

## ABSTRACT

Literature, like all other aspects of life, undergoes constant change. To this end, it is noticeable that contemporary novelists now challenge the reader to not merely respond to the novel but actually be a co-creator with the author.

Chief among the exponents of this literary theory is the recently deceased, but still distinguished, Argentine novelist, Julio Cortázar. It is in recognition of his valuable contribution to the field of literature, in general, and Latin American literature, in particular, that this paper is written, as we trace the emergence and influence of the theory and practice of reader participation. Through an understanding of his work, it is hoped that a greater comprehension of contemporary literature will be attained.

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