

Contesting the Reception of Hermann Hesse: The Case of *Beneath the Wheel*



presented by
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Foreign Languages

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Like most of Hesse's fiction, *Beneath the Wheel* (1905,1906) has been read as encoded autobiography—as the author's depiction of the adolescent crisis that led him to break with his family and forsake his prep-school scholarship in order to devote himself to Literature. This presentation will sketch some of the good things that happen when we abandon such autobiographical readings. It turns out that *Beneath the Wheel* is a pretty good novel: about friendship, first love, and betrayal.