

Fantasy fiction

Joanne Reardon:

We've told each other tales of the fantastic throughout time,

Francesa Benatti:

from dragons to superheroes,

Joanne Reardon:

from parallel worlds to magic and enchantment.

Francesa Benatti:

Such stories exist in every culture across the world.

Joanne Reardon:

But where do they come from?

Francesa Benatti:

Fantasy fiction creates impossible, other worlds, which could not exist in reality. In the real world there are no dragons, but in a fantasy world, there may well be.

Joanne Reardon:

When you read fantasy fiction, you enter a different universe. But how do writers take you there?

Francesa Benatti:

In *Percy Jackson* by Rick Riordan the fantastic breaks into the real world and monsters from myth such as minotaurs intrude onto the characters' everyday lives to reveal the existence of the unexpected. This type of story has been called "intrusive" fantasy.

Joanne Reardon:

Some fantasy fictions are entirely set in a fantastic world. They can be called "immersive" fantasy. In *A Wizard of Earthsea*, by Ursula K Le Guin, for example, the stories of Ged and Tenar take place entirely within the fictional archipelago of Earthsea.

Francesa Benatti:

Fantasy fiction lets you dive headfirst into the world of the story, where you become that character.

In roleplaying games like *Dungeons & Dragons*, for example, a party of friends tell a story together and pretend to be fantasy characters.

Joanne Reardon:

This is the secret of fantasy fiction's success. When reading fantasy, you, the reader, need to work together with the author to bring a story to life.

Francesa Benatti:

So, open the door of your imagination and see where your reading will take you!