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Composition II

Palmer

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Literacy Critique (AKA Fanfiction: Actually Is Totally Real Writing, You Anti-Creativity Shitlords)

FIRST OPTION: BASICALLY AN ESSAY (not really utilizing the blog's full potential!!)

<intro>

Okay without all the flowers, here’s what I’m trying to say. this essay is written for the audience of…… uhhhhhhh……. I guess people who want to know why fanfiction isn’t lazy?? The teacher? Someone who doesn’t already know much about fanfic, but wants to know more. So tell them. So (1) here’s what fanfic is (static definition, how it’s used, where, why, how it’s really popular among teenagers, why?? Should that be in here?). (2) here’s what people think it is, and here’s why (quickly). also tell how this leads into it being the negative stereotype. (3) BUT! Here’s why you SHOULDN’T THINK OF THAT NEGATIVE STEREOTYPE AS THE TRUTH. (T) transition into first paragraph! Lets do transitions last

</intro>

<body>

(1) here’s what it is!

A method of writing

real popular with teens (teens because pop culture? And also they might be too young to realize or care about the stigma attached to fanfic? Creative kids just getting started with expressing themselves? Creative writing completely new to them? Get to experiment with writing by using characters they’re already really into?).

you take characters you already like and put them into situations that you think are neat

literary “what-if” basically

(2) how people see it!

The authors see it as a creative outlet, but popular opinion (people who don’t really know what it is or what it means to the ACTUAL WRITERS) says that it’s:

LAZY WRITING (but it’s not!!! Everyone has a different idea of a character, regardless of how developed they are in their canon. (also, it’s common for writers to flesh out a background/rarely-mentioned character so they can write in their personality and shit). Anyway so authors tend to write the same character in VERY VERY DIFFERENT WAYS not just stylistically, but as for their actions and the way they act. Because different people might view the same character differently)

a whole bunch of self-inserts (not always omg :((( )

and shittily written stories. (NOT TRUE. Dude some fanfics are so damn well written. Omg.)

Also they have a bunch to do with sex. (this isn’t wrong, but like….. teens like writing love stories? It’s a fun genre to write, especially with “ships” (explain ships)??? Most fanfic authors are girls, and girls tend to be into love stories? Because they’re geared towards caring about those stories? And they’re fun ? to ? write ?)

I need data for how many people see it this way. fuk

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(2.5!!!!) here’s WHY PEOPLE THINK THAT WAY. HERE’S WHY. SO THE READER CAN IMAGINE THEMSELVES AND BE LIKE “HMM IS THAT WHY I THINK THAT WAY?” MAYBE SO, READER. MAYBE SO, YOU SUSCEPTIBLE-TO-BIAS FUCK. YOU SHITTER. WHO DOESN’T ACTUALLY LOOK AT THINGS BEFORE MAKING AN OPINION ON IT?? A L L O F U S.

(3) ANYWAY HERE’S WHY WE SHOULDN’T THINK THAT WAY. It’s kind of the parentheses parts in part 2.

</body>

<concl>

Sooooo here’s a summary of what happened. We now know that fanfic is <these things., and that people think of it as a lazy shit hobby. But what it actually is is a nice hobby with good parts and bad parts, and the only reason people think it’s a shit hobby (lazy, never good/well-written, entertaining writing , etc) is because they didn’t know what it was actually about. Thanks for reading~~~~~ \*peace sign\* itadakimasu or whatever. Oyasumi or some shit

</concl>

SECOND OPTION: LISTICLE (will this give me enough words??) I actually think the first option might give me more words ;\_;

I should get a job at buzzfeed for this

Three Misconceptions About Fanfiction That Fanfic Authors Really Wish You Knew

<intro>

Fanfiction: probably the most informal writing style you've ever only slightly heard of.

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1. Fanfiction is Lazy

THE MISCONCEPTION

As fanfiction authors, we've heard it all before: “Why don't you just make up your own characters? Are you not creative enough?” People new to the concept of fanfic think that writing it is sort of like making a collage: cut out pictures of people from magazines, slap some speech bubbles on them, and you're done. No real effort involved, right?

THE REALITY

Fanfiction isn't just using other people's characters as your literary glue. Within any fandom (a 'fandom' being a group of people who follow a certain show/book/movie/thing), there are multiple fanfic authors, and chances are, if you read two fanfics by different authors but featuring the same two or three characters, the differences you find will be more than stylistic. Fanfiction authors are, at the end of it, people, and people tend to have differing views on what a character is like, regardless of how developed they are in canon: what their goals are, how they would act in different situations (link to AU wiki page), imagined backstories for them. Fanfiction authors have the opportunity, almost nonexistent in any other medium, to take a skeleton of a character and flesh them out using their own, personal idea of the character. There isn't any room for cutting and pasting a character into their work, because there's no such thing as a set character to cut and paste. This is especially true if the character isn't well-developed in canon, a subject about which fanfiction authors are fond of writing (see <author>'s fanfic featuring <character>, who only showed up in <#> episodes of the hit <show/movie/book> <title>).

Also, fanfiction authors routinely make their own original characters (Ocs). Just putting it out there.

2. Fanfiction Is Always Badly Written

THE MISCONCEPTION

All fanfiction is lauded as filled with shameless self-inserts (define self-insert), poor grammar and spelling, repetitive word choice, and everything else that people associate with <unsavably> terrible writing. Fanfiction authors are predominantly teenagers, and teenagers are notorious for being shitty at stuff. Everybody knows that.

THE REALITY

As with any widely-used medium, there's a bunch of variety in writing type, genre, and (of course) worth. Some (okay, a lot of) authors, when they're just starting out, tend to get sucked up in the glitz and glamour of Mary-Sues (define this) (especially teenage girls, and <this article> might explain why) and forget to proofread, but that's just how people grow. Fanfiction is a medium with a lot of people just starting to discover their love for writing, and as a result, you're definitely going to get some bad fics. There's no quality bar to reach before you <publish something – link to fanfiction.net>.

But look on the bright side: there are TONS OF FICS. And as many shitty fics as there are, there are even more high-quality fics: stories written by authors who have a real passion for writing, and have honed it for years. (Maybe they started off writing awful fics, too.) (<< I think this is a good ending to this section, if I need to add things i'll do it somewhere before this sentence.) Which brings us to our next point...

3. Fanfiction Is Filled With Self-Inserts

THE MISCONCEPTION

The only reason to write fanfiction is so you can create a character repesenting yourself to put into your favorite pop culture universe. Ever wanted to interact with the band members of One Direction? Then write a story and do it. Why else would you write it?

THE REALITY

This is another “bunch of variety in the medium” thing. Sure, it happens sometimes, but there are also a whole lot of fics with no original characters at all, self-insert or not. And for that matter, there are a bunch of fics with original characters that aren't self-inserts.

The worst self-insert offenders tend to make their inserts the dreaded Mary Sue, a character who has no real flaws and is liked by everyone. But the threat of making a Mary Sue character is so well-known among fanfic authors (even newer ones) that creating one is easily avoidable. There's even a test to help authors decide whether their characters are well-defined, reasonable characters or not.

<concl>

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