

A FAMILY MEAL AS FICTION

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Stacie Friend objects to those theories of fiction that seek to identify the necessary and sufficient conditions to be a work of fiction. Instead, she appeals to the notion of genre to distinguish between fiction and nonfiction. This notion is significantly more flexible, since it just invites us to identify standard -but not necessary- and counter-standard features of works of fiction in light of our classificatory practices. More specifically, she defends a dualist view about our relation to works of fiction, since she argues that the genre of fiction has the genre of nonfiction -and only that genre- as its contrast class. I will object, however, to the dualist view and argue that our relationship with works of fiction is significantly more plural. I will thus suggest that the way we relate to a work of fiction does not rest crucially on the contrast between fiction and nonfiction, but is open to many other nuances and oppositions, so that the dualist view should rather be construed as picking out a particular way of relating to fiction that lies at end of a continuum defined by different degrees of reflectivity and distance.