

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**FANFICTION, Is it a part of literature?**

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**Abstract**

The existence and legitimacy of fanfiction have always been questioned on the basis of the definition of what literature is what it is not. The objective of this thesis will be to provide report that fanfiction is a legitimate literary genre and to explain how it fits into the contemporary literary context. Although, this study will provide a modern overview, with a particular focus on the presentation and revision of biblical texts in fanfiction. The ideas explored will prompt us to rethink our conception of literature and challenge the idea of originality as a defining quality of legitimate literature. These ideas will be linked together to provide further evidence of fanfiction's complex action-reaction relationship with the contemporary literary context. Overall, this article defends fiction as a legitimate literary genre and argues for a new way of understanding literature.

**Keywords:** literature, fanfiction, study, legitimate literary etc

**Can Fanfiction Be Considered As Literature?**

Watching a movie, web series, sports, anime or reading a novel, short stories or any kind of fiction is what we all like to do. But what happens after watching or reading something? Our human mind does it work. It goes on thinking what will happen next to the character, what would be the next situation. But it is not present in the novel. Presenting that thinking in a written form is known as fan fiction. Such kind of texts, have been appeared in different fan magazines and journals from 1930s. And the number of fan fiction is increasing day by day because of the use of internet.

A fanfiction can be roughly defined as a fiction presented by fans, on an extant of imaginary world and with a set of characters which can either be recreated into a different world

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or can be woven into a possible continuation of the base storyline. This form is a part of human attempt to keep the story going and to keep the character alive to which they can relate to. We can say that fanfiction have its origin in the graeco roman dramaturgy, where existing artworks were given numerous forms by different dramatists.

As mentioned above, it's a work of human mind, possibly most of the human being have imagined different types of stories and must have discussed with their knowns, but it came out for the first time in the published form in 1960s "star teck fanzines". And then it begun. Many celebrated fanfiction writers came ahead, namely, "Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Sondra Marshak, Joan Winton" etc. Another notable point is that these three altogether wrote a "how to guide for fanfiction writers", as a part of Star Trek Lives, which was the first published document that celebrated and theorized fanfiction.

It's easy to ignore fanfiction as silly unrealistic stories written by those amateur people who don't have courage or seriousness to write a proper book. Some people who couldn't relate with these fanfiction can easily name it as ridiculous version of some original books and films. Basically, fanfiction is not a work of profit and it eventually, doesn't claim to access any originality or its original version from where it have been picked up.

Some great scholars suggest that it is too similar to the original one, and it's not easy to find out a difference between both of them or to choose out a valid genre as if it's a fan letter or fiction which is fair enough. But the fact is, few fanfiction works are officially published and recognized as great works. According to a research by bookriot, there are few fanfiction which are even better than the original work, like "what you don't know" is fanfiction of tangled, one of the best film Disney have ever produced. It doesn't mean that it is not a valid form of literature and writing.

Writing a fanfiction can be considered as a hobby and can be just simply accepted as baking, or writing a proper book or creating a short film. These fictions are written just for the enjoyment and to provide the fan community another reason to talk about the characters or plot of the original one. Hunger Games is now-a-days such a movie that everyone loves and at the same time, if the fans will read fictions by Miss Honeywell like, "three of hearts, housebroken, inmate "etc, they will be amused with the work.

Moreover, there is a book named, "Fangirl" written by Rainbow Rowell, which perfectly represent this neglected group of writer. This novel is included in New York Times best seller

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list for 6 weeks. Rainbow have tried the best to keep up the story of a fanfiction writer and how their writing fits the normal life. This book, in a way, opens a door that people overlooked from a long time.

We can say it's just used to develop the writing skills, fanfiction provides an opportunity that the normal fiction doesn't. It is somewhere valid to the literary world and a chance for all those who feel ignored by mainstream literature. Although, fanfiction deserves to be called its own genre as it's a piece of work that shares similar themes, characters and clichés. It is basically an unlicensed use of licensed creation.

Well, fanfiction isn't a new concept. Some of the amorous work of ancient literature that is known as classics today can absolutely be considered as fanfiction. Like Dante's Divine Comedy, which is fanfiction about the bible and Dante's favourite classical writer Virgil, written in Italian circa 1308-1320? Even the Aeneid is an unofficial version of the Illiad.

Fanfiction assists writers with getting better at composing. It gives them significant practice with portrayal and style improvement that they need to figure out how to make their own unique functions. Writers communicate thoroughly with the works they make from than the normal reader, and this is valid, no matter what genre you're writing in; to compose for a person or world, you want to know inside out about it. You want to know each peculiarity, imperfection, achievement and disappointment and have the option to take advantage of those experiencing the same thing that is a good time for your reader, regardless of whether that reader is simply you.

Jamison, a professor of English at the College of Utah, has taught fan fiction in her courses and, surprisingly, written some herself. Fan fictions fit the bill flawlessly, not because of their content, yet in addition because of the manners in which they're made and distributed. Fiction websites and communities aren't simply online story distribution centers; they're a not-for-profit imaginative biological system where authors post narratives in serialized lumps and reader give their feedback and article ideas en route. Jamison enthusiastically considers it a new "model of authorship."

**Fanfiction and Copyright**

"The legality of fanfiction isn't very controversial. As a matter of copyright and trademark law, the sort of noncommercial, transformative works that fans make tend to fit quite well into the definitions of non-infringing fair use," says Betsy Rosenblatt, a law professor teaching intellectual property law at U.C. Davis School of Law. She also serves as the legal chair

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of the Organization for Transformative Works. So, fanfiction can be exempted from copyright infringement but they must be in a fair use under copyright law.

**Conclusion**

Hence, we can conclude that fanfiction could be defined as a genre of literary fiction based on another original work, as the author borrows said original world and characters to explore the universe they love or to explore the issues that were not dealt within the original work, mainly regarding gender, identity, sexuality, love affair, or mental health. At its most basic, it is a genre of amateur fiction writing and therefore, a genre of literature as well.

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