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Mr. Toshihiro Furuya's lecture on fiction and popular culture provides fascinating insight into the role of fiction within the arts and society. As he points out, the boundaries between what we define as "real" and "fictional" seem fairly rigid, as people confidently categorize experiences such as hallucinations and mirages as the latter. Society, then, seems to have pre-conceived notions of what it deems as "real." The boundaries between "reality" and "fiction," however, can also be very blurred, especially within dreams, as elements in them point to hidden desires and emotions that cannot be fully expressed or realized within society. In this sense, what we categorize as "fiction" can reveal new possibilities not only by introducing people to alternative modes of being, but also by relativizing and destabilizing pre-conceived notions of what is natural and "real."

After reflecting upon the lecture, I agree with Mr. Furuya's argument that fictional works of art can provide transformative possibilities to society. It can be said that there is no such thing as pure "fiction" because such works almost always contain reflections and emotions that are very real to the artist and viewer. Once people internalize the ideas within a specific fictional work and act upon them, it can be said that those ideas have become materialized within lived experience and have become a part of reality. In this sense, I believe that fictional works have an important role within society because they allow the audience to realize that much of what we define as "real" and "fictional" are mediated by ideas that are socially constructed and not natural. This means that there is always the possibility for social change.