



# **A Primer of Freudian Psychology**

*Calvin Springer Hall*

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## A Primer of Freudian Psychology Details

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# From Reader Review A Primer of Freudian Psychology for online ebook

## buse says

very basic and understandable book. recommend it.

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## Nicole says

I think that I understand Id, Ego, and Superego enough to tell high school students the basics and apply it in a critical analysis of Batman. Sweet.

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## Amin Mosayyebzadeh says

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## Jia says

buku punya mamah, baca pertama kali waktu sma dan terkaget-kaget dengan id, ego, superego. juga sama fase-fase seksual dan penis envy pada anak cewek(whatta? ga ngerasa ngalamin soalnya hahaha).

sejak sma banyak baca buku psikologi dan macam-macam gangguan jiwa karena persiapan pengen jadi penulis, buat mendalami karakter. ga ngaruh sih... sampai sekarang tulisanku paling lemah di karakter :|

kalau yang gangguan jiwa, emang sejak sma ngerasa punya gangguan jiwa. sekarang sih agak normal, karena agak mengerti diri sendiri.

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## Shruthi says

You Can Not Want To Be Raped.  
Also homophobia.

Freud is the "father" of psychology. But he was also, at times, an idiot.

Overall this book was an okay guide to Freud. Fairly basic stuff and I learnt nothing new.

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## David says

Oh Sigmund Fraud – sorry Freudian slip. Okay, enough of the crappy jokes.

First off, in my opinion Freud receives a lot of unfair criticism in general. Many people don't understand/ properly take into account the historical context in which his theories were formed, mainly a repressive Victorian society. At the time, he found an acceptable way to facilitate appropriate – if inaccurate – discussion about taboo subjects, namely sex. Furthermore, many people today take for granted the vast amount of information we have accumulated – everything from the brain to genes to the interaction between genes and environment – since Freud's time, courtesy of neuroscience, better technology etc. Freud didn't have any of that and we have the privilege of hindsight. Also, he didn't ignore biology; in fact quite the contrary - of course the human genome project hadn't been implemented yet. Based on this, I won't fault him too heavily (as many scientists do). I believe his emphasis on nurture, as opposed to nature, was a very important notion at the time – though that notion was blown so far out of proportion it's disgusting.

It was interesting to read of Freud's medical and scientific background. He really attempted to make psychology into a legitimate science – certainly an important aim and no small peanuts. However, I do believe William James ultimately did far more to set the scientific reductionism of experimental psychology on its proper track.

Bottom line: In my opinion, Freud did a few very important things for psychology: He reminded us that we humans have a dark side, he shed some light on how parents can potentially hinder their child's development (though he did go overboard here, overemphasizing nurture over nature), and perhaps most importantly, he discovered the unconscious or was at least the first to conceptualize it -- I've always loved his iceberg analogy of the unconscious, the premise of which is still very appropriate: much of what goes on in our brains does so outside of conscious awareness, or below the surface as it were.

But honestly, Freud... does everything really have a malicious ulterior motive? Do all dreams represent repressed sexual drives, and penis envy – really??? And of course, the other problem with Freud's theories is that they aren't really falsifiable, which in science is kind of not... okay.

\*Note: my rating reflects Freud's ideas, not the author's writing. I think the author did a fine job creating a synopsis of Freud's ideas.

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## Jennifer says

When I was sixteen, I lucked into a course called Psychology, Myth, and Literature for which this particular primer was required reading. We read it, I believe, in conjunction with Shaffer's *Equus*, and I promise that whatever effect you're picturing that combination having on a group of teenagers, it is not nearly as colorful as the reality. Feel free to experiment on your own kids for fun.

Upon re-reading, I find my reactions to this not much different from when I first used it as excellent joke-fodder twenty years ago. Hall's writing is lucid, if slightly on the adulatory side, and his brief analysis of Freud's life and scientific influences is extremely helpful, particularly the focus on Freud's absorption of contemporary discoveries in physics regarding the conservation of energy. However, lucid synopsis is not

enough to save the batshit theories Freud promulgated, and the last third of the book (which covers the dreaded oral/anal/genital zones) is likely to leave you rolling your eyes and reconsidering the rationality of the preceding hundred pages.

Hall's *Primer* does its work well, giving a glimpse of the genius of Freud, the context in which that genius developed, and the serious hangups (not that the author seems to grasp this) which prevented many of his theories from managing to survive outside his middle-class Victorian milieu. And if it's far more entertaining when taken in conjunction with a heavy dose of horse symbolism...well, that's hardly Hall's fault, is it?

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### **J. Ewbank says**

Even easier to read than Freud's work is this work by Hall in explaining Freud. For those who are unfamiliar with the writings of Freud or of psychology in general, this could be an interesting introduction to Freud.

It is a good read and well designed.

J. Robert Ewbank author "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the 'Isms'"

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### **Steve says**

"It was amazing" because it summarized very concisely the entire collection of Freud's work such that I now have a good sense of what he was all about. Never have I read such a summary before! I don't know if I will ever read any of Freud's books, but I will know where to start! Bravo Professor Hall, in absentia!

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### **Tracey R says**

I read this book for a thesis I had to write, and it was an excellent companion book. It explains Freud's theories in a very clear and concise manner. I definitely recommend this book to anyone who has to write about Freud, or someone who simply wants to understand how a person's personality is formed.

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### **James Carter says**

I remember reading *A Primer of Freudian Psychology* when I was in 8th grade and found it overwhelming. After growing up and living the life, I now realize why. It's because I lacked the experience to relate to many of the theories formulated by Sigmund Freud.

I honestly find many of the theories valid and relevant and especially like the constant battle among the id, ego, and superego. However, some of them to explain a certain behavior are awfully simplistic and do not account for several other factors in play. Knowing what we know today, IQ, emotional intelligence, and various chemicals in the brain (he has an umbrella term for it: psychic energy) are among the primary forces that shape a person's personality and behavior. So, I'll excuse him for that. But I won't excuse him for failing to account for environmental and socioeconomical issues. His data comes from analyzing upper-class,

sexually repressed women in Austria.

On the other hand, his true infamy lies in the Oral/Anal/Sexual Zone theories which are completely ridiculous. If true, then I suppose, following his line of thinking, Freud's sucking on the cigar means that he likes to perform oral sex on males. I mean, are people really that simple? Meanwhile, he may have coined catchy terms such as "Oedipus Complex" and "Penis Envy." Let's be real: they are too far-fetched to be taken seriously.

If you have seen the film called *Spellbound* by Alfred Hitchcock, it seems what Freud's psychology about: the repressed memories invoked by dreams. In reality, it's not that simple. Truth be told, I consider people to be easy to figure out, but what I don't have is an access to their biography. That's why novels, especially the classics, paint a great sketch of characters, so we can understand their motivations, flaws, behaviors, and personality traits.

Calvin Hall's outline and clarification of Freud's theories aren't so bad, but there are times, especially the id-ego-superego part, that his explanations aren't clear enough. But it's nice when he makes up examples to illustrate the points to put them in context.

All in all, I think *A Primer of Freudian Psychology* is in a need of modernization with more clear language and examples to aid the readers in understanding Freud's theories.

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### **Chris Schaeffer says**

I don't know why I have this, why I chose to read it, etc. It's interesting as a peculiar snapshot of the state of psychoanalytic pedagogy at a very specific point in history, though, and I suppose not the worst way to refresh your basics of Freud.

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### **John says**

haven't seen too many primers that suck.

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### **Jim says**

I read some Freud and some Jung in college, including a course in Theories of Personality. Since college, I have read mostly Jung, so this primer refreshed my memory in regard to the basic and the key concepts of Freudian psychology. I found the presentation rather dry, but it served my purpose.

Since Harold Bloom's theory of poetry, as found in his books *The Anxiety of Influence* and *A Map of Misreading*, is based on a blend of Freudian concepts and Lurianic Kabbalah, anyone interested in reading those books by Bloom should be familiar with Freudian and Lurianic concepts.

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