

Statement of participation

Muhammad Farid Wajdi Makkulau

has completed the free course including any mandatory tests for:

Introducing the psychology of our relationships with fictional villains

This free 12-hour course explored the psychology of our relationships with fictional villains.

Issue date: 15 October 2025



www.open.edu/openlearn

This statement does not imply the award of credit points nor the conferment of a University Qualification.
This statement confirms that this free course and all mandatory tests were passed by the learner.

Please go to the course on OpenLearn for full details:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/introducing-the-psychology-our-relationships-fictional-villains/content-section-overview>

COURSE CODE: **VIL_1**

Introducing the psychology of our relationships with fictional villains

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Course summary

This free course, featuring interviews with famous crime fiction authors, explores psychological theory and research on the relationships we form with fictional characters.

Learning outcomes

By completing this course, the learner should be able to:

- understand how crime writers approach creating and developing villainous fictional characters
- understand what parasocial relationships are, and why we might form them with people we read about
- understand how engagement with fictional characters can affect our own sense of self
- understand how our relationship with fictional characters can, in turn, alter our relationships with people in the real world.

Completed study

The learner has completed the following:

Week 1

Fictional villains

Week 2

How literature affects us psychologically

Week 3

Relationships with fictional characters: para-social relationships

Week 4

'Treat 'em mean, keep 'em keen': engagement with villains