

Passmore, Suzanne, University of Western Australia, Australia

Literature or Text?: Fanfiction at the Focal Point of Literary and Cultural Studies

Fanfiction, defined as stories written by fans using an already existing fictional world, came to critical attention in cultural studies in the early 1990s. Much work in this field used fanfiction as a cultural text and as evidence of active engagement by media consumers. Recent work on fanfiction has foregrounded fanfiction's position as a literary, as well as cultural, text and incorporates literary studies into its analysis. Fanfiction therefore emerges as a focal point where the approaches and scope of literary and cultural studies intersect.

Exploring fanfiction at this intersection of literary and cultural studies illuminates how 'literature' and 'text' are defined in these fields, how the meaning and value of fanfiction-as-text and fanfiction-as-literature is assessed, and whether such a distinction is necessary. In doing so I map out a site where literary and cultural studies overlap, and where the implications for fanfiction as a *critical practice* can be explored.