Sigmund Freud
(1856-1939)
Austrian inventor of psychoanalysis. Developed many well-known concepts, including unconscious desires, repression, denial and transference. Puts sex drives at the heart of everything. A social as well as psychological theory, arguing that civilisation depends on suppression of basic human drives. The reputation of psychoanalysis has been damaged by unimaginative film and literary theorists who like to spot sexual meanings in culture, but fail to provide useful insights.

Selected Works:
Civilisation and Its Discontents (W.W. Norton, 1989)
Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis (W.W. Norton, 1989)