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Sommario/riassunto	Uses of Literature bridges the gap between literary theory and common-sense beliefs about why we read literature. Explores the diverse motives and mysteries of why we read. Offers four different ways of thinking about why we read literature - for recognition, enchantment, knowledge, and shock. Argues for a new "phenomenology" in literary studies that incorporates the historical and social dimensions of reading. Includes examples of literature from a wide range of national literary traditions.