

3-27-2019

Arab Festival TX

Marryanne Zamora

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces>

Recommended Citation

Zamora, Marryanne (2019) "Arab Festival TX," *Forces*: Vol. 2019 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces/vol2019/iss1/10>

This Photograph is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Collin. It has been accepted for inclusion in Forces by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Collin. For more information, please contact mtomlin@collin.edu.



Arab Festival TX Maryanne Zamora



What Makes Us Human?

Hannah Hansen

In books we read, we are constantly judging attempts at making humans. These characters we “read to life.” Some we praise for their insight, their reality, their utter and stark humanity; and others we feel fall short. We describe characters as flat, as one-dimensional. These characters have failed to convince us; they don’t fit the bill; they don’t fit the trick of writing. They’re not people like us. They don’t see the world like we see it. What does it mean to be human? How do we define the thing we live? And how do we expect characters in any story to understand the true struggles of living a life day to day?

What I’ve found is that people and characters need motivation. We need to be able to ask the question, “Would we do what they do?” Often as plots progress with wild and fantastical situations and twists of circumstances, yet in these wild and twisted plots would we precede the same? They need to do things out of anger and love and hunger, they need to form relationships between themselves and other humans. Isolations and connections are diametrically opposed foes when we talk of storytelling techniques, yet a writer must capitalize on both. Characters must be well formed in their own skins, and yet still have moments of compulsion, tragedy, and maybe even fall into self pity from time to time. No man is an island, in a swept phrase of the times; no one can define humans based on simple connections.

Do characters need flaws? In my opinion we definitely define humans by what is not too perfect. Similar to perfection, humanity is found in glimpses, in moments of praise and decay, that some may define as young and vulnerable. We need our protagonist to mess up, to fall for misdirection and to fall fast for fatal flaws. But we also need hope, even if it is just occasionally.

Characters must
be well formed in
their own skins,
and yet still
have moments
of compulsion,
tragedy, and
maybe even fall
into self pity from
time to time.