

Favourite Character in Fiction:

SYMPOSIUM OF OPINION

If you were asked to name your favourite character in the world of fiction, who would you name? And why? Some living authors have answered this question in an English journal:

"Gil Blas," in Le Sage's novel of that name, is James Lavers' favourite character. "To understand Gil Blas is to understand a great deal about life, to have a sense of proportion, to know how the world "works."

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"My favourite character in fiction," says T. F. Powys, "is Fielding's Parson Adams, for whom I have the greatest affection and respect."

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Andre Maurois's vote goes to Prince Andre Bolkouski in Tolstoy's "War and Peace."

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H. E. Bates likes Tess for all the faults of that book, and Uncle Toby from "Tristram Shandy" more perhaps than the others.

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Martin Armstrong's favourite character is Don Quixote, because he, of all others, is the character whom one simultaneously laughs at, pities, respects and loves.

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The Duchessa Sanseverina in Stendhal's "La Chartreuse de Parme" is Compton Mackenzie's favourite. "To ask for reasons," explains Mr Mackenzie, "is to ask a man why he is in love with a certain woman, and that is never easy to say."