

Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Preface	xi
1 The Benefits of Reading	1
1. The Current State of Reading	1
2. The Gateway to Literacy	3
3. Reading and the Internet	9
4. Platonic Traditions	12
5. America's Common Core	15
6. Should Prisoners Read?	20
7. Book Clubs	27
8. Conclusion	32
2 Fiction and Nonfiction	39
1. Theories of Fiction	40
2. From Definition to Theory	43
<i>a. Fiction as Make-Believe</i>	44
<i>b. Fiction as Intention</i>	47
<i>c. Fiction as Context</i>	48
3. Belief, Imagination, and Narration	52
4. Fiction as Subversive	54
5. Types of Truths	56
<i>a. Correspondence Truth</i>	57
<i>b. Coherence Truth</i>	57

6.	A Theory of Nonfiction	59
7.	True Stories	62
8.	Is There a Paradox of Fiction?	63
3	The Boundaries of Genre	69
1.	Genre	71
2.	Managing Our Expectations	73
3.	Categorizing and Blending Genres	79
4.	Blending in Action	83
	<i>a. Example: The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>	83
	<i>b. Example: Fun Home</i>	88
	<i>c. Example: The Da Vinci Code</i>	91
5.	Conclusion	96
4	Memoir: A Case Study	101
1.	James Frey and the Truth and Art of Memoir	104
2.	Forgery and Fiction	106
3.	Transparency	114
4.	Memory	117
5.	Historical Accuracy	118
6.	Conclusion	122
5	Narrative Knowledge	127
1.	Defining Narrative	128
2.	How We Understand Stories	133
3.	Narrative Reasoning	138
4.	Nussbaum on Narrative	142
5.	Imagination and Understanding	144
6.	Telling Stories	148
6	Belief and the Mind	153
1.	Believing What You Read	154
2.	The Paradox of Belief	155
3.	Narrative Comprehension	157
4.	Narrative in the Brain	160
5.	Belief and the Narrative	162
6.	Belief and Fiction	163
7.	Belief and Expectation	166
8.	Implications of Narratives beyond the Mind	167
9.	Conclusion	168

7	Evidence or No Evidence?	173
	1. Currie's Worries	173
	2. Evidence Please	176
	3. Understanding Simulation	178
	4. Empirical Evidence	182
	5. Empathy	183
	6. How Do We Test and Measure Empathy?	185
	7. The Evidence Argument	188
	8. Controlled Experiments on Empathy	190
	9. Controlled Experiments about the Social Benefits of Reading	193
	10. Conclusion	198
	Conclusion: Reading as Good-for-Nothing	205
	Index	211
	About the Author	221