



Reading fiction and empathy: in search of the relation



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STICHTING LEZEN

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Meta-analysis (Mumper & Gerrig, 2016)

- Searching correlations between reading & empathy
- 30 studies
- Relation for fiction > non-fiction



Meta-analysis (Dodell-Feder & Tamir, 2018)

- Searching causation reading -> empathy
- 14 studies
- Small effect for fiction: 0.15-0.16



Other factors

- Transportation: mediating variable
- Literary features: moderating variable
- Complex characters: moderating variabele



Reliability & validity Eyes in Mind Test

17

doubtful

affectionate



playful

aghast

Conclusion & discussion

- Causal relation reading -> empathy
- Reading -> transportation -> empathy
- Relation mainly exists for (literary) fiction
- Reciprocality to be studied
- How to measure empathy in a reliable and valid way?