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Autore	Douglas Mary <1921-2007.>
Titolo	Thinking in circles [[electronic resource]] : an essay on ring composition / / Mary Douglas
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2007
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (192 p.)
Collana	Terry lecture series
Disciplina	808
Soggetti	Narration (Rhetoric)
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Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Ancient rings worldwide -- Modes and genres -- How to construct and recognize a ring -- Alternating bands : numbers -- The central place : numbers -- Modern, not-quite rings -- Tristram Shandy : testing for ring shape -- Two central places, two rings : the Iliad -- Alternating nights and days : the Iliad -- The ending : how to complete a ring -- The latch : Jakobson's conundrum.
Sommario/riassunto	Many famous antique texts are misunderstood and many others have been completely dismissed, all because the literary style in which they were written is unfamiliar today. So argues Mary Douglas in this controversial study of ring composition, a technique which places the meaning of a text in the middle, framed by a beginning and ending in parallel. To read a ring composition in the modern linear fashion is to misinterpret it, Douglas contends, and today's scholars must reevaluate important antique texts from around the world. Found in the Bible and in writings from as far afield as Egypt, China, Indonesia, Greece, and Russia, ring composition is too widespread to have come from a single source. Does it perhaps derive from the way the brain works? What is its function in social contexts? The author examines ring composition, its principles and functions, in a cross-cultural way. She focuses on ring composition in Homer's Iliad, the Bible's book of Numbers, and, for a challenging modern example, Laurence Sterne's Tristram Shandy, developing a persuasive argument for reconstruing famous books and

rereading neglected ones.
