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If every writer necessarily draws on their own life, is any writing outside the realm of 'autobiography'?

The new edition of this classic guide is fully updated to include:

developments in autobiographical criticism, highlighting major theoretical issues and concepts

different forms of the genre from confessions and narratives to memoirs and diaries

uses of the genre in their historical and cultural contexts

major autobiographical writers including St Augustine, Bunyan, Boswell, Rousseau and Wordsworth, alongside non-canonical autobiographies by women

twentieth-century autobiography including women's writing, black and postcolonial writing, and personal criticism

a new chapter on narrative and new material examining recent trends in autobiography such as blogs, the popularity of literary memoirs and recent developments in theory on testimonial writing.

Combining theoretical discussion with thought-provoking readings of major texts, this is the ideal introduction to the study of a fascinating genre.