

CONCLUSION Understanding intertextuality, then, is useful in considering the evolution of literary stories. Finally, textual success is due in large part to the commodity of combinations of intertexts, just as species viability relies on novel gene expression. Intertextuality teaches us that like species, stories share a common origin and a common means of expression of communicating and interacting with the environment. These commonalities imply that, in parallel with biological evolution, literary evolution is non-linear and non-teleological. Indeed, the matrix of literature is just as dynamic and vibrant as the biological universe. The only question remaining, then, is whether or not thinking of literature in evolutionary terms is generative. But on less personal level, it is important to consider stories as evolving, for in doing so we assume a greater responsibility as readers