

1067-T1-1766

**Thomas Drucker\*** (druckert@uww.edu), Department of Math. and CS, University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, 800 West Main Street, Whitewater, WI 53190. *Putting Content into a Fictionalist Account of Mathematics for Non-Mathematicians*. Preliminary report.

Non-mathematicians will often take a course in mathematics and literature with a much greater degree of comfort with the literary side than with the mathematical side. This comes partly from their sense of mathematics as a collection of rules handed down to them in classrooms of years past. One way to try to bridge the gap is not just to look at the mathematical aspects of literary structure and the representation of mathematical ideas in literature. Instead, one can explain the notion of fictionalism as a positive characterization of mathematical objects. Old-style fictionalism took mathematics as simply a tissue of useful lies. A more constructive fictionalism takes seriously the resemblance to fiction, especially for those who have put some time into trying to understand statements in fiction and their truth values. The repudiation of literalism on both sides of the divide (mathematical and literary) leads to a rapprochement of understanding the statements in mathematics, literature, and perhaps other disciplines as well. (Received September 21, 2010)