



THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE FICTION AS A LITERARY GENRE

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Abstract: *Science fiction stands as one of the most dynamic and enduring literary genres, exploring futuristic worlds, advanced technologies, space exploration, time travel, and the consequences of scientific innovations. It offers readers a lens through which to examine societal structures, human nature, and the future, all while drawing on both imagination and scientific possibility. Though the roots of science fiction stretch back centuries, it solidified its place in modern literature during the 19th and 20th centuries.*

Keywords: *Science fiction, genre, tip, type, novel, characteristics, century.*

Introduction: Science fiction is a subgenre of speculative fiction that examines inventive, frequently futuristic ideas that draw from developments in science and technology. It asks "What if?" while fusing aspects of science, fantasy, and human curiosity to produce stories that stretch the bounds of what is feasible. Space exploration, time travel, artificial intelligence, extraterrestrial life, and dystopian or utopian societies—often situated in the far future or in alternate realities—are just a few of the subjects explored by this genre. Science fiction provides a forum for delving into difficult issues pertaining to morality, humanity, and the effects of technology on society. Science fiction provides amusement as well as incisive criticism on the state of humanity and our planet by extending the boundaries of science to explore uncharted territory. A fresh approach to the history and shape of science fiction In *Science Fiction and the Mass Cultural Genre System*, John Rieder asks literary scholars to consider what shape literary history takes when based on a historical, rather than formalist, genre theory. Rieder starts from the premise that science fiction and the other genres usually associated with so-called genre fiction comprise a system of genres entirely distinct from the pre-existing classical and academic genre system that includes the epic, tragedy, comedy, satire, romance, the lyric, and so on.

The History of Science Fiction Literature and influences.

Science fiction is a genre of speculative fiction that contains imagined elements that do not exist in the real world. Science fiction spans a wide range of themes that often explore time travel, space travel are set in the future, and deal with the consequences of technological and scientific advances. Science Fiction As Fiction (Estrangement) the importance of science fiction in our time is on the increase. First, there are strong indications that its popularity in the leading industrial nations (USA, USSR, UK, Japan) has risen sharply over the last 100 years, regardless of local and short-range fluctuations. The history of science



fiction begins in the second century. The first science fiction story that investigated parallel universes and extraterrestrial lifeforms is believed to have been authored by the Syrian satirist Lucian and published as *A True Story*. The Age of Enlightenment saw the development of modern science, and authors responded to these developments with a surge of science fiction novels such as Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis* (1627), Johannes Kepler's *Somnium* (1634), and Cyrano de Bergerac's *Comical History of the States and Empires of the Moon* (1657). Science fiction has influenced culture, society, technology, and even scientific study in a significant and wide-ranging way. Here are a few major domains where science fiction has had a noteworthy influence: Science fiction has influenced contemporary film and television, spawning some of the most recognizable and significant productions in the history of entertainment, including *Doctor Who*, *Blade Runner*, *Star Wars*, and *Star Trek*. Through introducing audiences to futuristic concepts and places, these works have influenced linguistic, cultural, and fashion trends. Science fiction has pushed limits and influenced new kinds of narrative. Writers such as Neal Stephenson and N.K. Jemisin, as well as classics like Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke, have all contributed to this genre. As the genre develops, it tackles more social and political topics like environmentalism, gender, and race. Science fiction includes several themes such as technology, innovation, space exploration, dystopian and utopian societies, time travel, alien encounters and so on. The Science fiction is also divided into two subgenres. These are: *Hard Science Fiction* and *Soft Science Fiction*. Focuses on accuracy and realism, especially concerning scientific and technical details in *Hard Science Fiction*. Concentrates more on human elements and societal issues than scientific accuracy in *Soft Science Fiction*.

1. Fantasy fiction: Science fiction with magical aspects that draws from mythology and folklore.

2. Supernatural fiction: Science fiction tales include witchcraft, spiritualism, and psychic talents, as well as knowledge or abilities that are kept hidden.

3. Utopian fiction: Science fiction tales that depict society that the writers believe to be flawless and ideal. A lot of utopian fiction is satirical.

4. Dystopian literature: Science fiction tales depicting societies that the writers believe to be troublesome due to issues like oppression, poverty, or governmental regulations.

5. Space opera: A parody of "soap opera," space operas are science fiction narratives with a focus on romance, adventure, and conflict that take place in space.

6. Space westerns: Science fiction tales that combine western and science fiction motifs.

7. Cyberpunk: Science fiction tales that contrast cutting-edge technology with a backward, dysfunctional society.

8. Steampunk: Science fiction stories combining steam-powered machines and technology.



What Are the Common Characteristics of Science Fiction?

It's common to refer to science fiction as "literature of ideas." Many different futuristic ideas can be found in science fiction books. Anything is possible with them because they are so creative, especially in soft science fiction books. Space, time travel, aliens, or space aliens who travel through time can all be found in science fiction books. The classic elements of a science fiction novel include:

- Time travel
- The ability to teleport
- Telepathy, telekinesis, and mind control
- Mutants, aliens, and extraterrestrial life
- Space exploration and travel
- Combat on other planets
- Parallel universes
- Fictional worlds
- Alternative histories
- Speculative technology
- Superintelligent computers and robots

Classic Science Fiction Novels to Know and Read

Familiarize yourself with these classic works of science fiction that inspired novelists and screenwriters in many different genres. Many have been turned into movies and television shows:

1. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne (1870): features underwater exploration and a technologically advanced submarine—two things that were primitive at the time the novel was written.
2. *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells (1898): tells the story of Martians invading Earth and includes themes of space, science, and astronomy.
3. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (1932): set in a futuristic dystopian world with many scientific developments where people are genetically modified.
4. *Who Goes There?* by John W. Campbell (1938): tells the story of an alien creature that's a shape-shifter and has the gift of telepathy.
5. *Foundation* by Isaac Asimov (1942): follows a galactic civilization after their empire collapses.
6. *1984* by George Orwell (1949): set in a dystopian version of the year 1984 where the world has succumbed to extreme levels of government interference in daily lives.
7. *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (1953): set in a futuristic dystopian society where books are banned and will be burned if found.
8. *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein (1961): tells the story of a human who was born on Mars and raised by Martians who comes to live on Earth.



9. *The Man in the High Castle* by Philip K. Dick (1962): set 15 years after the end of World War II, offers an alternate history of what could happen if the Axis Powers had defeated the Allied Powers.

10. *Dune* by Frank Herbert (1965): set in an interstellar society in the distant future.

11. *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke (1968): tells the story of ancient aliens who travel the galaxy and help develop intelligent life forms in other worlds.

12. *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (1985): tells the story of the women who lose their rights after a totalitarian state overthrows the U.S. government. Watch Atwood discuss how she arrived at her main character's point of view in her MasterClass.

4 Tips for Science Fiction Writers

1. Draw inspiration for your story from real life. Take an idea from current society and move it a little further down the road. Even if human beings are short-term thinkers, fiction can anticipate and extrapolate into multiple versions of the future.

2. Do some research. It may seem paradoxical, but research will strengthen your project, no matter how far you end up straying from historical facts. Conducting research too early in the drafting process can sidetrack or slow down the plot, but it's critical to keep your reader immersed in and believing the world you've created. Getting the details wrong can throw off their belief in your story.

3. Create a set of rules for the world of your novel—and stick to them. Sci-fi is not automatically interesting; it must be made compelling, plausible, and accurate within its own set of rules. Rules add weight to the material or change the stakes for your characters and/or readers. Once you establish a rule, if you break it, you break the illusion of a believable and compelling world.

4. Keep it grounded in reality. Any technological or fantastical element in sci-fi should have roots in what our current species can already do or is on the road to being able to do.

CONCLUSION: Science fiction's growth as a literary genre is a reflection of society concerns, technological advancement, and human curiosity. Science fiction has evolved from its origins in early speculative storytelling to become a potent medium for examining the possibilities and drawbacks of scientific advancement in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is a window into modern fears, a field for creative play, and a forum for analysis and speculation about humankind's future. Science fiction is a genre that is always changing as technology advances, providing fresh perspectives on the state of humanity and our place in the cosmos. Its ability to entertain as well as elicit serious thought about the potential realities that lie ahead accounts for its enduring appeal.

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