personal english



Topic of the Month #4

Breaking the Fourth Wall



Why do we enjoy movies, books and paintings? Because they enable us to plunge into a world of **fiction** that (for the space of a few moments) we forget not to be true. This was called by S.T. Coleridge the willing suspension of disbelief fostered by realism. The technique of breaking the fourth wall (or *metalepsis*, as it is called in literature), is a strategy meant to call the observer's attention to the fact that this is fiction, not reality – with some surprising effects...

Click on the picture for a **VIDEO** on this cinematic technique