
Rhetorics Of Fantasy Farah Mendlesohn

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I must begin by admitting a not-very-deep acquaintance, and somewhat deeper admiration for, Farah Mendlesohn, by way of the Intartoozb. The thesis of this - I guess you'd call it a monograph? - is that fantasy can be usefully (if not monosemically) characterized by the way the fantastic enters the text; or, alternatively, the way the fantastic is introduced to the (hypothetical/ideal) reader.

[Rhetorics Of Fantasy Farah Mendlesohn](#)

Transcending arguments over the definition of fantasy literature, Rhetorics of Fantasy introduces a provocative new system of classification for the genre. Utilizing nearly two hundred examples of modern fantasy, author Farah Mendlesohn uses this system to explore how fiction writers

construct their fantastic worlds.

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[About – Farah Mendlesohn](#)

Mendlesohn's text frames such questions very usefully, suggesting various rhetorical elements to structure that remained previously elusive to me. Citation.

Mendlesohn, Farah. *Rhetorics of Fantasy*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan U P, 2008. Kindle edition.

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Farah Mendlesohn (Author of Rhetorics of Fantasy)

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Farah Mendlesohn is a Hugo Award-winning British academic and writer on science fiction. In 2005 she won the Hugo Award for Best Related Book for *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction*, which she edited with Edward James.

Mendlesohn is Professor of Literary History at Anglia Ruskin University, where she is also Head of English and Media.

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Mendlesohn is the author of, *Practicing Peace: Quaker Relief Work in the Spanish Civil War*; Diana Wynne Jones and the *Children's Fantastical Tradition*, *Rhetorics of Fantasy*, *The Inter-Galactic Playground: science fiction for children and teens*, and co-author of *A Short History of Fantasy* (with Edward James) and *Children's Fantasy Literature: an introduction*.

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Farah Mendlesohn's acclaimed work includes *Rhetorics of Fantasy* (2009), *The Inter-galactic Playground: A Critical Study of Children's and Teens' Science Fiction* (McFarland) and *Diana Wynne Jones: The Fantastic Tradition and Children's Literature* (Routledge).

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James and Mendlesohn also edited *The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature*, released in 2012, and wrote *A Short History of Fantasy* in 2009. Her book *Rhetorics of Fantasy* won the BSFA award for best non-fiction book in 2009; the book

was also nominated for Hugo and World Fantasy Awards.

Robert Heinlein by Farah Mendlesohn:

Unbound

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All texts copyright Farah Mendlesohn . Extract from *Rhetorics of Fantasy* (the Introduction) By Farah Mendlesohn. Health warning: This book is not intended to create rules. Its categories are not intended to fix anything in stone. This book is merely a portal into fantasy, a tour around the skeletons and exoskeletons of genre.

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But in her book *Rhetorics of Fantasy*, Farah Mendlesohn makes a sharp riposte to such prejudice: “All literature builds worlds, but some genres are more honest about it than others.” Mendlesohn’s book draws on a plethora of examples to illustrate some intriguing perspectives on fantasy fiction.

Publications – Farah Mendlesohn

Farah Mendlesohn and Nichole Matthews, 2000. “The Cartesian Novum of Third Rock From the Sun”, in *Fantasy Girls: Gender in the New Universe of Science Fiction and Fantasy Television*, ed. Elyce Helford. Rowman & Littlefield: Lanham, Maryland, and Oxford, pp. 41-60. Farah Mendlesohn and Edward James, 1996.