

Garland, Carina, University of Sydney, Australia

Reading the Undead: Literary and Cultural Studies at the 'Twilight' of Youth Consumption

This paper deploys modes of both cultural and literary analysis to inform my reading of a contemporary text, Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series (2005-8). I approach the series not as confined to its literary properties, which might consist of the novels themselves, but as a cultural field of texts comprising the novels and the proliferation of films, communities and other themed products.

I contend that by combining cultural and literary analysis, scholars might better understand the relationship between readers and text, consumption and production. Following this line, I consider the feminist debate that has surrounded "Twilight" without adequately engaging with reader practices. My objective is to shift scholarly thinking about Twilight away from judgments of the novels' literary merits and from attempts to catalogue the feminist/anti-feminist elements therein to a more complex discussion of how a field of text might operate as a living organism