

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910453150403321
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Titolo	Humorous structures of English narratives, 1200-1600 // by Theresa Hamilton
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Newcastle upon Tyne, UK : , : Cambridge Scholars Publishing, , 2013
ISBN	1-4438-5327-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 volume)
Disciplina	341
Soggetti	English literature - Middle English, 1100-1500 - History and criticism English literature - History and criticism English wit and humor Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Sommario/riassunto	We all have the ability to recognize and create humour, but how exactly do we do it? Salvatore Attardo and Victor Raskin have attempted to explain the workings of humour with their General Theory of Verbal Humor (1991). The central aim of Hamilton's study is to test the usefulness of the General Theory of Verbal Humor on a specific corpus by identifying and interpreting the narrative structures that create humour. How well can this theory explain the way humour works in a particular tale, and can it provide us with interesting, novel interpretations? - - The genres used to test the General Theory of Verbal Humor are the fabliau, the parody and the tragedy. This corpus represents different kinds and degrees of humour and thus challenges the theory on various levels. - - Hamilton proposes a supplementation of the General Theory of Verbal Humor in order to create an effective means of undertaking what she calls a OEHumorist reading. By posing the questions OEWwhy is this humorous?a, OEWhow is it humorous?a or OEWwhy is it not humorous?a and providing the theoretical tools to answer them, a OEHumorist reading can make a valuable contribution to understanding any given literary text and its place in society. -

