

21L.012, Introduction

(6 September)

Why read fiction?

- It gives us distance.
- It mediates between the reader (their assumptions and perspective) and reality.

What do we gain from fiction?

- We learn by identifying with characters (though the comparison doesn't need to be complete)

What can fiction teach?

- Morals (a story is disarming)
- Can explore the inner lives of characters, which can change the reader's perspective

“Narrative”: from the Latin “narare”

root: gna: know  
cognition  
recognize

“Story”: from the Greek “historia”

root: histor: wise man, judge  
history: what happened  
story of what happened (narrative)

1<sup>st</sup>-person-narrative: retroactive: story told after end; narrator knows whole story

An experienced reader has expectations of a given genre; a good writer deviates