

**Narrative Adaptation in Fictional Works amidst Covid-19:
A Comparative Analysis of Plot and Character Development in Nnamdi
Anumihe's The Lockdown**

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Abstract

This study investigates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on narrative adaptation in Nnamdi Anumihe's "The Lockdown," exploring four key research questions. The research explores how the pandemic influences thematic choices, character evolution, societal structures, and the narrative construction of resilience and adaptation in fictional narratives. Employing a qualitative methodology and guided by Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory, the analysis involves a close examination of excerpts from "The Lockdown." Findings reveal intricate narrative strategies, including non-linear presentations, shifts in focalization, thematic repetitions, and nuanced portrayals of character evolution and societal structures. The narrative construction of resilience and adaptation is depicted through linguistic devices, shifts in focalization, and mood variations, capturing moments of despair, uncertainty, and triumph. The study concludes that Genette's framework provides a valuable lens for understanding the pandemic's influence on narrative adaptation in fictional works. Recommendations include further exploration of specific narrative elements, comparative analyses across genres, longitudinal studies, and author interviews for a comprehensive understanding of pandemic-influenced storytelling.

Keywords: Narrative adaptation, covid-19 pandemic, plot development, character evolution, societal structures

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic, an epochal global event that unfolded in early 2020, has exerted a profound influence on the thematic choices and character development within fictional narratives across diverse media. Historical events

have consistently acted as catalysts for artistic expression, molding the cultural and creative landscapes of societies (Beghetto, 2019).

At the core of this exploration lies the concept of narrative adaptation, a term

encapsulating the deliberate shifts and modifications in storytelling to encapsulate the nuances and challenges posed by the pandemic. A pivotal variable to explore is the thematic evolution in plot development, with fictional works during the pandemic exhibiting a nuanced exploration of isolation, resilience, economic repercussions, and medical challenges. These themes, intricately woven into the narrative fabric, provide creators with a potent tool to mirror and interpret the complexities of a world grappling with a global health crisis Beghetto (Ronald, 2019). The psychological impact on characters stands as another essential variable, as creators navigate the intricacies of portraying individuals within the pandemic context. Character evolution becomes a lens through which to explore the human experience, with characters serving as conduits for the audience to vicariously experience the emotional phenomena under investigation.

The temporal setting, whether pre-pandemic, post-pandemic, or an alternate reality, represents a significant variable influencing narrative approaches. Each temporal context offers unique storytelling opportunities, enabling creators to examine the consequences of the pandemic from different vantage points. Pre-pandemic settings may explore the idyllic past, post-

pandemic worlds showcase recovery and reconstruction, and alternate realities provide speculative glimpses into what could have been (Dagnino, 2019). This temporal flexibility adds layers of complexity to the narrative, allowing for a rich exploration of the multifaceted impacts of the pandemic on fictional worlds.

Cultural, social, and geographic factors constitute a multifaceted variable influencing the adaptation of fictional narratives to the COVID-19 context. Cultural nuances shape the narrative choices of creators, introducing diverse perspectives on the pandemic's impact. Social dynamics come into play as characters navigate relationships, love, and friendship in a world altered by social distancing. Geographic considerations contribute to the portrayal of the pandemic's effects on different communities, highlighting disparities and unique challenges faced by characters in various locations (Barnard, 2019). This cultural, social, and geographic interplay contributes to the authenticity and richness of pandemic-inspired fictional narratives. From the foregoing, the exploration of plot development and character evolution within the context of a global crisis unveils the intricate choices made by creators, reflecting not only the challenges of the

pandemic but also the resilience and adaptability of human storytelling.

Statement of the Problem

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to global society, reshaping daily life and prompting a fundamental reevaluation of various aspects of human existence. Within the realm of fictional narratives, creators have faced the intricate task of adapting their storytelling to reflect and respond to the complexities of this ongoing crisis. However, there is a gap in our understanding of how narrative adaptation unfolds in the face of a global health emergency. The specific challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic, including thematic choices in plot development, the evolution of characters, temporal settings, and the influence of cultural, social, and geographic factors, remain inadequately explored. This research problem seeks to address this gap by investigating how the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced narrative adaptation in fictional works. Through a comprehensive analysis, this study aims to uncover the nuanced ways in which creators navigate the uncharted territories of a global health crisis within the context of their storytelling, shedding light on the profound impact of the pandemic on the world of fiction.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated for this study.

1. How has the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the thematic choices in fictional plot development?
2. In what ways has the pandemic shaped the evolution of characters in fictional narratives?
3. Are there discernible differences in the narrative approaches of pre-pandemic, post-pandemic, and alternate reality settings in fictional works?
4. How do cultural, social, and geographic factors manifest in the adaptation of fictional narratives to the COVID-19 context?

Research Objectives

The broad objectives of this study is to examine the narrative adaption in fictional works during COVID-19: A comparative analysis of plot and character development.

1. How has the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the thematic choices in fictional plot development?
2. In what ways has the pandemic shaped the evolution of characters in fictional narratives?
3. Are there discernible differences in the narrative approaches of pre-pandemic, post-pandemic, and

alternate reality settings in fictional works?

4. How do cultural, social, and geographic factors manifest in the adaptation of fictional narratives to the COVID-19 context?

Conceptual Clarification

Narrative adaptation is a dynamic and multifaceted concept that encapsulates the deliberate adjustments and modifications made to storytelling techniques, structures, and content in response to changing circumstances, influences, or thematic considerations (Barnard, 2019). In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Ittefaq et al 2022, Qureshi, 2021), narrative adaptation has become a crucial tool for creators across various media to navigate the complexities of an unprecedented global crisis. This term involves a nuanced interplay of components that collectively contribute to the evolution of fictional narratives, ensuring their relevance and resonance with contemporary audiences.

At its core, narrative adaptation involves thematic choices in plot development (Mohd Yunus, &Francis,2023). This component reflects the conscious selection and exploration of overarching themes that form the foundation of a fictional work. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, themes such as isolation, resilience,

economic repercussions, and medical challenges have emerged as central elements in narratives. Creators use these themes to mirror the realities of a world grappling with a global health crisis, providing audiences with a lens through which to understand and process the profound changes brought about by the pandemic. The thematic choices within the plot development not only shape the narrative's direction but also serve as a means of commentary on the societal, emotional, and psychological impacts of the ongoing crisis.

Another integral component of narrative adaptation lies in the evolution of characters (Ittefaq and Qureshi (2021). Characters serve as conduits through which audiences engage with the narrative, and their development is paramount in conveying the human experience within the context of the pandemic. The psychological impact on characters becomes a key aspect of adaptation, exploring how individuals within the fictional world grapple with grief, trauma, and the adaptation to new norms. Character evolution, therefore, is not merely a tool for advancing the plot but a mechanism for conveying the emotional and psychological landscapes shaped by the pandemic. Through the adaptation of characters, creators provide audiences with relatable reflections of the challenges,

resilience, and transformations that characterize the human experience during times of crisis.

Temporal setting is a critical component that contributes to narrative adaptation (Sanders, 2015). The deliberate choice of whether a narrative is set in a pre-pandemic, post-pandemic, or alternate reality context significantly influences the storytelling approach. Each temporal setting offers unique opportunities for creators to explore the consequences of the pandemic from different vantage points. Pre-pandemic settings may allow for reflections on an idyllic past, post-pandemic worlds may showcase recovery and reconstruction, and alternate realities provide speculative glimpses into what could have been. This component adds layers of complexity to the narrative, enabling creators to weave intricate tales that transcend the temporal boundaries imposed by the pandemic.

Cultural, social, and geographic factors constitute a multifaceted component influencing narrative adaptation (Sanders, 2015). Cultural nuances shape the narrative choices of creators, introducing diverse perspectives on the pandemic's impact. Social dynamics come into play as characters navigate relationships, love, and friendship in a world altered by social distancing. Geographic considerations contribute to the portrayal of the pandemic's

effects on different communities, highlighting disparities and unique challenges faced by characters in various locations. This cultural, social, and geographic interplay contributes to the authenticity and richness of pandemic-inspired fictional narratives, reflecting the complexities of a global crisis through diverse lenses.

In essence, narrative adaptation is an intricate process wherein creators strategically weave thematic choices, character evolution, temporal settings, and cultural influences into the fabric of their storytelling. It is a dynamic response to the ever-changing landscape of societal, emotional, and global realities. Through the careful consideration and manipulation of these components, creators engage audiences in a meaningful exploration of the human experience within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Narrative adaptation, therefore, stands as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of storytelling as a powerful medium for reflecting, responding to, and interpreting the world around us.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach to conduct a comprehensive analysis of narrative adaptation in Nnamdi

Anumihe's "The Lockdown" during the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary aim is to understand the intricate interplay of plot and character development influenced by the crisis. The research questions guide the investigation, focusing on the influence of the pandemic on thematic choices, character evolution, societal structures, and the narrative construction of resilience and adaptation.

The primary data source for this study is the novel "The Lockdown" by Nnamdi Anumihe. The analysis involves a systematic and in-depth examination of selected excerpts that directly address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory serves as the conceptual framework, guiding the exploration of narrative elements such as temporal structures, duration, frequency, focalization, and mood within the text.

The process begins with a close reading of relevant passages to identify instances where the narrative is shaped by the pandemic. The identified excerpts are then categorized based on the elements defined by Genette's framework. This categorization allows for a nuanced analysis of how the author employs various narrative techniques to depict the effects of the pandemic on plot and character development.

Supplementary data is drawn from critical reviews and scholarly interpretations of "The Lockdown." This additional information enriches the analysis, providing insights into the broader literary context and critical reception of the novel. The triangulation of data sources enhances the reliability and depth of the findings, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of narrative adaptation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this theory is anchored on Gerard Genette Narrative Discourse Theory Narrative Discourse Theory. The core ideas of Genette's narrative discourse theory were first introduced in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Basic Tenets

Narrative Levels

Genette identifies three narrative levels: narrative, narrative discourse, and narrative story. Narrative refers to the events or story itself, narrative discourse is the way the story is presented through language, and narrative story is the reconstructed story as it exists in the mind of the reader.

Order

Genette explores the order of events in a narrative. This includes analyzing whether

the events are presented chronologically, through flashbacks, or in a non-linear fashion. This aspect is crucial for understanding how the temporal structure influences the reader's interpretation.

Duration

Duration focuses on the relationship between the time of the story and the time of its narration. Genette categorizes duration into three types: summary, scene, and pause. Summary compresses time, scene stretches time, and pause halts the narrative to delve into a specific moment.

Frequency

Frequency deals with how often certain events or motifs are repeated within the narrative. Genette distinguishes between singulative (events happening once) and iterative (repeated events) aspects of frequency.

Mood

Genette emphasizes the mood or atmosphere created by the narrative discourse. This involves understanding the emotional tone conveyed through linguistic choices, contributing to the overall reader experience.

Voice

Voice refers to the narrative perspective. Genette classifies narrative voices as either

heterodiegetic (external narrator) or homodiegetic (internal narrator). The choice of voice profoundly shapes the reader's engagement with the narrative.

Focalization

Focalization involves the point of view from which the narrative is presented. Genette distinguishes between external focalization (narrator knows more than the characters) and internal focalization (narrator knows only what characters know).

Genette's framework is well-suited to analyze the temporal complexities often found in narratives about significant events, such as a pandemic. The theory's attention to order, duration, and frequency allows for a nuanced examination of how authors structure time in their narratives. The focus on mood in Genette's theory is particularly relevant when exploring the emotional impact of a lockdown. By examining linguistic choices, one can discern how authors convey the atmosphere and emotional nuances of characters during the pandemic. choice of narrative voice and focalization becomes crucial when adapting a narrative to a unique context like COVID-19. Genette's distinctions provide a framework for understanding how different perspectives shape the representation of the

lockdown experience. The iterative aspect of frequency in Genette's theory is valuable for analyzing how certain themes or situations related to the lockdown are repeated or varied throughout a narrative, providing insight into the adaptation of the story.

In conclusion, Genette's narrative discourse theory provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing the linguistic and structural elements of narratives, making it a valuable tool for the comparative analysis of plot and character development in fictional works during the COVID-19 pandemic. The theory's focus on time, emotion, perspective, and repetition allows for a nuanced examination of how authors adapt their narratives to the unique challenges and experiences of a lockdown scenario.

Data presentation and Analysis

Research Question 1: Exploring the Influence of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Thematic Choices in Fictional Plot Development

The COVID-19 pandemic has undeniably left its mark on fictional plot development, and Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory provides a valuable framework for understanding the nuances of this influence. Examining narrative levels, authors often manipulate them to accentuate the

pandemic's effects. For instance, a non-linear presentation through flashbacks can vividly contrast life before and after the pandemic, underscoring the profound changes characters undergo.

Data 1 "*Chief Melford was returning from a combined business and medical trip to the US and London... They had chatted briefly about the corona virus pandemic sweeping across Europe and the rest of the world.*"

The temporal structure, as reflected in the order of events, becomes a critical aspect. Authors may choose chronological sequences to mirror the unfolding of the pandemic or opt for a non-linear approach to instill a sense of unpredictability. Such choices reveal how authors frame the impact of the pandemic on the storyline. The eerie silence of deserted streets, as depicted in Data 2: *The eerie silence of the deserted streets added to the suspense of the unfolding plot, a stark reflection of the global pandemic that had brought cities to a standstill*, serves as a narrative device, reflecting the global pandemic's profound impact and adding suspense to the unfolding plot.

Duration, as categorized by Genette, becomes pertinent in portraying the prolonged effects of the pandemic. Scenes stretched in time may depict the enduring impact, while summaries can efficiently

compress periods of isolation or lockdown. Pauses in the narrative allow for a focus on critical moments, offering readers a deeper understanding of characters' experiences.

Examining the singulative and iterative aspects of frequency is essential for understanding the pervasive nature of the pandemic's influence on characters and plot. Certain themes or motifs related to the pandemic may be repeated throughout the narrative, underscoring their significance and emphasizing the lasting impact.

Mood, as per Genette, aligns with the emotional impact of a lockdown. Through linguistic choices, authors can convey the atmosphere and emotional nuances of characters amidst the pandemic. The mood becomes a powerful tool for expressing the psychological toll of the crisis on characters, illustrating the emotional journey they navigate.

By applying Genette's framework to excerpts from novels, one can analyze how authors manipulate narrative elements to reflect thematic choices influenced by the pandemic. For instance, a non-linear structure with scenes stretched in duration might depict the evolving nature of characters' responses to the crisis. This analysis provides a structured approach to understanding the pandemic's impact on thematic choices in fictional plot

development, aligning with Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory.

Research Question 2: Examining the Pandemic's Impact on Character Evolution in Fictional Narratives

Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory offers a valuable lens for exploring the evolution of characters in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, considering narrative discourse, focalization, and mood.

Narrative Discourse, encompassing the way the story is presented through language, plays a pivotal role in illustrating the psychological and emotional changes characters undergo during the pandemic. Distinctive linguistic choices, shifts in tone, and alterations in narrative voice convey the evolving nature of characters, as exemplified in Data 3: "*His wife, Lady Egoyibo, who had been worried with the news of the deadly outbreak of the corona virus, known as covid19, in Europe was relieved to see him.*"

Focalization, or the point of view from which the narrative is presented, becomes crucial for character evolution. Internal focalization, aligning the narrative perspective closely with a character's thoughts and emotions, offers readers a more intimate understanding of the character's internal struggles and adaptations during the pandemic.

Mood, as emphasized by Genette, becomes instrumental in depicting character evolution. The emotional tone conveyed through language can range from fear and uncertainty to resilience and adaptation, reflecting the psychological impact of the pandemic on characters.

Analyzing excerpts from novels using Genette's framework involves examining how linguistic choices, narrative perspective, and emotional tone contribute to the portrayal of character evolution during the pandemic. For instance, a shift in focalization from external to internal might signify a deeper exploration of characters' internal struggles and growth.

In conclusion, Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory provides a structured lens for understanding how the pandemic shapes the evolution of characters in fictional narratives. The theory's focus on narrative discourse, focalization, and mood allows for a nuanced analysis of the linguistic and emotional elements that contribute to character development during this unprecedented crisis. The exploration of excerpts marked Data 1-5 showcases the application of this framework in understanding the intricate interplay of narrative elements in fictional narratives influenced by the pandemic.

Research Question 3: How has the portrayal of societal structures and institutions evolved in fictional narratives in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic?

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only affected individuals but has also prompted a reevaluation of societal structures and institutions in fictional narratives. Utilizing Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory, we can dissect this evolution by examining narrative levels, order, duration, frequency, and mood.

Narrative Levels become crucial in portraying the impact on societal structures. Authors may employ multiple levels to showcase how the pandemic reverberates through individual lives and societal frameworks. For instance, juxtaposing personal struggles with broader societal issues creates a narrative dynamic that emphasizes the interconnectedness of characters and the larger social context. Data 4: "*On our way here, I saw several village markets in full swing. I thought the state was supposed to be also under lockdown.*"

Order of events plays a significant role in highlighting the challenges posed by the pandemic on societal structures. Authors may choose a chronological presentation to depict the unfolding impact or opt for a

non-linear structure to emphasize the simultaneous disruptions across various societal domains. Analyzing the order of events offers insights into how authors frame the evolving landscape of societal structures.

Duration, as categorized by Genette, becomes pertinent in depicting the lasting effects of the pandemic on societal institutions. Scenes stretched in time may highlight the prolonged challenges faced by institutions, while summaries may succinctly capture critical moments of adaptation or collapse. The temporal aspect provides depth to the portrayal of societal structures.

Frequency, focusing on singulative and iterative aspects, is essential in portraying the recurring challenges faced by societal institutions. Authors may repeat certain motifs or themes to underscore the persistent nature of the pandemic's influence on societal structures. This repetition serves to emphasize the enduring impact on the social fabric.

Mood, as per Genette, aligns with the emotional impact on societal structures. Authors can use linguistic choices to convey the atmosphere and emotional nuances surrounding societal institutions, from the initial shock and chaos to potential moments of resilience and adaptation.

Mood becomes a powerful tool for expressing the collective psychological toll of the crisis on societal structures.

Analyzing excerpts from novels using Genette's framework allows us to understand how authors manipulate narrative elements to reflect the evolving portrayal of societal structures in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Question 4: How has the pandemic influenced the narrative construction of resilience and adaptation in fictional characters and societies?

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, examining how fictional characters and societies navigate challenges and exhibit resilience and adaptation provides valuable insights. Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory facilitates this exploration by focusing on narrative discourse, focalization, and mood.

Data 5: Excerpt: *"Of course, the governor has announced lockdown in the state, but the rural areas are often isolated from such measures: thus implementation isn't as serious as in the cities."*

Data 6: *"On our way here, I saw several village markets in full swing. I thought the state was supposed to be also under lockdown."*

Narrative Discourse, encompassing language choices, is instrumental in illustrating the resilience and adaptation of characters and societies during the pandemic. Authors may employ specific linguistic devices to convey the strength, determination, and adaptability of characters as they face unprecedented challenges. Shifts in tone, vocabulary, and narrative voice can highlight the evolving nature of resilience.

Focalization, or the point of view from which the narrative is presented, becomes crucial in portraying resilience and adaptation. Internal focalization, aligning closely with characters' thoughts and emotions, allows readers to intimately understand the internal struggles and growth. This choice provides a nuanced portrayal of the adaptive processes characters undergo.

Mood, as emphasized by Genette, plays a pivotal role in depicting resilience and adaptation. The emotional tone conveyed through language can range from moments of despair and uncertainty to instances of triumph and resilience. Analyzing the mood created by the narrative discourse allows for a deeper understanding of the psychological and emotional dimensions of resilience in characters and societies.

By applying Genette's framework to excerpts from novels, one can examine how linguistic choices, narrative perspective, and emotional tone contribute to the portrayal of resilience and adaptation in the face of the pandemic. For instance, a shift in focalization from external challenges to internal strategies might signify a deeper exploration of characters' adaptive processes.

The use of Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory have provided this study with a structured lens for understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the narrative construction of resilience and adaptation in fictional characters and societies. The theory's emphasis on narrative discourse, focalization, and mood enables a nuanced analysis of the linguistic and emotional elements that contribute to the portrayal of adaptive processes during this unprecedented crisis. The exploration of excerpts marked Data 1-5 showcases the application of this framework in understanding the intricate interplay of narrative elements in fictional narratives influenced by the pandemic.

Discussion of Findings

The exploration of the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on thematic choices in fictional plot development reveals a rich tapestry of narrative strategies employed by

authors. The utilization of Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory proves illuminating, as seen in the analysis of temporal structures, duration, frequency, and mood. Non-linear presentations and shifts in duration are observed as effective tools for accentuating the profound changes characters undergo. The repetition of pandemic-related themes underscores their significance, emphasizing the pervasive nature of the crisis in fictional narratives. The careful manipulation of mood, aligned with Genette's framework, emerges as a powerful device for conveying the emotional journey of characters amidst the pandemic, providing readers with a nuanced understanding of the psychological impact.

Moving to the examination of the pandemic's impact on character evolution, Genette's framework proves invaluable in dissecting narrative discourse, focalization, and mood. Distinctive linguistic choices and shifts in focalization allow for a detailed portrayal of characters' psychological and emotional changes during the pandemic. The identified shift in focalization, from external to internal perspectives, is indicative of a deeper exploration of characters' internal struggles and adaptations. The nuanced emotional tones captured by mood range from fear and uncertainty to resilience and

adaptation, reflecting the diverse responses characters exhibit in the face of an unprecedented crisis.

Shifting focus to the portrayal of societal structures and institutions, the analysis using Genette's framework illuminates how authors navigate narrative levels, order, duration, frequency, and mood to depict the evolution of these structures. Juxtaposing personal struggles with broader societal issues through multiple narrative levels emphasizes the interconnectedness of characters and the larger social context. The temporal aspect, categorized by duration, contributes depth to the portrayal of lasting effects on societal institutions. Mood, a key element in Genette's theory, emerges as a powerful tool for expressing the collective psychological toll on societal structures, capturing the range from initial shock to potential moments of resilience.

The final exploration into how the pandemic influences the narrative construction of resilience and adaptation in fictional characters and societies reveals a nuanced interplay of narrative discourse, focalization, and mood. Specific linguistic devices and shifts in tone are identified as mechanisms for conveying the strength, determination, and adaptability of characters and societies during the pandemic. Internal focalization allows for an intimate understanding of characters'

internal struggles and growth, contributing to a nuanced portrayal of adaptive processes. Mood, reflecting the emotional tone, emerges as a pivotal element in depicting moments of despair, uncertainty, and triumph in the face of challenges. The application of Genette's framework across these findings showcases its effectiveness in providing a structured lens for comprehending the intricate dynamics of storytelling influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conclusions

The application of Genette's Narrative Discourse Theory proves insightful in understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic influences thematic choices, character evolution, societal structures, and the narrative construction of resilience and adaptation in fictional narratives. The analysis of data excerpts highlights the nuanced interplay of narrative elements, providing a structured framework for comprehending the multifaceted impact of the pandemic on storytelling. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how authors create meaning and represent the complexities of this unprecedented health crisis in fictional works.

Recommendations

In line with the findings of the study, this study recommended that there is the need to:

1. Encourage future research to delve deeper into specific narrative elements, such as focalization or mood, to provide more granular insights into their role in depicting pandemic-related themes.
2. Explore a comparative analysis of fictional works across different genres to identify commonalities and variations in the portrayal of the pandemic's impact, providing a broader perspective on storytelling choices.
3. Consider longitudinal studies to track the evolution of thematic choices and narrative elements in fictional works over time, capturing the dynamic nature of societal responses to the ongoing pandemic.
4. Conduct interviews with authors to gain a firsthand understanding of their creative processes and intentions in representing the pandemic in fictional narratives, enriching the analysis with the creators' perspectives.

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