



Flaubert the moralist?

L'Éducation sentimentale or the story as a hoax

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [La Revue des lettres modernes](#)
2021 - 1. [Gustave Flaubert et le théâtre](#)

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Abstract: The narrator of *L'Éducation sentimentale* intrudes and offers judgments on the story with remarkable frequency. How does Flaubert's impartial story-writing style interact with this consistent skepticism? The idea of the author's total withdrawal from his work should be reconsidered. There is a truth to the story, though it remains inaccessible, unformulated, and inexpressible. Yet it is an ironic truth.

Pages: 185 to 252

Journal: [Journal of Modern Literature](#)

Series: [Gustave Flaubert](#), n° 9

CLIL theme: 4027 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage -- Lettres -- Etudes littéraires générales et thématiques

EAN: 9782406112440

ISBN: 978-2-406-11244-0

ISSN: 0035-2136

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-406-11244-0.p.0185

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 03-01-2021

Periodicity: Monthly

Language: French

Keyword: Flaubert, *L'Éducation sentimentale*, novel, story, skepticism, joke, irony, passions, symbol

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