

POLITICS vs. LITERATURE

GEORGE ORWELL

- The fourth title in Renard's new *Orwell's Essays* series – a collection of short, beautifully produced essays on politics and literature by the renowned author of *1984* and *Animal Farm*.
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George Orwell set out 'to make political writing into an art', and to a wide extent this aim shaped the future of English literature – his descriptions of authoritarian regimes helped to form a new vocabulary that is fundamental to understanding totalitarianism. While *1984* and *Animal Farm* are amongst the most popular classic novels in the English language, this new series of Orwell's essays seeks to bring a wider selection of his writing on politics and literature to a new readership.

Politics vs. Literature, the fourth in the *Orwell's Essays* series, is, at heart, a review of Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. Having been given a copy of the book on his eighth birthday, Orwell knows it inside out, and thinks highly of it; it is 'pessimistic', though, he says – 'it descends into political partisanship of a narrow kind,' designed to 'humiliate man by reminding him that he is weak and ridiculous.' Using the book as an example of enjoying a book whose author one cannot stand, Orwell goes on to say that he considers *Gulliver's Travels* a work of art, leaving the reader to reconsider the books on their own shelves.

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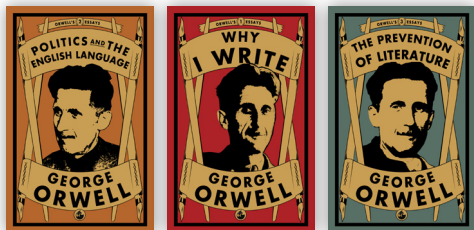
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'A writer who can – and must – be
rediscovered with every age'

IRISH TIMES

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Born Eric Arthur Blair (1903–1950), George Orwell was an English journalist, writer and critic. Orwell devoted his life to working against extremism, and in his description of how authoritarian regimes pervade our thoughts, he gave us a new vocabulary to understand totalitarianism. He is best remembered today for his innumerable essays, his novels – in particular *Animal Farm* and *1984* – and his longer non-fiction, especially *The Road to Wigan Pier* and *Down Out in Paris and London*.



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