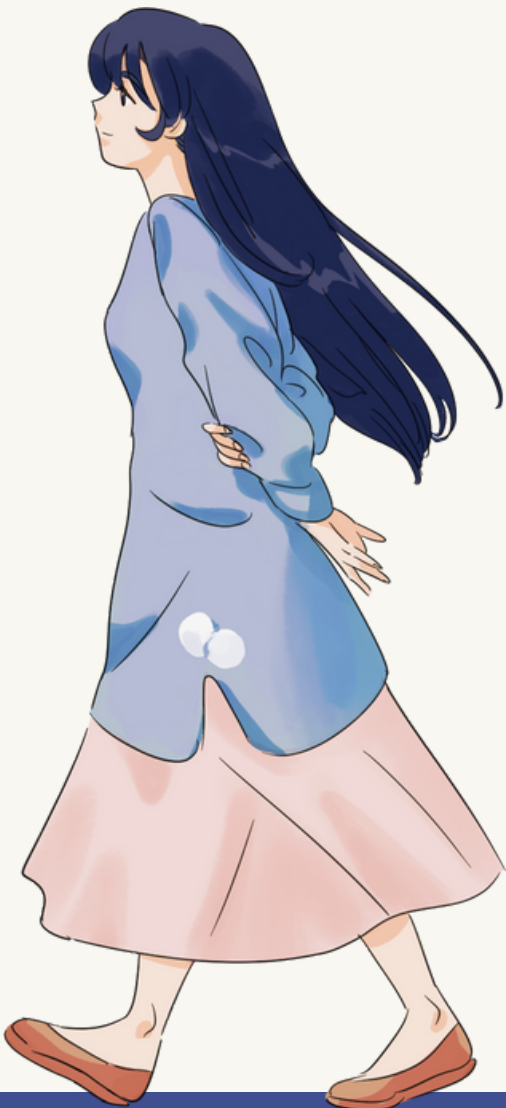


Fan Fiction: Yesterday and Today

Depending on your definition, fan fiction has been around for centuries (think King Arthur and his iterations). We are more concerned with the modern conception of fan fiction and other fan works.

Fan fiction as we know it began in the 1960s, when fanzines were being passed around by early fans of the the original *Star Trek* (1966-1969). Upon the inception of the internet, fan fiction moved online, first on exclusive sites that were password protected or with URLs that were shared among friends. As fan fiction proliferated, sites were founded for cross-fandom fiction sharing and fan connections, like LiveJournal (1999) and FanFiction.Net (1998). The sites may have changed, but fandom remains.



General Vocabulary

fandom: communities built around particular media or celebrities.
fan works: material inspired by particular media or celebrities.
fan fiction: a fan work with a narrative, typically written.
fan art: a fan work, specifically artwork (digital or traditional).
fanfic/ fic: digital written fan fiction.
fan[maga]zines: amateur magazines of fan works. More common in early fandom history.

Genre Vocabulary

The Citrus Scale: An older term. Lemon, Lime, Grapefruit, etc. were used to describe different age ratings for fics.

Canon: The original text/ story.

Fanon: A widely agreed interpretation of the original text.

Alternate Universe (AU): A fic which inserts the canon into an alternate universe, sometime based on other media, a common trope, or genre. Related to Alternate Reality (AR; small part of canon changed) and Canon Divergent or Alternate Timeline (AT; takes place in a different period or a split in the canon timeline).

Fix-It Fic: A fanfic that "fixes" a plot point from the original text (rewriting a piece of canon or creating a "deleted" scene).

Slash: Previously used only to describe same-sex male relationships (femslash for ladies), now extends to any romantic or sexual pair.

Oneshot: Typically short. A fanfic which is published all at once.

Your Name (Y/N): A faceless character for self-insert fics. "Y/N" is used in place of the POV character's name.

One True Pairing (OTP): a fan's favourite pairing. Related to terms like BrOTP (favourite friendships) & NOTP (hated pairing).

Real Person Fan Fiction (RPF): Fan fiction about a real person.

Dead Dove (Do Not Eat): An *Arrested Development* meme turned common fanfic tag. Used to describe fics with problematic or triggering content.

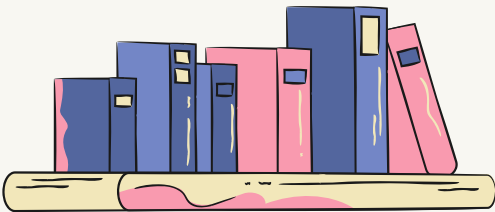
There's a ton more to explore and consider, so stay curious!



Popular Sites for FanFic & Other Fan Works

FanFiction.net (FFN) has survived the test of time. It's seen as old-fashioned, and its censorship is extreme, but it is still used by fans new and old.

Wattpad.com (2006) is more notorious for original fiction, but is also popular among fans of self-insert and Original Character (OC)-insert fanfic. **Quotev.com** (2008) is less popular, but is common for similar reasons.

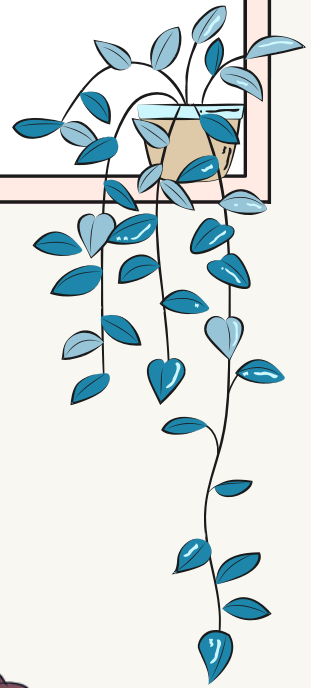


Tumblr.com (2007) has taken LiveJournal's place as the social media for fandom. Fanfics aren't as common, but other fan works like role-playing, fan art, gifs, web-weaving, and meta-discussions, are.

ArchiveofOurOwn.org (A03; 2009) is the new king of fanfic hosting. Their great filtering and tagging tools, along with a consistent dedication to upholding fandom rights, has given them staying power.



Other Resources



Fandom and fan fiction are the sort of things that are learned mostly by word of mouth, so experience and culture can vary by community and fan. I tried to stay generic, but my perspective is restricted by being an English-speaker who got into fanfic in the late 2010s. So, I encourage you to explore the previously mentioned sites on your own or seek out others that suit your interests! No matter what the baby fans say, you're never too old to get into fandom and start participating.

The Journal For Transformative Works and Culture has a lot of articles about fan works and fandom. It was created by the Organization for Transformative Works AKA the team behind A03!

YouTube is also a great resource for fan analysis, and audio-fics/ podfics (fanfic which is either adapted for audio or born-audio). Notable YouTubers for my research include [Jessie Earle](#), [ColeyDoesThings](#), and [Lindsay Ellis](#).

