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# I-RoLE 2023

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2023

**EMBRACING CHANGE:  
EMANCIPATING THE LANDSCAPE  
OF RESEARCH IN LINGUISTIC,  
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**13 - 14 MARCH 2023**

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# MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL, WHO IS THE BEST OF US ALL?

Nurul Aishah Binti Agu Salim<sup>1</sup>, \*Wan Mohd Hamdi Nordin @ Wan Ghazali<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Melaka, Malaysia

<sup>2</sup>wanmohdhamdi5073@gmail.com

\*Corresponding author

## ABSTRACT:

Reading is a skill that is vital for our growth. Reading can aid people in learning more about everything. Reading not only enhances academic performance but also improves character by exposing people to the opinions and experiences of others. The importance of reading and readers' reading preferences are discussed in the current paper. The survey-based research was carried out using Google Form. According to the research, most people have never read an e-book of fictional short stories. Thus, by writing one, the general public will have access to such material and content, thereby stimulate their interest to start reading. The project aims to encourage more individuals to read by creating an e-book that features a collection of short stories with relatable occurrences as well as help those who struggle to become part of society feel accepted.

**Keywords:** e-book, English, fiction, relatable, short stories

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Project Overview

Creative writing can help to improve imagination. This is supported by a study done by Pawliczak (2015) that mentioned the flexibility that creative writing enables greatly influenced the development of imagination. A strong imagination will encourage readers to think innovatively. Therefore, books that incorporate creative writing are beneficial to the readers. Fiction books are also considered as a form of creative writing, as highlighted by the award-winning writer Alan Maley in an interview with a senior lecturer, Ruzbeh Babae from Universiti Putra Malaysia: "Creative writing is any form of writing with an emotional purpose rather than simply pragmatic intention." (Babae, 2015, p. 1)

The book *Mirror Mirror on the wall, who is the best of us all?* is a fictional e-book that describes some of the difficulties that the public is facing at the moment. The concept "magic mirror" in the story was inspired from the fairy-tale Snow White. It is used to allow readers to observe situations from two different perspectives by providing them with two alternative point of views. The story was written from the perspective of the mirror because the author believed that people like to wallow in presumptions to the extent that they are frequently unable to see things differently when they are facing them. The mirror in the novel represents a side of the people that they have not always been prepared to listen to. The e-book is one of the approaches that the people in the general public who struggle to fit in can use to feel accepted. Furthermore, the e-book *Mirror Mirror on the wall, who is the best of us all?* also features various quotes that emphasized the value that the author intended to portray for each chapter. The book's characters cover all ages and both sexes, which makes it more accessible to the audience. As for the book's title, it was intended as a rhetorical question to represent the characters of the book that always

seemed to want to be someone perfect.

## 1.2. Problem Statement

As shown in Figure 1.2.1, 11 out of 25 questionnaire participants, or 44%, said they had never read a fictional short tale that they could connect with. One of the reasons for the decline in readers is probably the lack of relatable fictional short stories. This fictitious short story e-book not only focuses on making reading fun but also enhances imagination and helps those who find it difficult to fit in feel accepted in order to encourage them to read again.

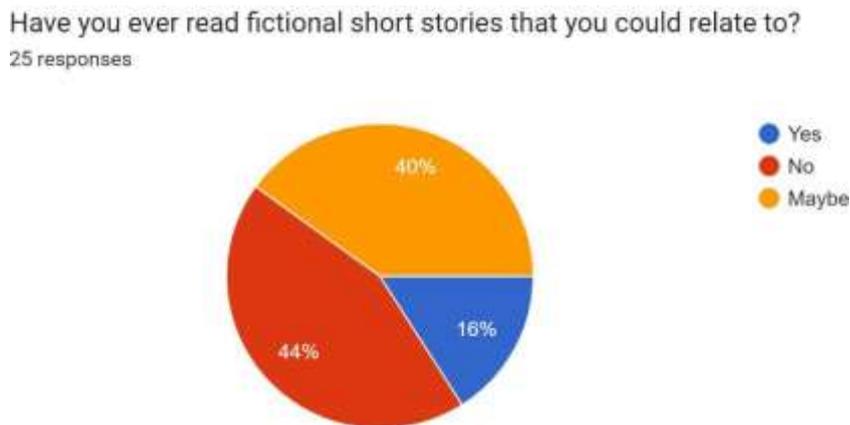


Figure 1.2.1: Have you ever read fictional short stories that you could relate to?

## 1.3. Purpose and Objective

This project aims to:

- Encourage more individuals to read by creating an e-book that features a collection of short stories with relatable occurrences.
- Encourage people to seek for help by helping them to have more self-awareness about their situation through the book
- Help those who struggle to become part of society feel accepted.

## 1.4. Entrepreneurial Opportunity

The completed product is an online-monetizable E-book. Online books are preferred in the modern era since they are less expensive. The cost of producing the book, which includes the paper and ink used for printing, will be reduced because it is being read online. E-books are also more widely available because there are now numerous internet venues where consumers may read or purchase books. A real book takes up far less room than an electronic version. The readers find this to be incredibly convenient because they no longer need to take a physical book about with them; instead, they can read books on their electronic devices, such as smartphones.



## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Related Studies**

Reading is a skill that is beneficial to everyone. A study by Iftanti (2015) showed that developing healthy reading habits, especially the habit of reading in English, can boost students' academic achievement. Not just that, people can increase their knowledge of the world via reading. Reading has been shown to be helpful not only intellectually but also in allowing one to view things from a different angle. As mentioned in a study done by Gee (2018), reading is crucial if we are to discuss concerns of equity and accessibility in classrooms and workplaces. This is because reading can help us increase our capacity for empathy and comprehension. This is supported by a study done by Koopman (2016) that said reading can result in a richer emotional experience, which may have an impact on one's sense of empathy. Hence, it has been proven even further how beneficial developing reading habit can be to all of us. Furthermore, reading can also be used as a tool for self-help. According to Pretorius et al. (2019), those who prefer self-reliance may be able to get the assistance they need through online help-seeking, or it may serve as a starting point for more in-person assistance. E-book can also be one of the examples of online help-seeking. By reading something that they can relate to, people will be able to have more self-awareness and comprehend the required actions that they can take to improve their circumstances.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

The study was carried out accordingly. A pre-survey was distributed among the public to learn more about the public's reading preferences. The results are as stated in the Results and Discussion section.

#### **3.1 Pre-Questionnaire Survey**

Results from the study were compiled using a qualitative research technique. The pre-questionnaire is divided into Part A and Part B. Part A contains three demographic background questions, whereas Part B contains nine general inquiries that are crucial to understand one's preference for reading. The questionnaire was answered by a total of 25 individuals. Three of the respondents that completed the questionnaire are 20 years of age or younger. In the meantime, 16 respondents with ages ranging from 21 to 25 completed the survey. Only two respondents above the age of 30 answered to the survey, while four of them fall within the 26 to 30 age range. More women than males replied to the survey in terms of gender. In addition, there is one respondent with an elementary education, two with a high school education, 16 with a foundation, diploma, or STPM, four with a degree, one with a master's degree, and one with a PhD.

#### **3.2 Canva**

The book's cover was commissioned from an acquaintance who used Canva as the design tool. One of the most popular design tools, Canva, is often used to create posters and presentation templates in conjunction to book covers. The platform itself is easy to use and offers many free samples.

#### **3.3 Proofreading and Editing**

Both the author and a grammar checker software called Grammarly, proofread and edited the e-book. The English Oxford Thesaurus was used to obtain more precise synonyms.



### 3.4 Post Questionnaire Survey

A post-questionnaire was distributed to the general public after they finished the e-book. Five questions are contained in one section of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was used to obtain information on readers' perceptions of the fictional short tale e-book. 25 students in total completed the questionnaire.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Respondents' reading preferences

The survey contained Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQ). The results of the pre-questionnaire are as shown in the table below.

No	General Questions		Number	Percentage
1.	Do you like reading?	Yes	19	76%
		No	2	8%
		Maybe	4	16%
	Have you been reading recently?	Yes	5	20%
		No	17	68%
		Maybe	3	12%
3.	If you answered 'no', why?	Doesn't like reading	2	11.8%
		Busy	15	88.2%
4.	Do you prefer to read novels or short stories?	Novels	7	28%
		Short Stories	18	72%
5.	Do you prefer to read books that you could relate to?	Yes	17	68%
		No	2	8%
		Maybe	6	24%
6.	Have you ever read fictional short stories that you could relate to?	Yes	4	16%
		No	11	44%
		Maybe	10	40%
7.	Have you ever had troubles fitting in society?	Yes	17	68%
		No	4	16%
		Maybe	4	16%
8.		Books	12	48%
		People	7	28%
	Which of these do you rely on when you're having trouble fitting in?	Movies	4	16%
		None	2	8%

Table 4.1.1: Pre-questionnaire results

According to the results of the first question, 76% of respondents enjoy reading, 8% find it unpleasant, and 16% indicated they may enjoy reading although not a lot. In response to the second question, 68% of respondents stated that they barely read lately. While 12% of them said "maybe," 20% of them claimed to read regularly. 88.2% of respondents claimed that their inability to read was due to being too busy, while the remaining 11.8% claimed that they disliked reading in the first place. In addition, 72% of participants—compared to 28% of respondents

who favoured novels—said they preferred short stories. While 8% of them responded "no," 68% of them stated that they prefer to read literature that they can relate to. However, 24% of the respondents indicated that they are unsure about it themselves by selecting "maybe." While 16% of respondents indicated they had, 44% of respondents stated they had never read a fictitious short story they could identify with. 40% of them said "maybe," which may mean they had trouble remembering. Additionally, 68% of respondents claimed they struggle to blend in with society, while the remaining 16% each answered "no" and "maybe" to that question. When people struggle to fit in, 48% of respondents said they turn to literature for comfort, while 28% stated that other people are their other go-to source of solace. While 8% of respondents said "none," other respondents said that watching movies can help them feel better.

#### 4.2. Finalized Product

The figure below shows the front and back covers of the e-book. The book cover was designed with a dreamlike aspect to attract readers. Additionally, it is because the book combines concepts from the modern world with those from fairy tales. In addition, the designer went with a minimalist style to make the book cover clearer to readers. Additionally, the usage of only two colours on the cover is due to the principle that less is more. Hence, enabled people to read and understand the book cover better.

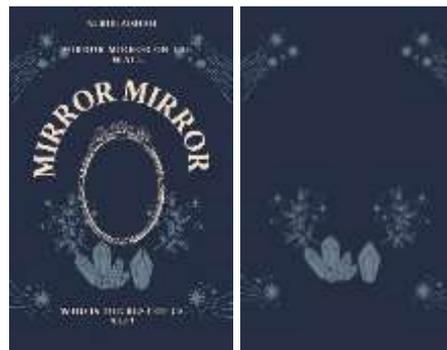


Figure 4.2.1: Front and back cover of product

#### 4.3. Results of product feedback survey

The survey contained Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQ). The results of the post questionnaire are as shown in the table below.

No	General Questions		Number	Percentage
1.	Have you read "Mirror Mirror on the wall, who is the best of us all?"	Yes	18	72%
		No	3	12%
		Maybe	4	16%
2.	Did you like the concept of the e-book?	Yes	15	60%
		No	3	12%
		Maybe	7	29%
3.	Were you able to relate to the short stories in the book?	Yes	17	68%
		No	3	12%
		Maybe	5	20%

4.	Does the book help pique your interest to read more?	Yes	17	68%
		No	3	12%
		Maybe	5	20%
5.	Would you read another e-book that you could relate to again?	Yes	16	64%
		No	3	12%
		Maybe	6	24%

Table 4.3.1: Post-questionnaire results

Multiple-choice questions are used in the questionnaire. The results show that 72% of respondents overall read the e-book, while 12% didn't. A further 16% of respondents said they "maybe" had read the book, indicating a lack of certainty. Sixty percent of those surveyed stated they agreed with the book's thesis, while only twelve percent disagreed. The remaining 28% gave the "maybe" response, expressing doubt about the book's overall appeal. In addition, 68% of respondents claimed they could relate to the book's short stories, while 12% disagreed. The remaining 28% chose "maybe," indicating they weren't certain if they could or couldn't relate to the book. 68% of them said "yes," whereas 12% disagreed when asked if the book stimulated their desire to read more. Some people chose "maybe." While 12% of respondents said they would not, 64% said they would read another short tale they could relate to. The final 24% chose "maybe."

## 5. CONCLUSION

The results of this study showed that providing the general public a fictional short story e-book that they could relate with increases their interest in reading. The questionnaire made it clear that most readers want something quick, entertaining, and relatable to read. However, there are still certain things that could be done better with the e-book. One of them is that this book must be promoted on other social media sites in order to reach a wider audience and attract more readers. By doing this, the author will increase reader attention, get more feedback, and have more opportunities to make any necessary corrections.

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