**Abstract:** There is ample research in psychology that investigates the moral development of empathy in children and adults as a function of reading fiction literature. Over the last decade the benefits of reading fiction have been theorized by psychologists to elicit development in *theory of mind* and empathy, to say that when readers are genuinely engaged in fiction novels they are simulating the perspective or emotions of another which facilitates growth in perspective taking as these experiences grow in number. Evidence supporting this notion appears adequate but can potentially be better explained when looked at over longer periods of time, through a systematic lens. (but can potentially be strengthened through more precise research??) We use data from a social media platform(forum) called *Goodreads,* where readers can create accounts and leave ratings (1-4 stars) and reviews on any number of books they’ve read. The dataset contains a random sample of 100,000 users pooled from 20,000,000 users, their unique identification numbers, book identification numbers, ISBN13, time-stamped book review content, and has been combined with data from *Open Library* API to produce the subject of the books reviewed. We assess empathic language used in book reviews that corresponds to Haidt and colleague’s proposed cluster of *morality of harm and care,* which is said to demonstrate empathy. We hypothesize that these empathic words become more salient in reviewers as they read more fiction books over time. To measure this predicted increase, we drew the individual frequencies of empathy words from reviews across time. Our preliminary findings suggest that reading more fiction elicits empathy over time and may contribute to our understanding of the development of empathy.

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