



## The stiff hawthorn climb

Multistability and contextual objects in *La Bataille de Pharsale*

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Abstract: *La Bataille de Pharsale* presents a large number of « contextual objects », which are not thinkable as fixed and immutable substances with intrinsic properties but give rise to a « multistable » perception, articulating mutually incompatible observational perspectives. The idea of multistable perception is projected not only on the fictional universe of the novel, but also on its verbal textures (enunciative, narrative, syntactic and lexical).

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