

Reading Research and Readers' Advisory

Ontario Library Association
October 18, 2010



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Raymond A. Mar
York University



Why?

- Why use science to study art?
- What is a story?
- Is fiction real?
- Is fiction true?

Narrative Fiction as Simulation

The Function of Fiction

“... include[s] the recording, abstraction,
and communication of complex social
information in a manner that offers
personal enactments of experience,
rendering it more comprehensible than
usual”

Social Correlates

- Neuroscience evidence
- Bookworms versus Nerds
 - Preschoolers

Social Surrogacy

- Daydreaming
- Favourite Television Characters
 - Re-reading

Changing Minds

- Persuasion
- Inter-group relations
- Personal growth

Individual Differences

- Prior experience
 - Absorption/Transportation
 - Persuasion
 - Trauma
- Child-Caregiver attachments

Acknowledgments

Dr. Jordan B. Peterson (Toronto)
Dr. Keith Oatley (Toronto)
Dr. Maja Djikic (Toronto)
Dr. Jennifer L. Tackett (Toronto)
Dr. Chris Moore (Dalhousie)
Dr. Shira Gabriel (Buffalo)
Jacob Hirsh (Toronto)
Jennifer dela Paz (Toronto)
Marina Rain (York)
Ariana Young (Buffalo)

onfiction.ca

yorku.ca/mar | mar@yorku.ca