Fanfiction

LEARNING THROUGH DOING MODULE

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A European project funded by Erasmus+ for the teaching of multilingual interactive fan stories for a more inclusive world.

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Title of Module: Fanfiction

Description: This module provides learners the opportunity to write two different types of fanfiction, which are stories that reimagine or remix existing stories, characters or universes found in other texts and media, and tools and resources for searching for fanfiction published in the online fanfiction archive, Archive of Our Own (Ao3).

Learning outcomes of the module:
Students
- will be able to define fanfiction;
- will be able to name different types of popular fanfiction;
- will write original fanfiction that explores an alternate point of view (POV) of a character in a popular text;
- will write original prompt-based fanfiction based on a popular text;
- will be able to search for fanfiction on the fanfiction Archive of Our Own (Ao3) based on source text, character, language, rating, tags, and popularity.
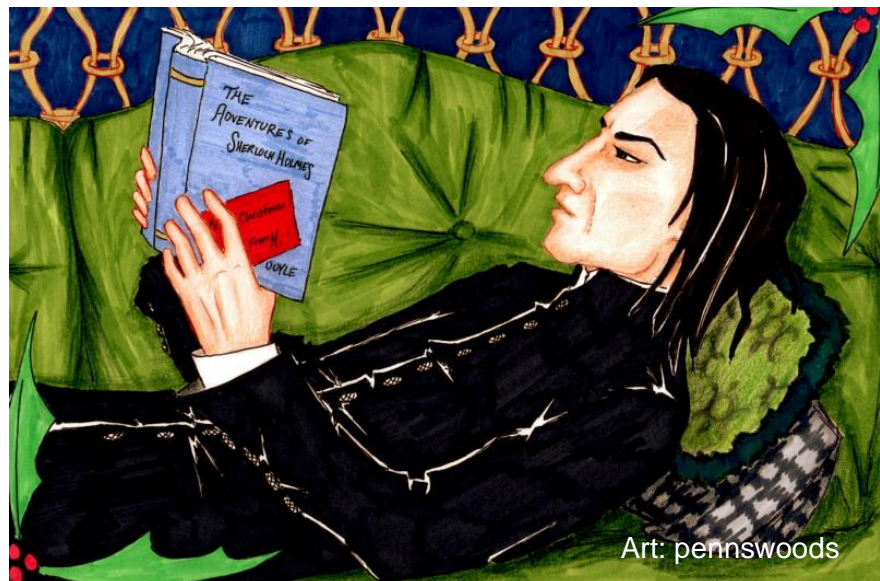
Target group of the module: in-service and pre-service secondary school language teachers

Resources needed: computer or large-screen smart device with internet access for viewing a video and conducting an online search, dice, flashcards, a common text (book, movie, etc.) that all students will have read and have with them, something for students to write with.

Time anticipated: 150-180 minutes

Activities included:
1. Video Introduction to Fanfiction
2. Alternate Point of View (POV) Fanfiction Workshop
3. Flashfiction Workshop
4. Navigating Fanfiction Archives Guided or Independent Worksheet

Art: pennswoods

Language(s): English

Recommended further reading

Reference	Content focus	Language	Access
Black, R.W. (2009). Online fan fiction and critical media literacy. *Journal of Computing in Teaching Education, 26*(2), 75-80. https://doi.org/10.1080/10402454.2009.10784636	Case studies of English as a second language learners who have used fan fiction to develop their media literacy and language skills in the digital wilds.	English	access possible through many university libraries
Brunel, M. (2018). Les écrits de fanfiction dans la classe. *Le Français aujourd'hui n° 200 (1)*, 31-41. Available from http://www.revues.armand-colin.com/lettres-langues/francais-aujourdhui/francais-aujourdhui-ndeg-200-12018/ecrits-fanfiction-classe	Reports on the relevance of using fan fiction for developing writing skills and includes examples from a course offered in 2016-2017.	French	access possible through many university libraries
Curwood, J.S. (2013). The Hunger Games: Literature, literacy and online affinity spaces. *Language Arts, 90*(6), 417 – 427.	Case study of the literary and linguistic practices a fan who wrote fusion fanfiction that merged *Harry Potter* and *The Hunger Games* as part of an online competition.	English	access possible through many university libraries
Sauro, S. (2017). Online fan practices and CALL. *CALICO Journal, 34*(2), 131-146. https://doi.org/10.1558/cj.33077	A review of online fan practices, including fanfiction, and research in the use of these fan practices to support language learning and literacy.	English	access possible through many university libraries
Sauro, S., & Sundmark, B. (2018). Critically examining the use of blog-based fanfiction in the advanced language classroom. *ReCALL. First View:* 1–16, https://doi:10.1017/S0958344018000071	A critical examination of the implementation and outcomes of collaborative blog-based fanfiction in an advanced university English class.	English	access possible through many university libraries

Fanfiction 1: Introduction to Fanfiction

Description: This brief video defines fanfiction, introduces research on fanfiction and language learning, and provides an overview of different types of popular fanfiction. It serves as necessary background information for the other activities in this module.

Learning outcomes of the activity:
Students
- will be able to define fanfiction
- will be able to name different types of popular fanfiction

Resources Needed: computer or large-screen smart device with internet access for viewing a video

Accessibility: Video is not subtitled.

Time anticipated: 10 minutes

Format: individual work, pair work or whole class

Prerequisite knowledge: None

Language(s): English

Image: Shannon Sauro

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Instructions for the Teacher
1. Before students watch the video, ask for a show of hands to see how many know what fanfiction is?
2. Play the video. At the end, invite students to share their answers to the questions.
3. After the video, organize a think-pair-share activity. Organize students into groups of 2-3, inviting them to share their answers to the following:
    a. What did they know about fanfiction before this video? How is their perspective different now?
    b. What experience do they have reading fanfiction?
    c. What experience do they have writing fanfiction?
4. Once they have shared in their small groups, invite those who are willing to share their experiences with the whole class.

Sample Instructions for Students
1. Before viewing the video, I want to see how many of you are familiar with fanfiction. Raise your hand if you know what fanfiction is. Can you give an example?
2. In a moment, you'll watch a video about fanfiction. While viewing, pay attention to the definition and examples. You can take notes if you'd like. At the end, you will see several questions. You don't need to write your answers down but be prepared to share them with the class.
3. After the video, we'll do a think-pair-share activity, so find a partner or two and discuss the following. You will have 5 minutes:
    a. What did you know about fanfiction before this video? How is your perspective different now?
    b. What experience do you have reading fanfiction?
    c. What experience do you have writing fanfiction?
4. Once you have shared your answers your groups, raise your hand if you're willing to share your experiences with the whole class.

Fanfiction 2: Alternate Point of View (POV) Fanfiction Workshop

Description: The goal of this small group activity is to practice writing fanfiction, a term for fictional stories that reimagine or remix existing stories, characters or universes found in other texts and media, and to help students experiment with exploring a scene in a familiar story from a different character's point of view (POV). Rewriting an existing scene, allows students to focus more on understanding a character's personality, perspective and way of speaking. It is also a particularly popular type of fanfiction writing.

Art: pennswoods

Learning outcomes of the activity:
Students
- will write original fanfiction that explores an alternate point of view (POV) of a character in a popular text;

Resources needed:
1. A common book, movie or television show that all students have with them in class.
2. 2-3 dice. These can be 6-sided or multi-sided dice for longer books.
3. Something for students to write on (paper and pens or computer, as preferred.)

Accessibility: N/A

Time anticipated: 30-45 minutes for a class of 30-40

Format: individual work, small group, and whole class

Prerequisite knowledge:
- Familiarity with a common text
- Knowledge of fanfiction (complete Fanfiction 1: Introduction to Fanfiction)

Language(s): English

Preparation

1. This activity works best when based on a specific text that all students in the class have read.
2. If the text you are using is part of a series of books, movies or franchise that many of your students are already very familiar with, the activity can be modified slightly to allow these students to draw upon their background knowledge.
3. In advance, the teacher brings 2-3 dice to class and asks students to bring a copy of the text with them.

Image: Shannon Sauro

The instructions below are based on an Alternate POV Fanfiction Workshop based on the first Harry Potter book for a class where the majority was familiar with the full seven-book series. Due to the length of the books, the dice I brought to class included six-sided dice and twenty-sided dice used in role-play games.

Instructions for the Teacher

1. Organize students into small groups of 4-6.
2. Lay the dice on a table and have one member of each group come roll the dice to determine the page number in the book(2) or minute in an episode or movie that they will write about:
   a. If students want the option to select a page from a multi-series book or multi-part television show or movie, have students roll 3 dice.
      i. The 1st die is the book in the series.
      ii. The 2nd die multiplied by the 3rd is the page number or minute in the television show or movie that the students will write about.
3. If students are writing based on only one book, have students roll 2 dice. Multiply the numbers. That is the page number or minute in the television show or movie that the students will write about.
4. Give students a few minutes to review the scene. It may be necessary to read or watch a few pages or minutes before and after.
5. Then, students will have 15 minutes to rewrite that scene from a different character's point of view (POV). You may guide students on which types of characters whose point of view they can write from:
   a. Another character in that scene.
   b. Another character from the book.
   c. A character from a different book or movie.
   d. A real-life individual
6. Keep in mind that although students in each group will have the same scene, they will create separate stories.

7. Since the emphasis of this activity is on creativity relating to how a specific character would interpret the scene, students should write without editing and worrying about accuracy.
8. At the end of time, students in each group share their stories with each other.
9. As a whole group activity/extension, students can volunteer to share their prompts and their stories with the full class.
10. If students are being asked to write longer fanfiction, this alternate POV fanfiction can serve as a starting point or perhaps as a scene to incorporate into their final story.

Sample Instructions for Students
1. Get into your groups and take out your laptop, phone or paper to write on.
2. Pick one member of you group to come to the front of the room to roll a set of dice. Make note of the numbers you roll.
   a. (For Potterheads – those who have read all the Harry Potter books): Roll 3 dice. The 1st die is the book in the series. The 2nd die multiplied by the 3rd is your page numbers.
   b. (For everyone else): Roll 2 dice: Multiply the numbers. That is the page number in the first Harry Potter book.
3. In your group, reread the main scene on that page. It may extend a page or two in either direction. Then, each of you will have 15 minutes to rewrite that scene from another character's point of view (POV).
4. As for character, you can choose any of the following:
   a. Another character in that scene.
   b. Another character from the book.
   c. A character from a different book or movie.
5. Don't worry about editing. Just write!
6. When time is up, stop writing, even if you're in the middle of a sentence.
7. Then, go around in your group and read the stories aloud.
8. Afterward, I'll be asking for volunteers who want to share their prompts and stories with the whole class.

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Fanfiction 3: Flashfiction Workshop

Image: Shannon Sauro

Description: The goal of this small group activity is to practice fanfiction writing in class and to help students experiment with creative writing in response to prompts. It is based on a writing activity created by fanfiction writer Emma Grant, who often holds writing workshops for fans interested in getting started in fan fiction writing.

Learning outcomes of the activity:
Students
- will write original prompt-based fanfiction based on a popular text;

Resources needed:
1. A common book, movie or television show that all students have read or seen.
2. 4 sets of color-coded cards
3. Something for students to write on (paper and pens or computer, as preferred.)

Accessibility: N/A

Time anticipated: 30-45 minutes for a class of 30-40

Format: individual work, small group, and whole class

Prerequisite knowledge:
- Familiarity with a common text
- Knowledge of fanfiction (watch Fanfiction 1: Video Introduction to Fanfiction)

Language(s): English

Preparation
- This activity works best when based on a specific text that all students in the class have read.
- In advance, the teacher creates four sets of color-coded cards with a word or phrase that fits one of four types of prompts: Character, Setting, Object, Dialog

Below are some example cards created for a FlashFiction Workshop based on the Sherlock Holmes stories. The cards include reference to objects and characters in the Sherlock Holmes universe as well as other objects, locations and characters that the students are already familiar with from other media (i.e. Dr. Who, The Eurovision Song Contest, and Harry Potter).

Character	Setting	Object	Dialog
The victim	Backstage at the Eurovision Song Contest Final	A candlestick	"They said it would come off."
Mrs. Hudson	221A Baker Street	The TARDIS	"No, not the biscuits!"
Professor Moriarty	Hogwarts Castle	A glass of wine with lipstick on the rim	"What does this button do?"
The suspect's dog	An elevator	A heavily encrypted mobile phone	"Over my dead body!"

Instructions for the Teacher
1. Organize students into small groups of 4-6.
2. Lay the four sets of cards out on a table and have one member of each group come select one card from each set of prompts (i.e. one character card, one setting card, one object card, and one dialog card).
3. Each group will have up to five minutes to look through the cards, discuss them to make sure they understand, and brainstorm ideas for stories that use all four of these prompts.
4. Then, students will have 15 minutes to write a scene/story containing all four prompts based on the book they have been reading. This means that although students in a particular group will have the same four prompts, they will create separate stories.
5. Since the emphasis of this activity is on creativity and ideas that relate to the text they have been reading, students should write without editing and worrying about accuracy.
6. At the end of time, students in each group share their stories with each other.
7. As a whole group activity/extension, students can volunteer to share their prompts and their stories with the full class.

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8. If students are being asked to write longer fanfiction, this flash fiction can serve as a starting point or perhaps as a scene to incorporate into their final story.

Sample Instructions for Students

1. Select one person from your group to come to the front and pick up four cards, one from each set.
2. The different color cards contain different prompts (character, setting, object, dialog).
3. Take a few minutes to look over your groups' cards and to ask questions or generate ideas.
4. Then in the <u>Sherlock Holmes</u> universe, begin writing (in a flash) whatever comes to you for 15 minutes. Don't worry about editing. Just write!
5. When time is up, stop writing, even if you're in the middle of a sentence.
6. Then, go around in your group and read the stories aloud.
7. Afterward, I'll be asking for volunteers who want to share their prompts and stories with the whole class.

Fanfiction 4: Searching Fanfiction Archives

Description: The goal of this activity is to gain familiarity with navigating the fan fiction archive, Archive of Our Own (Ao3). You will become familiar with a few of the search tools as well as certain fan specific practices for labeling (tagging), sharing, and responding to fan fiction. As you explore the fandom resources take notes on this worksheet and prepare to present your findings to the rest of the group.

Learning outcomes of the activity:
Students
- will be able to search for fanfiction on the fanfiction Archive of Our Own (Ao3) based on source text, character, language, rating, tags, and popularity.

Resources Needed: computer or large-screen smart device with internet access

Accessibility: Not applicable

Time anticipated: 90 minutes

Format: individual work for those who prefer to work independently, or whole class, accompanied by Fanfiction 4:Searching Fanfiction Archives powerpoint materials.

Prerequisite knowledge: None

Language(s): mainly English for search tool and 50+ languages for fanfiction
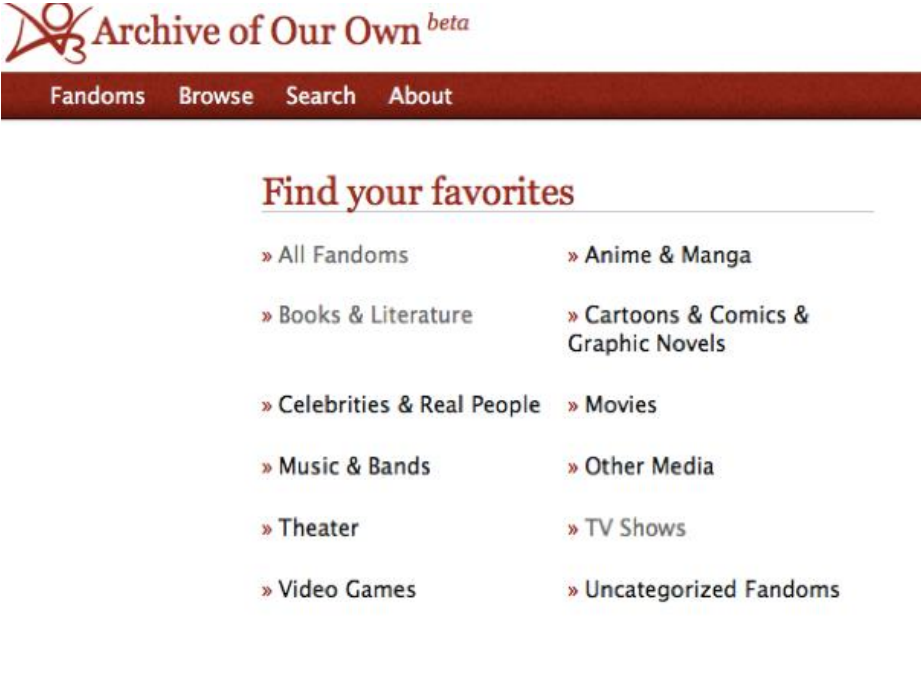
Art: pennswoods

Before We Begin

Write down a few books, movies, plays or other media you would like to teach with or use in research. Do you think these are likely to generate fanfiction? If so, what kinds of stories (genres, length, etc.)?

Part 1: Tags and Ratings

Click the link to visit Ao3: Archiveofourown.org.

Archive of Our Own beta Fandoms Browse Search About **Find your favorites** » All Fandoms » Anime & Manga » Books & Literature » Cartoons & Comics & Graphic Novels » Celebrities & Real People » Movies » Music & Bands » Other Media » Theater » TV Shows » Video Games » Uncategorized Fandoms	On the Ao3 home page, you can do a general search for fanfiction by fandom or type of media. Think of a book, movie, play or other media that you would like to teach. **Click "All Fandoms", then click the fandom category e.g., "Books & Literature" and search alphabetically for the media you would like to teach.**

What did you select? How much fan fiction is associated with it?

Archive of Our Own *beta*

Fandoms   Browse   Search   About

Fandoms > Books & Literature

You can search this page by pressing ctrl F / cmd F and typing in what y

[1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [A] [B] [C] [D]

1 ↑

1-800-WHERE-R-U Series – Meg Cabot (5)

10 Lb. Penalty – Dick Francis (1)

100 Cupboards Series – N. D. Wilson (1)

101 Dalmatians – All Media Types (74)

12 Dancing Princesses (Fairy Tale) (43)

13 Treasures Series – Michelle Harrison (1)

13 Ways Of Looking at Space Time – Catherynne M. Valente (1)

1632 Series – Various Authors (2)

1984 – George Orwell (68)

I selected *1984* by George Orwell. It has 68 entries associated with it. Most of these will be fan fiction, but some will be essays or possibly even fan art.

Clicking on this link takes me to the 68 stories, beginning with the most recently published.

Click the book, movie, play, etc. you are interested in to take a look at the fan fiction.

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In Another World by Monosterper40   20 Feb 2018
1984 - George Orwell

Graphic Depictions Of Violence, Winston Smith/Julia (1984), Winston Smith (1984), Julia (1984), Big Brother (1984), Emmanuel Goldstein, Symes (Orwell), Violence, Flashbacks, hurting, sort of a love story, Inspired by 1984 – George Orwell, References to 1984 – George Orwell, old

In which Winston is laying in a cell thinking of what could've been

Language: English   Words: 1,003   Chapters: 1/1

Here's the first entry for 1984. As you can see, in addition to the title and author, each entry has a lot of other information. This is to help fans determine if this is a story they would be interested in reading. Let's start with the colored boxes to the left.

Click on the colored boxes in the upper left-hand corner to read more about what each of these symbols means.

In Another World by Monosterper40   20 Feb 2018
1984 - George Orwell

Graphic Depictions Of Violence, Winston Smith/Julia (1984), Winston Smith (1984), Julia (1984), Big Brother (1984), Emmanuel Goldstein, Symes (Orwell), Violence, Flashbacks, hurting, sort of a love story, Inspired by 1984 – George Orwell, References to 1984 – George Orwell, old

In which Winston is laying in a cell thinking of what could've been

Language: English   Words: 1,003   Chapters: 1/1

This particular story is rated mature, contains a female/male relationship, has a content warning for themes that may be disturbing, and is complete.

Moving, down in the list of tags below, we can see more detailed information. The content warning is for graphic depictions of violence. The female/male relationship concerns Winston Smith and Julia. Other tags tell us a little more about the story content include flashbacks, violence, sort of love story. Toward the bottom is a brief summary as well as information about the language of the story (English), length (1003 words) and number of chapters (1/1)

Look through the tags for your particular story.

What is its rating for the fanfiction you selected? What other themes does it concern? How long is it? Are there any strange tags you don't understand?

Part 2: Doing a Search

Now that you're familiar with a typical fan fiction entry, the rating system, and some of the tagging conventions in Ao3, we're ready to begin a search. Ao3 provides several ways of searching, but we're going to use the one that is most helpful in locating fan fiction in the language you want, with the ratings you want, while eliminating things you don't want.

At the top of the page, click on the "Search" button in the red menu bar. Then click "Works" from the drop down menu.

Scroll down to the second grey box on the screen labeled "Word Tags". Here' you'll see some familiar categories. In addition to "Ratings", you'll see very specific "Warnings" Ao3 encourages its authors to warn for as well as categories of relationships (Gen = no relationships). There is no need to click the "Warnings" unless you explicitly want fan fiction that contains those themes.

Type in the name of the book, movie, play, etc. you are interested in. (Or you can use Harry Potter like me.) Select the rating, and categories (if relevant) that you would like. Then scroll to the very bottom of the page and hit "Search"

Search Results

You searched for: Tags: General Audiences, Gen, Harry Potter - J. K. Rowling

16933 Found ⍰   Edit Your Search

GO ✓ Cartas, como blancas palomitas by Sole_Sakuma   17 Nov 2009
Harry Potter - Fandom

No Archive Warnings Apply, Neville Longbottom, Humor, Post canon

Neville era un hombre de hábitos. Uno de esos hábitos era ordenar los invernaderos a la hora del té, yendo de los más complicados a los más fáciles.

Language: Español   Words: 480   Chapters: 1/1   Hits: 82

My search for General rated, Harry Potter fanfiction that was not romance returned 16,933 stories, including this one in Spanish. This is still too much. Time to refine the search

Click "Edit Your Search". At the bottom of the first grey box "Work Info" is "Language", select a language that is NOT English and then hit "Search" once again.

Search Results

You searched for: Tags: General Audiences, Gen, Harry Potter - J. K. Rowling Language: Svenska

No results found. You may want to edit your search to make it less specific.   Edit Your Search

My search for "Svenska" resulted in 0, so I edited my search once again and unclicked "Gen". This time, my search brought up 3 stories in Swedish

Try the search again, selecting either a different language, different fandom, different ratings, or different, categories to see what happens.

What did you find in other languages? What did you find for different kinds of ratings and categories?

Work Search

Work Info

Any Field ⑦

Title

Author/Artist

Date ⑦

Complete

Single Chapter

Word Count ⑦

Language ⑦

The rest of the "Work Info" box contains a few other useful categories for searching, including ensuring a work is completed and not still a WIP (work in progress), or restricting the length of the fan fiction that the search returns.

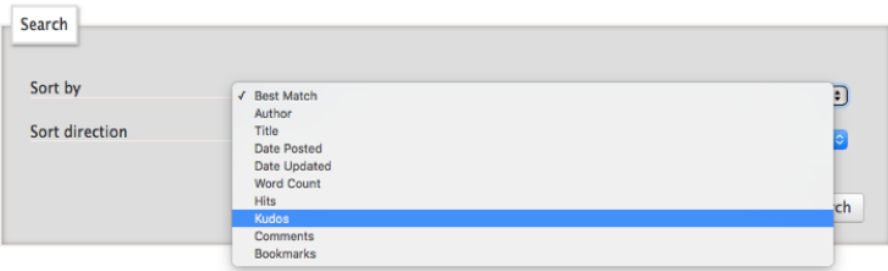**Click on the blue question marks next to a few of these categories to see how to restrict searches this way. Then try one.**
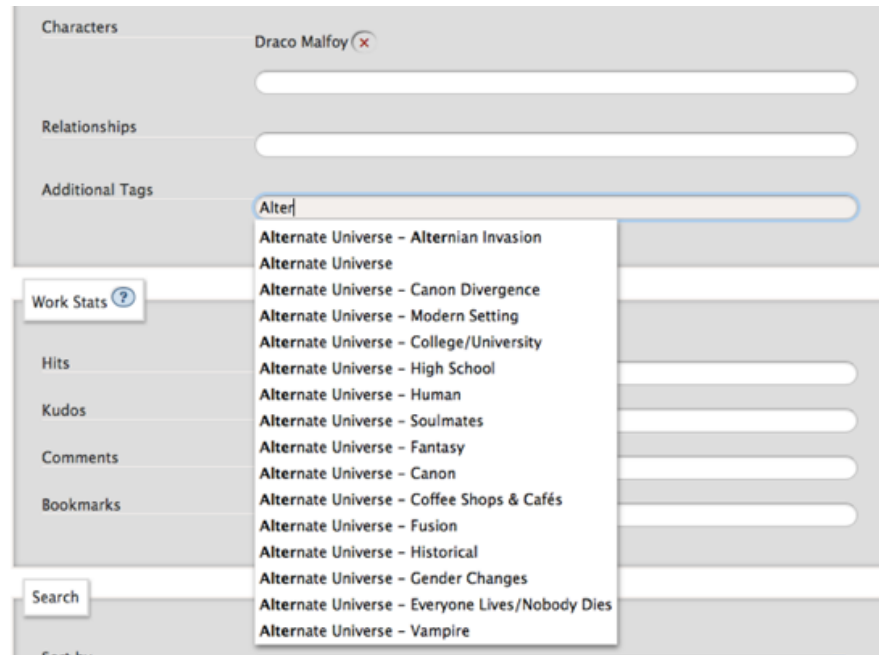
You can refine your search in other ways, particularly if you know a story well and as you become more familiar with tags. I'm rather familiar with Harry Potter, so I selected a specific character I want to be in the story "Draco Malfoy" but also clicked on "Additional Tags" and began typing in "Alternate Universe", a common genre/tag in fanfiction. You can see a variety of options provided here.

Try searching for a specific character in the text or movie. You can also begin typing in possible tags and genres or simply searching by letter to see what comes up. Experiment with these search options.

What other tags or characters did you search for? What did you find?

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A final tool to help you with searching is to sort the entries according to some criteria. This can include length of story, how well the story is liked (Kudos), how often the story was read (Hit Count), when the story was posted or updated.

Select "Kudos" in the Search By box. Take a look at the stories that are most liked by fans. Then Select "Word Count" and another criterial to rank the stories.

How popular are the most popular stories? How long are the most popular stories? Which "Search By" criteria might be most helpful for you in identifying example fan fiction for use in teaching and/or research?

Part 3: Browsing Fanfiction

Now that you've learned how to use the search tools, do a search in earnest for fan fiction and browse through the types of stories you find for a particular book, movie, play or other type of media you might use in teaching or research.

What kinds of fanfiction seem popular for this book, movie, play or other media?

Brainstorm a fanfiction activity inspired by anything you've seen here that might be relevant for your pupils.

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