

UNIT 7 – THE FULL STORY

- 1- **READING COMPREHENSION:** read the article and match the questions (1-10) with the people (A-D). **Choose the correct letter.**

WHICH PERSON...

- 1 wasn't immediately popular with readers?
- 2 says that fanfiction can't be justified by the number of readers?
- 3 uses fanfiction sites as a way of finding what readers like?
- 4 involves their fans in the writing process?
- 5 doesn't agree that fanfiction writers are inferior?
- 6 believes that a story belongs to a global audience?
- 7 points out that many fanfiction writers don't use their own name?
- 8 had the same level of disappointment in a story as other readers?
- 9 hasn't lost out financially because of fanfiction?
- 10 tried to remove access to fanfiction material based on their work?

Fanfiction: fun for readers or unfair to original writers?

In fanfiction, also known as fanfic, writers borrow characters and concepts from books, films, and TV shows, and write alternative storylines. We asked four people for their take on this growing form of storytelling.

A Lin

People are often curious about how I got started, but it was really quite simple. I read the last chapter of a novel and I hated the ending! Not only was it a bad ending to the story, the characters seemed to have lost their original personality. So I set about writing my own ending, just for fun. It was when I found that other fans were as dissatisfied as me with the same book, that I decided to make my version available online. It was an instant hit, with some fans saying my work was more credible and enjoyable. Now I'm a regular fanfic writer with thousands of readers worldwide. Having their comments helps me shape what happens next and keeps me going. It's that ongoing interaction that distinguishes fanfiction from other forms of writing.

C Nicole

Personally, fanfiction wouldn't be my reading of choice, but I don't have any moral problem with it. If it keeps people reading and brings them enjoyment, so much the better. Professionally, it isn't something we have as part of our list, but we do keep a close eye on the main fanfiction sites, just to see which genre is most popular and who are the up-and-coming writers. There's a surprising amount of talent out there, although some professionals prefer not to admit it. Fanfiction is often seen as second best, as if the writers are just imitators of 'real' authors. I don't see it like that. They may not have invented the characters, but the narratives are all their own work. The fans also take the writing very seriously and give brutally honest feedback. So fanfiction can be an excellent training ground.

B Jake

I started out of love for the characters in my favourite books. It wasn't because I thought I could do better than the original author; I just wanted to see what would happen to their characters in different situations. I was by no means an overnight success, but over time my fan base grew. What I didn't realise was that I was developing as a writer and growing in confidence. Then a publisher got in touch to see if I had any ideas for an original work. I did and I'm now in my fifth year as a professional writer. Many professional writers query the fairness of their work being copied. All I can say is, my sales haven't suffered. And once a story is out in the world, it's really owned by the readers, so I can't control it.

D Simon

Having made a name for myself as a successful science fiction writer, I was horrified when my characters started appearing all over the online story site Wattpad. I contacted my publisher to see if we could get all the stories related to my work taken down. They can't take any action unless the writers receive an income from their stories. Some say I should be flattered, but my objection is about who owns the work. Writers need to have professional respect for each other and not just take what they want from another person's creativity. Just because fanfiction has a huge audience doesn't make it right. Most of these writers remain anonymous on Wattpad, which seems to indicate they're less than proud of what they do.

- 2- REPORTED STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS: there is 1 extra word in each sentence.
Write the extra word in the square.

- 1 The survey asked how often did we read classic literature.
- 2 She said we could have download the book for free.
- 3 The journalist asked if that he had always been keen on writing.
- 4 I explained that I'd had already seen that episode the day before.
- 5 My classmate refused to tell to me the answer.
- 6 The tutor wanted to know what if genre we were interested in.
- 7 The writer said us it was going to be his last book for teenagers.
- 8 The students wanted to know how many stories he does writes a year.

- 3- REPORTED STATEMENTS: choose the correct reported speech version of the statements.

- 1 'I'll see you both later at the leisure complex.'
My sister said
- 2 'This is the worst TV programme I've ever seen.'
Mum said
- 3 'We're reading a great new story at our book club at the moment.'
My friend said
- 4 'I left my Kindle on the sofa here, but now I can't find it.'
My brother said
- 5 'You must all write a paragraph plan before you start this task.'
The teacher said

- 4- REPORTED QUESTIONS: A student repoter is talking to a writer about his book. Choose the correct reported version of the questions.

- 1 'When did you write your first story?'
I asked
- 2 'Was the book difficult to write?'
I wanted to know
- 3 'Why do you like writing?'
I asked
- 4 'Are you going to write another bestseller?'
I wanted to know
- 5 'Do you think anybody can write a good story?'
I asked