
How I lived a hundred lives

In alternate universes, of course. Trust me, the cat photo is relevant.



Adorable & humorous cat photo by [Mikhail Vasilyev](#)

Cats have nine lives. Whenever they suffer a horrible fate, they simply lose a life point—just like in video games. But, did you know? One human can live a hundred or even thousands of lives? Me? I’m better than a cat. I’ve lived about 10: The first one being the indifferent middle school life of Greg Heffley. The second one from the shores of Long Island, a physically challenged comedian Jamie Grimm. The famous hero Percy Jackson, an anti-hero in olden Italy named Ezio Auditore, and more.

Yes, you got me there: I’m talking about literature. Specifically, **novels**. The wonder of fictional literature is in its capability to transport you into another world. It adds “flavor” to your life by putting you in the front row of a certain character’s journey. Clark (2017) says readers find fiction as an escape. Turn to the intimacy of books to show them that there are others like him out there. Everything they see, you vividly picture out, everything they feel, you feel a portion of, and everything they learn, you come to realize about it too.

This brings me to my point: novels are one of the best teachers. They may not be textbooks, providing you with technical facts. But what they offer can be more than essential when talking about its applications in life: cultural awareness, creativity, and, most of all, wisdom. Findings by Dijik from the Creativity Research Journal (2013) suggest that reading fictional literature could lead to better procedures for processing

information, including creativity.

“There is no doubt fiction makes a better job of the truth.” – Under my Skin,
Doris Lessing (2013)

If you ask me, a novel is, but a textbook written in the eyes of a character with goals to achieve and problems to solve. It is human. They go through a minor or major setback; they try out multiple methods in attempts to solve, they fail, they try again. And while that may not always be the case, the point I am trying to raise is the fact that you are going through it **with** them—**second-hand experience**. GradGuard pushes for empirical reading (2021), saying we can gain plenty from other people’s lives and experiences through fiction, we gain insight into human nature and different lives we will never lead.

Novels are written by people all around the world, with different perspectives, different lifestyles, and different experiences. Because of that, you, as a reader, can get information about their way of life, things that don’t seem to occur in the environment you’re in, and even a few taboos that your culture has barred you from. It exposes you to unorthodox scenarios, causing you to develop an open and objective mind. Our exposure to world literature through novels can support exploration, understanding, and active engagement in today’s global realities and interconnections (cultural, economic, environmental, geographical, political, religious, social, and technological) says Pyke (2017) in his article.

This reverberates within me. As a person who lived with novels. Fun fact: the first book I enjoyed scanning my eyes through was the Bible. Stories from the old testament and the new. It was a toned-down, kid-friendly version of it, except they added illustrations and turned the format into that of a novel’s. However, with that single book alone, my vocabulary widened, and I learned how to use punctuations. The “bizarre” happenings in the Bible taught me to expect more out-of-the-box events, indirectly improving my creativity in terms of problem solving.

Reading a hundred novels, no, living through a hundred lives can be beneficial for you. It is idealistic, but I believe the impact it gives you can be a life shifter. Keep feeding your mind with new experiences. Now, let me ask you this: whose life do you want to live through next?

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