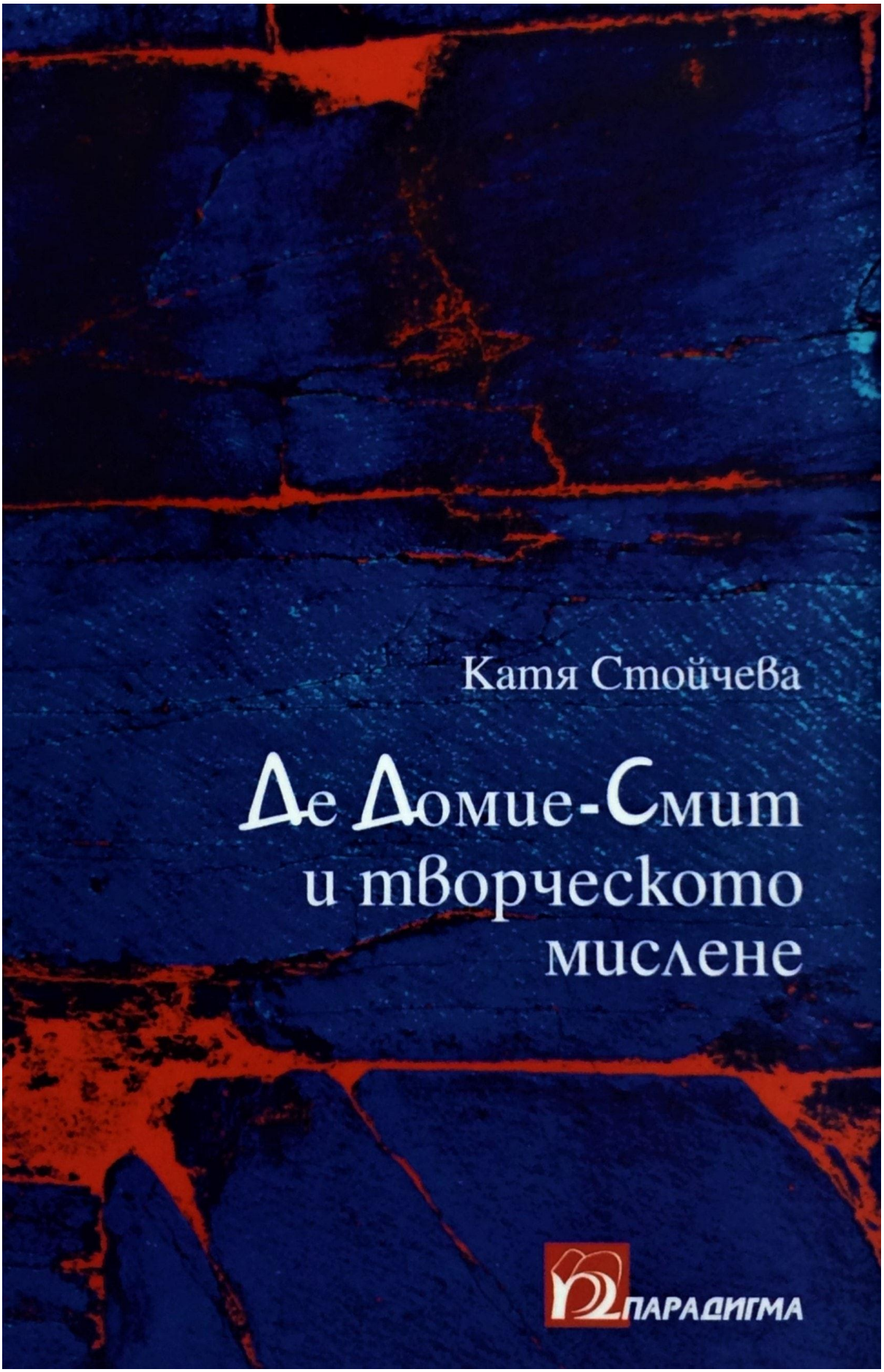

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De Daumier-Smith and the Creative Thinking

Summary

Stoycheva, K. (2018). De Daumier-Smith and the creative thinking.
Sofia, Bulgaria: Paradigma Publishing House. ISBN 978-954-326-348-6

This book proposes a new, original psychological approach in the study of the works of literature as creative products. This is a conceptual approach which consists in the application of an existing theory of creativity to a new type of data (literary texts), and its methodological usefulness is demonstrated through a concrete example. In this case, Torrance's concept of creative thinking skills is applied to the analysis of Salinger 's short story "De Daumier-Smith's blue period".

The book consists of four parts. The first part introduces the Torrance's process definition of creativity, outlines the kind of products that would results from the successful operation of the process, and describes the creative thinking skills that have been shown to be important in producing creative results.

The second part provides a detailed, in-depth examination of Salinger's story. The analysis identifies, in a systematic way, the creative thinking skills embodied in the text and illustrates their various manifestations. The results of this analysis are organised into eight chapters. The first one distinguishes the multiple contexts in the story's span and traces the complex intersection of past, present and future time perspectives. The second documents the many and different types of characters and the various kinds of relationships between them. The third identifies author's ways to keep the story open and extend its boundaries. The fourth detects the presence of unusual combinations and other uses of fantasy and humour in the story. The fifth specifies the elaboration of what is missing or taken away. The sixth characterizes the inner experiences and affective processes revealed throughout the text and all the

things hidden. The seventh exposes the vividness and colourfulness of the imagery, and the eight reaches behind the title of the story in search for highlights of its essence. At the end of each chapter, a set of creative tasks invites the reader to produce solutions to problems derived from the text's analysis.

To deepen the understanding of this analysis and its outcomes, the third part provides further readings on Torrance's studies of creativity and elaborates each of the eighteen creative thinking skills he has examined. These are: 1) problem awareness and definition; 2) producing many alternatives; 3) producing different alternatives; 4) generating original ideas; 5) highlighting the essence; 6) elaborating the chosen alternatives; 7) resistance to premature closure; 8) emotional awareness and expressiveness; 9) putting ideas into context; 10) combining and synthesizing; 11) rich and colorful visualization; 12) enjoying and using fantasy; 13) kinesthetic and auditory responsiveness; 14) getting unusual perspective; 15) visualizing the inside; 16) extending or breaking the boundaries; 17) letting humor flow and using it; 18) developing and using images of the future.

The fourth, concluding part reviews the different types of creative tasks that have been proposed. Last but not least, it encourages the readers to apply book's ideas and undertake the analysis of a short story of their own choice.

This is an interdisciplinary work developed in the area of overlap between psychology of creativity and literature. Torrance's concept of creative thinking skills has been adopted as an analytical tool, and proved being useful in the examination of the creative strengths of a literary text. By transferring psychological knowledge about creative thinking to the domain of literary analysis, this book has extended the area of application of Torrance's theory of creativity.

The publication is addressed not only to fellow scientists in psychology and literary studies, but to a wider intellectual public as well.