

Science Fiction

Quotations "The great mystery is why robots come off so well in science-fiction films when the human characters are often so astoundingly wooden."

- John Podhoretz

"Mining asteroids is a well-oiled trope of science-fiction. But someday, actually doing it will make economic sense. Many of the essential metals of our society, such as platinum, copper and zinc, are rapidly becoming scarce. The asteroids might offer a replacement supply, providing the materials our descendants will need for a high quality life."

- Seth Shostak

Questions

- How does science fiction differ from fantasy or hypothetical fiction? What are the similarities and differences? Are there examples of cross-over?
- Is science fiction regarded as "real" or "serious" literature? What arguments could you compile to show that science fiction is a poor literary form? Can Jules Verne and Kurt Vonnegut compare with Oscar Wilde and Charles Dickens; who are the greatest science fiction writers?
- The genre is often produced in short novels or short stories, could there be a science fiction poem? What themes would it have?
- Common themes in science fiction often examines the concept of non-linear time, why is the genre obsessed with this? What other scientific concept does the genre tackle often and how has it shaped our understanding of it?
- More often than not, science fiction writers are male, why do think this is?
- If you read Star Wars, Star Trek or other popular shows, would it be more entertainment or literature?
- Why do most stories contain ideas of the central character going on either a "journey", "travel", "path", "trip" or "voyage". Why is this pivotal?

Presentation Create a presentation on your favourite science fiction writer and the themes/issues they often speak of. How are those ideas relevant to today?