

To help humans understand how literature works

by [Bill McKibben](#)

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What's the Bible for? We asked dozens of writers to respond to this question in seven words or less, as well as to expand on their response in a few sentences. To see all of the responses together as they are posted, bookmark this [page](#).

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A fascinating book inspired by a loving God to make sure humans understand how literature works: that it can be full of contradictions, jokes, parables, horrors, catalogues, poems, and other devices to get us thinking creatively, humanely, and powerfully. To be taken seriously, but not too seriously—and certainly not literally.