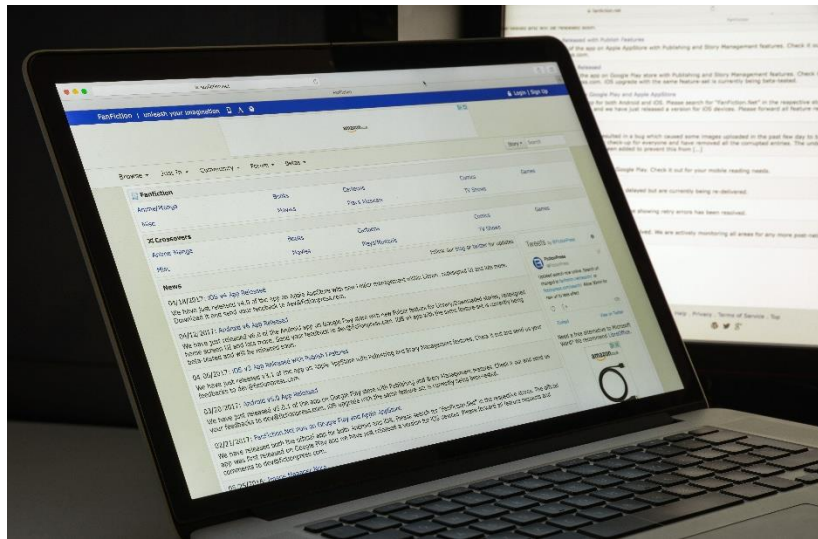


## Interacting with favourite characters

In today's world, there are many famous fictional characters. (Can you think of any?) You can see them on TV and cinema screens, or read about them in books. Some are even from computer games. Sometimes, people want to spend more time with these characters. That is how new forms of interacting with art and games began. Here are some of the most popular ones.



**Fan fiction** is a piece of writing set in the world that a published author imagined. It can use existing characters or add new ones. It can also bring characters from a fictional universe to our own. It is a way in which fans creatively react to their favourite works of fiction. It became especially popular with the internet, where fans can read each other's works.



**Cosplaying** is dressing up to look like a fictional character as much as possible. It is not just playing dress-up, or buying costumes. The best cosplayers make their own clothes and props. They are crafty and can often sew, paint, do metalwork or woodwork, and come up with various gadgets to be more convincing. They also like to perform, pretending to be their favourite character.



In **table-top and role-playing games**, you can either use figures of well-known characters, or become one yourself. For a table-top game, you usually need a game board, and you play sitting down. In role-playing, you imagine who you are and act out the game wherever you like. The important thing is to play the entire game as the character you chose – and try to win, of course. This is best when you have other people who share your interest, so you can play in a group.

**Answer the questions.**

- 1 Do you have a series, film, game or book that you really like?
- 2 What are your favourite characters?
- 3 Do you know other people who are into the same fictional person?

4 How about online? Is there a page or a channel about them that you like and follow?

5 Would you try one of the ways to interact with your favourite character?

6 Which do you think is most fun? Why?

**Extra Credit Assignment:**

Try to write your own piece of fan-fic, explain how you would make a costume, or create a game.