Rachel Wagner

**“Good Reads”**

“Good reads,” is a platform, now owned by Amazon, that allows people to write their impressions of books that they read. As they read more and more books, does it make them more empathetic? I hope to tell this through the language that the use in their book reviews, and write an empirical paper to share my findings. So far, I am hoping to use Stata to download many reviews and scan for words that exemplify the reviewer, “putting themselves in the shoes of the author.” Some words I have come up with are comparison words such as “both,” “similar,” “feel,” “relate,” and possibly, “reflect.” These are all words that I believe can potentially measure examples of others empathizing with the author of the book in their reviews.

I hypothesize that I will find some type of relationship between adults reading more books, and their reviews utilizing more empathetic language; because, when we “practice” putting ourselves in the shoes of the protagonist through reading a book, perhaps (I am hoping to see) this makes us more inclined to be empathetic or use more empathetic language overtime.