Why read fiction?
- It gives us distance.
- It mediates between the reader (their assumptions and perspective) and reality.

What do we gain from fiction?
- We learn by identifying with characters (though the comparison doesn’t need to be complete)

What can fiction teach?
- Morals (a story is disarming)
- Can explore the inner lives of characters, which can change the reader’s perspective

“Narrative”: from the Latin “narare”
  root: gna: know
    cognition
    recognize

“Story”: from the Greek “historia”
  root: histor: wise man, judge
    history: what happened
    story of what happened (narrative)

1st-person-narrative: retroactive: story told after end; narrator knows whole story

An experienced reader has expectations of a given genre; a good writer deviates