to his postmodernist predecessors, the formal difficulties of his 1996 magnum opus *Infinite Jest*, his environmental imagination, and the “social life” of his fiction and nonfiction—contributors plumb sources as diverse as Amazon.com reader recommendations, professional book reviews, the 2009 *Infinite Summer* project, and the David Foster Wallace archive at the University of Texas's Harry Ransom Center.

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In this rare peak into the personal life of the author of numerous bestselling novels, gain an understanding of David Foster Wallace and how he became the man that he was. Only once did David Foster Wallace give a public talk on his views on life, during a commencement address given in 2005 at Kenyon College. The speech is reprinted for the first time in book form in *This is Water*. How does one keep from going through their comfortable, prosperous adult life unconsciously? How do we get ourselves out of the foreground of our thoughts and achieve compassion? The speech captures Wallace's electric intellect as well as his grace in attention to others. After his death, it became a treasured piece of writing reprinted in *The Wall Street Journal* and the *London Times*, commented on

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endlessly in blogs, and emailed from friend to friend. Writing with his one-of-a-kind blend of causal humor, exacting intellect, and practical philosophy, David Foster Wallace probes the challenges of daily living and offers advice that renews us with every reading.

What do we value? Why do we value it? And in a neoliberal age, can morality ever displace money as the primary means of defining value? These are the questions that drove David Foster Wallace, a writer widely credited with changing the face of contemporary fiction and moving it beyond an emotionless postmodern irony. Jeffrey Severs argues in *David Foster Wallace's Balancing Books* that Wallace was also deeply engaged with the social, political, and economic

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Issues of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. A rebellious economic thinker, Wallace satirized the deforming effects of money, questioned the logic of the monetary system, and saw the world through the lens of value's many hidden and untapped meanings. In original readings of all of Wallace's fiction, from *The Broom of the System* and *Infinite Jest* to his story collections and *The Pale King*, Severs reveals Wallace to be a thoroughly political writer whose works provide an often surreal history of financial crises and economic policies. As Severs demonstrates, the concept of value occupied the intersection of Wallace's major interests: economics, work, metaphysics, mathematics, and morality. Severs ranges from the Great Depression and the New Deal to the

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realms of finance, insurance, and taxation to detail Wallace's quest for balance and grace in a world of excess and entropy. Wallace showed characters struggling to place two feet on the ground and restlessly sought to "balance the books" of a chaotic culture. Explaining why Wallace's work has galvanized a new phase in contemporary global literature, Severs draws connections to key Wallace forerunners Don DeLillo, Thomas Pynchon, and William Gaddis, as well as his successors—including Dave Eggers, Teddy Wayne, Jonathan Lethem, and Zadie Smith—interpreting Wallace's legacy in terms of finance, the gift, and office life.

State-of-the-art guide to David Foster Wallace's fiction, focusing exclusively on his novels, *The Broom of the*

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System, Infinite Jest, and The Pale King.

The agents at the IRS Regional Examination Center in Peoria, Illinois, appear ordinary enough to newly arrived trainee David Foster Wallace. But as he immerses himself in a routine so tedious and repetitive that new employees receive boredom-survival training, he learns of the extraordinary variety of personalities drawn to this strange calling. And he has arrived at a moment when forces within the IRS are plotting to eliminate even what little humanity and dignity the work still has. The Pale King remained unfinished at the time of David Foster Wallace's death, but it is a deeply compelling and satisfying novel, hilarious and fearless and as original as anything Wallace ever

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undertook. It grapples directly with ultimate questions--questions of life's meaning and of the value of work and society--through characters imagined with the interior force and generosity that were Wallace's unique gifts. Along the way it suggests a new idea of heroism and commands infinite respect for one of the most daring writers of our time.

Where do you begin with a writer as original and brilliant as David Foster Wallace? Here -- with a carefully considered selection of his extraordinary body of work, chosen by a range of great writers, critics, and those who worked with him most closely. This volume presents his most dazzling, funniest, and most heartbreaking work -- essays like his famous cruise-ship piece, "A

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Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again," excerpts from his novels *The Broom of the System*, *Infinite Jest*, and *The Pale King*, and legendary stories like "The Depressed Person."

Wallace's explorations of morality, self-consciousness, addiction, sports, love, and the many other subjects that occupied him are represented here in both fiction and nonfiction. Collected for the first time are Wallace's first published story, "The View from Planet Trillaphon as Seen In Relation to the Bad Thing" and a selection of his work as a writing instructor, including reading lists, grammar guides, and general guidelines for his students. A dozen writers and critics, including Hari Kunzru, Anne Fadiman, and Nam Le, add afterwords to favorite pieces, expanding our appreciation of the unique pleasures of Wallace's writing.



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The result is an astonishing volume that shows the breadth and range of "one of America's most daring and talented writers" (Los Angeles Times Book Review) whose work was full of humor, insight, and beauty.

Asked in 2006 about the philosophical nature of his fiction, the late American writer David Foster Wallace replied, "If some people read my fiction and see it as fundamentally about philosophical ideas, what it probably means is that these are pieces where the characters are not as alive and interesting as I meant them to be." Gesturing Toward Reality looks into this quality of Wallace's work-when the writer dons the philosopher's cap-and sees something else. With essays offering a careful perusal of Wallace's extensive and heavily annotated self-help library,

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re-considerations of Wittgenstein's influence on his fiction, and serious explorations into the moral and spiritual landscape where Wallace lived and wrote, this collection offers a perspective on Wallace that even he was not always ready to see. Since so much has been said in specifically literary circles about Wallace's philosophical acumen, it seems natural to have those with an interest in both philosophy and Wallace's writing address how these two areas come together.

Considered by many to be the greatest writer of his generation, David Foster Wallace was at the height of his creative powers when he committed suicide in 2008. In a sweeping portrait of Wallace's writing and thought and as a measure of his importance in

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literary history, *The Legacy of David Foster Wallace* gathers cutting-edge, field-defining scholarship by critics alongside remembrances by many of his writer friends, who include some of the world's most influential authors. In this elegant volume, literary critics scrutinize the existing Wallace scholarship and at the same time pioneer new ways of understanding Wallace's fiction and journalism. In critical essays exploring a variety of topics—including Wallace's relationship to American literary history, his place in literary journalism, his complicated relationship to his postmodernist predecessors, the formal difficulties of his 1996 magnum opus *Infinite Jest*, his environmental imagination, and the "social life" of his fiction and nonfiction—contributors plumb sources as diverse as

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Amazon.com reader

recommendations, professional book reviews, the 2009 Infinite Summer project, and the David Foster Wallace archive at the University of Texas's Harry Ransom Center. The creative writers—including Don DeLillo, Jonathan Franzen, George Saunders, Rick Moody, Dave Eggers, and David Lipsky, and Wallace's Little, Brown editor, Michael Pietsch—reflect on the person behind the volumes of fiction and nonfiction created during the author's too-short life. All of the essays, critical and creative alike, are written in an accessible style that does not presume any background in Wallace criticism. Whether the reader is an expert in all things David Foster Wallace, a casual fan of his fiction and nonfiction, or completely new to Wallace, *The Legacy of David Foster*

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Wallace will reveal the power and innovation that defined his contribution to literary life and to self-understanding. This illuminating volume is destined to shape our understanding of Wallace, his writing, and his place in history.

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