

# "He Blinded Me with Science....Fiction"



A Readers' Advisory

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives  
May 2017



## Today's Agenda

- Characteristics and History
- Overview of Types and Categories
- Genreblending
- Resources



## Science Fiction Definition

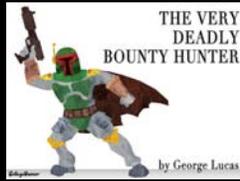


- SF or Sci-Fi
- Speculative Fiction
- Science Fiction is often confused with or considered the same as Fantasy
- Science Fiction is what could happen or theoretically happen in our universe
- Explores the question of “what if”



## Elements of Science Fiction

- Settings in outer space, on another world, or in the future or past.
- Characters include beings, such as aliens, mutants and robots
- Futuristic technology and scientific principles
- Paranormal abilities
- Dystopian or post-apocalyptic social or political systems
- Other universes or dimensions and travel between them.



## Appeal of Science Fiction



- Self-discovery
- Sense of “otherness” or “weirdness”
- Popularity in multiple media
- Surge in YA titles—great for reluctant readers!!

## History of Science Fiction

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century

- Mary Shelley, Mother of Science Fiction
  - Frankenstein (1818)
- Other 19<sup>th</sup> Century Pioneers—not known as Science Fiction writers at the time
  - Jules Verne
  - H.G. Wells
- Industrial Revolution, Darwin and breakthroughs in transportation, weaponry and factory productions



## History of Science Fiction

- Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Popular magazines – Amazing Stories, Astounding Science Fiction
  - Hugo Gernsback—Amazing Stories (1926)



## History of Science Fiction

- Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Edgar Rice Burroughs
    - A Princess of Mars (1912)
  - Comic Strips and movie serializations
    - Buck Rogers (1929)
    - Flash Gordon (1934)



## History of Science Fiction

- Late 1930s and 1940s
  - John W. Campbell and Astounding Science Fiction
  - “Golden Age” of Science Fiction
- Isaac Asimov, Frederick Pohl, Robert A. Heinlein, Arthur C. Clarke, Ray Bradbury and Stanislaw Lem



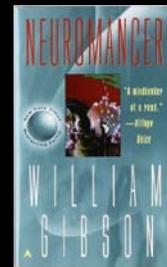
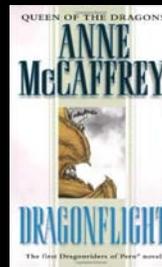
## History of Science Fiction

- 1950s and 1960s
  - Space exploration and aliens
  - Monster stories appeared regularly in magazines
  - Shift from hard sciences to soft sciences



## History of Science Fiction

- 1970s—Female authors
- 1980s—Cyberpunk
- 1990s—Environmental issues, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence and bioengineering
- 2000s—Steampunk



## Science Fiction Types

Hard Science Fiction

Soft Science Fiction

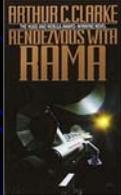
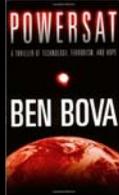
## Hard Science Fiction

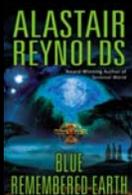



- Based on real science or engineering
- Explores questions about how technologies affect society and the consequences of scientific advances
- Ideas more than actions

## Hard Science Fiction

- Arthur C. Clarke—Rendezvous with Rama
- Ben Bova—Grand Tour of the Universe Series
- Kim Stanley Robinson—Antarctica, Mars trilogy
- Greg Benford—Timescape, Galactic Center series
- Larry Niven—Ringworld series
- Greg Egan—Orthogonal series
- Alastair Reynolds—Poseidon's Children saga



## Soft Science Fiction

- Science fiction based on the “soft” sciences
- Can be religious or cultural
- Character driven storyline
- Arthur C. Clarke—The Hammer of God
- Robert Heinlein—Stranger in a Strange Land, The Moon is a Harsh Mistress
- Frank Herbert—Dune
- Lois Lowry—The Giver
- Mary Doria Russell—The Sparrow, Children of God

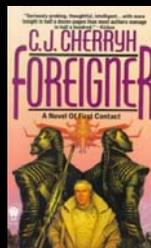


## Science Fiction Categories

- Aliens
- Alternate History and Parallel Realities
- Cyberpunk
- Humorous Science Fiction
- Military Science Fiction
- Psychic Abilities
- Robots, Androids, Cyborgs, and Killer Computers
- Biological & Genetic Engineering
- Space Opera
- Steampunk
- Time Travel
- Utopias, Dystopias and Armageddon

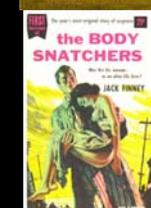
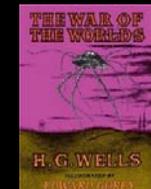
## Aliens-First Contact

- Humanity's first meeting with an alien race
- Does not have to take place on Earth
- Walter Tevis—The Man who Fell to Earth
- Stanislaw Lem—Solaris
- Carl Sagan—Contact
- C.J. Cherryh—Foreigner series



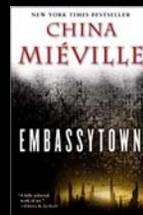
## Aliens – Alien Invasion

- Does not have to take place on Earth
- Invasion doesn't have to be violent
- Humanity can also be the invaders.
- H.G. Wells—War of the Worlds
- Jack Finney—The Body Snatchers, made into Invasion of the Body Snatchers
- Ray Bradbury – The Martian Chronicles
- Arthur C. Clarke—Childhood's End
- Orson Scott Card—Ender's Game
- Rick Yancey -- The 5<sup>th</sup> wave



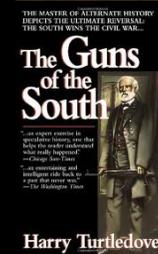
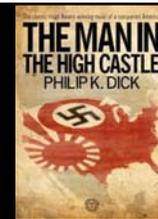
## Aliens & Alien Worlds

- Ursula K. Le Guin – The Left Hand of Darkness
- China Miéville -- Embassytown
- Adrian Tchaikovsky – Children of Time



## Alternate History

- What-if situations that change history
- Changes brought about by outside forces
- Philip K. Dick—The Man in the High Castle
- Harry Turtledove—Guns of the South, World War series
- Harry Harrison—Eden series, Stars and Stripes Forever
- Ben H. Winters—Underground Airlines

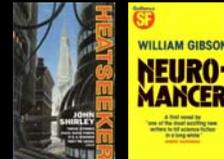


## Parallel Worlds

- Characters explore alternate realities
- Can travel between our world and the alternate
- Charles Stross—Merchant Princes series, Empire Games
- Taylor Anderson—Destroyermen series
- Kay Kenyon—Entire and the Rose series
- Iain M. Banks—Transition
- Claudia Gray—Firebird series



## Cyberpunk



- Also known as Techno Science Fiction
- Effects of technology on society
- Highlights dark side of technology
- Key component is computer expertise
- Setting—online, in virtual reality or cyberspace

## Cyberpunk

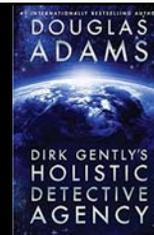


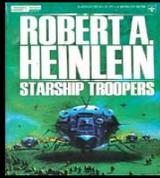
- William Gibson—Neuromancer
- Vernor Vinge—Rainbows End
- Bruce Sterling
- Pat Cadigan—Mindplayers
- Rudy Rucker—Hylozoic, Ware Series
- Neal Stephenson—Snow Crash
- Ernest Cline – Ready Player One
- Richard K. Morgan – Altered Carbon
- Dan Wells—Blue Screen
- Chuck Wendig—Zer0es
- James Dashner—Mortality Doctrine series



## Humorous Sci Fi

- Douglas Adams—HitchHiker's Guide Trilogy; Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency
- Larry Niven—Draco Tavern series
- Harry Harrison—Stainless Steel Rat; Bill the Galactic Hero
- Spider Robinson—Callahan Series
- A. Lee Martinez
- Alan Dean Foster





## Military Science Fiction Saving the Galaxy from Aliens One Planet at a Time

- Setting in a future time or location, outer space or other planets
- May fight against aliens, computers, other humans
- Covers a variety of military themes
- Good usually prevails in the end
- Crossover with space opera genre



## Military Science Fiction

- Robert Heinlein—Starship Troopers
- Joe Haldeman—The Forever War
- David Drake—Hammer's Slammer, RCN series
- David Weber—Honor Harrington Series
- Orson Scott Card—Ender saga
- John Ringo—Legacy of the Aldenata series
- Tanya Huff—Valor Confederation series, Peacekeepers series
- John Scalzi—Old Man's War series



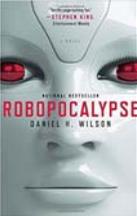
## Robots, Androids, Cyborgs and Killer Computers



- Robots are mechanical beings that carry out complex tasks.
- Androids are made to act and look like humans.
- Cyborgs are humans that have had body parts replaced with some sort of mechanical components.
- Computers are generally not human-shaped, not mobile, have pesky habit of trying to take over humanity.

## Robots, Androids, Cyborgs and Killer Computers

- Isaac Asimov—Robot Series, I Robot
- Philip K. Dick—Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
- Frederick Pohl—Man Plus
- Arthur C. Clarke—2001: A Space Odyssey
- Daniel H. Wilson—Robopocalypse, Robogenesis
- Debra Driza—Mila 2.0 series
- Claudia Gray—Defy the Stars


## Psychic Abilities

- ESP, paranormal abilities, psionics
- Telepathy, telekinesis, teleportation, precognition, clairvoyance, etc.
- A.E. van Vogt—Slan
- Alfred Bester—Demolished Man
- Madeleine L'Engle—A Wind in the Door
- Stephen King—Firestarter
- Dan Simmons—The Hollow Man
- Anne McCaffrey—Pegasus series, Tower and the Hive series
- Connie Willis—Crosstalk



## Biological and Genetic Engineering

- Playing God
- Cloning
- Plagues
- H.G. Wells—Island of Dr. Moreau
- Robert A. Heinlein—Friday
- Michael Crichton—Andromeda Strain, Jurassic Park
- Dan Wells—Extreme Makeover
- Greg Bear—Darwin's Radio, Darwin's Children

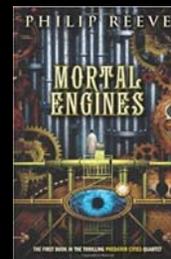


## Steampunk

- Science Fiction set in the time of the steam engine
- Futuristic technology in the past
- Focused on Technology
- Typically set in Victorian Times
- Can also be set in American West or post-apocalyptic future
- Fantastical monsters
- Outrageous inventions
- Retro-futuristic

## Steampunk Authors

- K.W. Jeter—Morlock Night, Infernal Devices
- Paul D. Filippo—The Steampunk Trilogy
- Cherie Priest—Clockwork Century Universe
- George Mann—Newbury and Hobbes Investigations
- Alan Moore—The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen
- Philip Reeve—Mortal Engines series
- Scott Westerfeld—Leviathan Trilogy





## Space Opera



- Adventures in space on a galactic scale
- Vast empires
- Massive space battles
- Lots of action and intrigue
- Good overcomes evil—eventually
- Unlikely friendships arise
- Dash of love interest

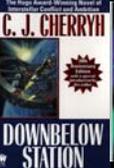





## Space Opera



- Lois McMaster Bujold—Vorkosigan series
- C.J. Cherryh—Company Wars Series
- Frank Herbert, Brian Herbert —Dune series
- Kevin J. Anderson—Saga of Seven Suns
- James S. A. Corey—Expanse series
- Garth Nix—A Confusion of Princes
- Rhoda Belleza—Empress of a Thousand Skies






## Time Travel

### Fictional Versions of Time Travel

- Single, fixed history
- History is flexible
- Alternate timelines



### Time Travel Themes

- Time Slip
- Time Loop
- Time Paradox



## Time Travel

- Time Travel
  - H.G. Wells—The Time Machine
  - Connie Willis—Doomsday Book, To Say Nothing of the Dog, Blackout, All Clear
  - Madeleine L'Engle—A Wrinkle in Time
  - Kage Baker—Company series
  - Michael Crichton—Timeline
  - Richard Matheson—Bid Time Return
  - Eric Flint's 1632 Universe (Ring of Fire)
  - Stephen King—11/22/63
  - Elan Mastai—All Our Wrongs Today
  - Doctor Who



## Utopian or Dystopian Worlds

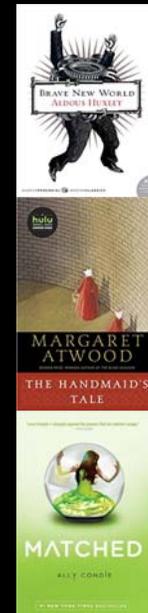
The future is perfect—or bleak—depending on your views.

- Utopia—Perfect world/society
- Dystopia—just the opposite



## Utopian or Dystopian Worlds

- Ray Bradbury—Fahrenheit 451
- Anthony Burgess—A Clockwork Orange
- Aldous Huxley—Brave New World
- George Orwell—1984
- Margaret Atwood—The Handmaid's Tale
- Lois Lowry—The Giver
- Suzanne Collins—The Hunger Games trilogy
- Veronica Roth—Divergent trilogy
- James Dashner—The Maze Runner
- Ally Condie – Matched Trilogy
- Scott Westerfield – Uglies



## Apocalyptic or Post-Apocalyptic

- The end of the world and what happens afterwards
- Mary Shelley—The Last Man
- Nevil Shute—On The Beach
- Walter M. Miller—A Canticle for Liebowitz
- Justin Cronin—Passage trilogy
- Richard Matheson—I Am Legend
- Neal Stephenson—Seveneves
- William R. Forstchen—John Matheson series



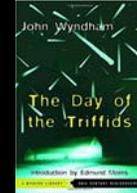
## Expanded Universes

- Star Trek
- Star Wars
- Doctor Who
- Halo
- Mass Effect



## Genreblending—SF Horror

- Mary Shelley—Frankenstein
- John Wyndham—The Day of the Triffids
- Jack Finney—Body Snatchers
- Greg Bear—Hull Zero Three
- Daryl Gregory—Pandemonium
- Scott Sigler—Infected
- Jeffrey Thomas—Punktown novels



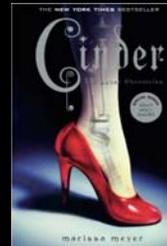
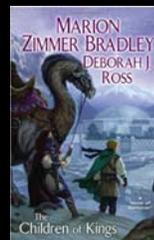
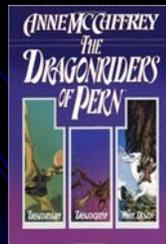
## SF Mysteries and Thrillers

- Isaac Asimov—The Caves of Steel
- Alfred Bester—The Stars My Destination, The Demolished Man
- A. Lee Martinez—The Automatic Detective
- Kristine Kathryn Rusch—Retrieval Artist series
- Ben H. Winters—The Last Policeman trilogy
- Gene Wolfe—A Borrowed Man
- Robert Kroese—The Big Sheep
- Blake Crouch—Dark Matter



## Science Fantasy

- Blend of science fiction and fantasy
  - Edgar Rice Burroughs—Barsoom series
  - Anne McCaffrey—Dragonriders of Pern
  - Marion Zimmer Bradley—Darkover series
  - Robert Silverberg—Majipoor series
  - Marissa Meyer—Lunar Chronicles



## SF and the Movies

- Logan's Run (1976)
- Somewhere in Time (1980)
- Starship Troopers (1997)
- The Postman (1997)
- Bicentennial Man (1999)
- I Am Legend (2007)
  - The Last Man on Earth (1964)
  - The Omega Man (1971)
- The Martian (2015)



## The Movies of Philip K. Dick

- Blade Runner
- Total Recall
- Adjustment Bureau
- Minority Report
- Imposter
- Paycheck
- Man in the High Castle (TV)



## Online Resources



- [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



- [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)



- <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/science-fiction/>



- [www.locusmag.com](http://www.locusmag.com)



- <http://www.worldswithoutend.com/>

## More Online Resources

- Science Fiction Encyclopedia
  - <http://www.sf-encyclopedia.com/>
- Tips for Finding Good Science Fiction Books
  - <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/features/6-tips-finding-good-science-fiction-book/>

## Awards for SF

- Hugo Awards – <http://www.thehuغوawards.org/hugo-history/>
- Nebula Awards -- <http://www.sfga.org/nebula-awards/>
- British Science Fiction Awards -- <http://www.bsfa.co.uk/bsfa-awards/>
- Arthur C. Clarke Award-- <http://www.clarkeaward.com/>
- Philip K. Dick Award--<http://www.philipkdickaward.org/>

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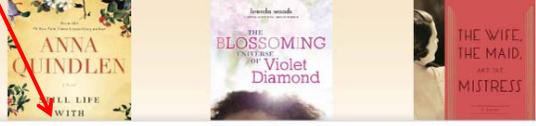
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**Fiction**

**Recommended Reads Lists**  
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- Family »
- Fantasy and Science Fiction »
- Graphic Novels and Manga »
- Historical Fiction »
- Horror »

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**Fantasy and Science Fiction**

Aliens and Outer Space	Dystopias
Everyday Paranormal	Fantastical Lands
Fantasy Must-Reads	Fantasy with Humor
Science Fiction Must-Reads	Steampunk
Traditional Tales Retold	Urban Fantasy
Witches and Wizards	

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fiction is found in books, art, television, films, games, theatre, and other media. In organizational or marketing contexts, science fiction can be synonymous with the broader definition of [speculative fiction](#), encompassing creative works incorporating imaginative elements not found in contemporary reality; this includes [fantasy](#), [horror](#) and related genres.

Although the two genres are often co [...more](#)

NEW RELEASES TAGGED "SCIENCE FICTION"



**RELATED GENRES**

Aliens	Near Future
Alternate History	Planetary Romance
Alternate Universe	Robots
Apocalyptic	Space Opera
Cyberpunk	Space Opera
Dying Earth	Steampunk
Dystopia	Sword and Planet
Fiction	Time Travel
Hard Science Fiction	Utopia
Military Science Fiction	Utopia

## Looking for Teen Titles?

- <http://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com>
- <http://voyamagazine.com/topics/voyabooklists>
- <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten>
- YALSA Book Finder: <http://booklists.yalsa.net>
- <http://io9.gizmodo.com/5384382/where-to-start-with-young-adult-science-fiction>
- <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2015/08/31/diversity-ya-diverse-science-fiction-fantasy>

## KDLA Resources

- ✓ Buker, Derek M. *The science fiction and fantasy readers' advisory : the librarian's guide to cyborgs, aliens and sorcerers*. Chicago : American Library Association, 2002.
- ✓ Drout, Michael D. C. *From here to infinity : an exploration of science fiction literature*. Prince Frederick, MD : Recorded Books, ©2006.
- ✓ Orr, Cynthia and Diana Tixier Herald. *Genreflecting : a guide to popular reading interests*. Santa Barbara, California : Libraries Unlimited, 2013.

## KDLA Kits

### Text Express Youth Kits

- Ready Player One / Ernest Cline
- Ender's Game / Orson Scott Card
- Divergent / Veronica Roth
- The City of Ember / Jeanne DuPrau
- A Wrinkle in Time / Madeleine L'Engle
- Leviathan / Scott Westerfeld
- Hunger Games & Catching Fire / Suzanne Collins
- Matched / Ally Condie
- The Adoration of Jenna Fox / Mary Pearson
- The Maze Runner / James Dashner

And many more!!!

## KDLA Kits

### Large Print Book Kits

- Fahrenheit 451 / Ray Bradbury

### Regular Print Book Kits

- 1984 / George Orwell
- Brave New World / Aldous Huxley
- I Am Legend / Richard Matheson
- The Sparrow / Mary Doria Russell

For more information about KDLA Book Discussion Kits:

<http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/programs/Pages/BookKits.aspx>

## Save the Date!

## Flight into Fantasy

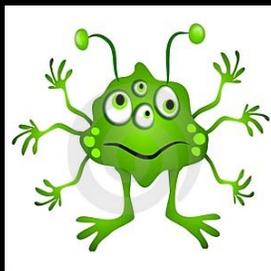
A Readers' Advisory for Fantasy Fiction

May 23, 2017

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<http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/ContinuingEducationCalendar.aspx>

# Questions or Comments?



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