

Review

Truth in Fiction: Rethinking its Logic

By John Woods

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Abstract: This article reviews John Wood's *Truth in Fiction: Rethinking its Logic* (Springer 2018).

Résumé: Cet article est une critique de *La vérité dans la fiction: repenser sa logique* (Springer 2018) de John Woods.

Keywords: abstract objects, fictional objects, fictionality, formal methods, inference, Law of Noncontradiction, paradox of fiction

John Woods is an international treasure. This book constitutes one reason, among many, to think so. The book is not about argument in fiction or the cognitive value of fiction, or what is commonly called 'truth *through* fiction.' In approximately the past fifteen years, argumentation studies have become increasingly concerned with how works of fiction, taken as wholes, may be argumentative (e.g., Olmos 2017). Since argument can provide the justification needed for knowledge, this question has implications for the cognitive value of fiction. There is nothing, or almost nothing, of this in Woods' book (an exception, reviewed below, might be his discussion of 'the paradox of fiction' in ch. 6: "Salty Tears and Racing Hearts"). Rather, as the book's cover says, it concerns 'truth *in* fiction,' that is, the (often formal) logic and