**Discussion Group Empathy and Narrative**

**Group 3, Textual Triggers of Narrative Empathy**

***22 January 2021***

* All that list of possible triggers is too long. If everything has potential, then we don’t have a theory anymore. We can distinguish which ones are more important.
* You need to relate it to the application itself. It has to be closely interrelated to the other 2 (the measurement and the definition).
* We usually think of the main character but what about when the attention is more diffused?
* Empathy can also happen in really small moment – how do you study that?
* Really complex factors. Hard to pin down how to approach NE, huge field, and how we decide what to analyse.
* We have so many tools to focus on.
* You need to decide what are your burning questions?
* Empathy is so big. The default is that there would be a human connection anyway. What is it that stops us being empathetic to a character?
  + Autistic people. Inability to understand how someone else is approaching the world. Neurotypicality.
  + Indifference?
* When we read about someone else’s body, do you engage more easily because of embodiment?
* It’s a good idea to start off with the feature -- whether POV or body language or whatever.
* In very general terms you can say all stylistic features have the potential to trigger E. Maybe we can be genre specific more than text-specific. Do it in a more relativized way than saying everything can do trigger empathy.
* Depends on the genre, the language, the application/what you want to do with it. And the continuum of engagement between emotional and cognitive empathy.

BACK TO THE MAIN ROOM. Summary of our discussion.

Difficult to have a list of textual triggers. Almost any stylistic feature can trigger it. We can look at the text and then decide which features. Also coming from the opposite angle – what would bring in antipathy or indifference? Really difficult because there is so much. The demarcation question is very important.