

Response Paper 1 on *Textual Poachers*
Due: February 28 Worth: 15%

In chapter 2 of *Textual Poachers*, Henry Jenkins advances a model that we might call the “Velveteen Rabbit” theory of fans’ interactions with, and transformations of, media texts. This account of “how texts become real” structures much of the book, as he explores different fan communities and their critical and creative practices. In a discussion that pays attention both to Jenkins’s theoretical framework and at least one of his case studies, evaluate what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the Velveteen Rabbit model; what aspects of fandom does it explain or illuminate particularly well, and what does it leave out? How would you augment or modify Jenkins’s framework to construct a more robust or accurate account of media fandom as it presently exists? You can bring in contemporary examples of fandom to support your critique, but don’t let these dominate the response: your emphasis should remain on critically and accurately assessing Jenkins’s approach.

Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length, typed and double-spaced, and be clearly written and free of mechanical errors. Citations should be given within the text (but quote sparingly; I’m interested in your words, not Jenkins’s). A bibliography is not needed and you do not need to bring in outside sources, though if you cite online fan work, the full URL should be provided at the end. Please number and staple your pages. Emailed papers will be accepted only if agreed on in advance.

Papers will be assessed by the following criteria: cogency and force of argument; accuracy and specificity of reference to *Textual Poachers*; overall clarity and organization.