



Science Fiction Genre Study



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“The last man on earth sat in a room. There was a knock on the door.” --Anonymous

Science Fiction Writers to Try, If you Enjoy . . .

Compiled by Anjanette Jones and Dina Wyatt with help from the following sources:

Fichtelberg, Susan. *Encountering Enchantment: A Guide to Speculative Fiction for Teens*.
Herald, Diana Tixier. *Genreflecting: A Guide to Reading Interests in Genre Fiction*. 5th ed.
Herald, Diana Tixier. *Teen Genreflecting*.
Kunzel, Bonnie. *First Contact: A Reader's Selection of Science Fiction and Fantasy*.
Saricks, Joyce G. *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction*.

<http://www.scifan.com>

Adventure

Orson Scott Card (*Ender's Game*)
Peter David (*Star Trek*, etc.)
Barbara Hambly (*Star Trek*, etc.)
Frank Herbert (*Dune*)

Fantasy

Anne McCaffrey (*Dragonriders of Pern series*)
Marion Zimmer Bradley

Historical

Connie Willis (*Doomsday Book*)

Horror

Kate Wilhelm (*The Dark Door*)

Humor

Douglas Adams (*Hitchhiker series*)
Piers Anthony
Harry Harrison

Inspirational

C.S. Lewis

Notes--

Literary

Roger Zelazny (*The Dream Master*)
William Gibson (*Neuromancer*)

Mystery

Isaac Asimov (*Robot books*)

Psychological

Stanislaw Lem

Romance

Lois McMaster Bujold (*Shards of Honor*)
Anne McCaffrey (*Dragonriders of Pern series*)
Catherine Asaro

Thriller

Gregory Benford
Harry Harrison (*The Turing Option*)
Neal Stephenson (*Snow Crash*)

Women's Lives

Octavia Butler
Pamela Sargent (*The Shore of Women*)

From *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction*, by Joyce G. Saricks. P. 278, fig. 12.4. Chicago: American Library Association, 2001.

Some Suggested Science Fiction Titles by Subgenre

Hard Science

Scientific extrapolation—not necessarily predictions of what will come with scientific experimentation and increased knowledge, but imaginative projections of possibility, if not probability.

Asimov, Isaac. *The Gods Themselves*
Baxter, Stephen. *Moonseed*
Bear, Greg. *Moving Mars*
Bujold, Lois McMaster. *Falling Free*
Clarke, Arthur C. *The Fountains of Paradise, Rendezvous with Rama*
Crichton, Michael. *Jurassic Park*
Goonan, Kathleen Ann. *The Bones of Time*
Hogan, James P. *Bug Park*
Kress, Nancy. *Probability Moon*
McAuley, Paul J. *Fairyland*
Pohl, Frederick. *Gateway*
Robinson, Kim Stanley. *Red Mars*.
Sagan, Carl. *Contact*
Simak, Clifford D. *Way Station*
Wells. H. G. *The War of the Worlds*

Teen

Dickinson, Peter. *Eva*.
Skurzynski, Gloria. *Virtual War*
Sleator, William. *Singularity, Strange Attractors*

Short Stories

Asimov, Isaac. *Gold: The Final Science Fiction Collection. I, Robot*
Bradbury, Ray. *The Martian Chronicles*.
Clarke, Arthur C. *The Collected Stories of Arthur C. Clarke*.
Vinge, Vernor. *The Collected Stories of Vernor Vinge*.
Willis, Connie. *Fire Watch*.

Dogs of War. David Drake, ed.
Far Horizons: All New Tales from the Greatest Worlds of Science Fiction. Robert Silverberg, ed.
Sci-fi Private Eye, Charles G. Waugh, ed.
The 13 Crimes of Science Fiction. Isaac Asimov et al., eds.
Time Travelers: A Science Fiction Quartet. Robert Silverberg, ed.
War of the Worlds: Global Dispatches. Kevin J. Anderson, ed.
War with the Robots: 28 of the Best Short Stories by the Greatest Names in 20th Century Science Fiction. Isaac Asimov, ed.
The Year's Best Science Fiction. David G. Hartwell, ed.

Teen

2041: Twelve Stories about the Future by Top Science Fiction Writers. Jane Yolen, ed.

Humor/Parody

Comedy and parody, including “in jokes,” are persistent themes throughout science fiction.

Asprin, Robert. *Phule’s Company (Phule Series)*
Brust, Steven. *Cowboy Feng’s Space Bar and Grille*
DeChancie, John. *Dr. Dimension*
Dickson, Gordon R. *Spacepaw*
Farmer, Philip Jose. *Venus on the Half-Shell*
Foster, Alan Dean. *Codgerspace, Quozl*
Harrison, Harry. *Bill, the Galactic Hero*
Stainless Steel Rat Is Born
Rankin, Robert. *The Hollow Chocolate Bunnies of the Apocalypse*
Robinson, Spider. *Callahan’s Crosstime Saloon*
Sheckley, Robert. *Immortality, Inc.*
Willis, Connie. *Bellwether*
Zelazny, Roger. *Doorways in the Sand*

Teen

Adams, Douglas. *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*
Pinkwater, Daniel. *Borgel*

Ecology

About humanity and its natural environment: the manipulation and control of Earth’s environment; the corruption of the environment by humans and the destruction of some or all forms of life on Earth; and alien environments with distinctive characteristics, flora, and fauna.

Anthony, Piers. *Race Against Time*
Barnes, John. *Mother of Storms*
Bear, Greg. *Blood Music, Darwin’s Radio*
Brin, David. *Startide Rising*
Brunner, John. *Stand on Zanzibar*
Friedman, C. S. *In Conquest Born*
Herbert, Frank. *Dune, The White Plague*
Leiber, Fritz. *The Wanderer*
Niven, Larry, and Jerry Pournelle. *The Mote in God’s Eye*
Robinson, Kim Stanley. *Antarctica, Forty Signs of Rain*
Simmons, Dan. *Hyperion*
Wilhelm, Kate. *Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang*

Teen

Lasky, Kathryn. *Star Split*
McNaughton, Janet. *The Secret Under My Skin*
Stevermer, Caroline. *River Rats*

Alternate Reality

Alternate worlds exist on some dimension parallel to our own. Books in this subgenre may also consider the possibility of alternate history—if one little thing in history was changed, how would it affect the world as we know it?

Baxter, Stephen. *Voyage*
Dick, Philip K. *The Man in the High Castle*
Flint, Eric. *Oblique Approach*
Gibson, William, and Bruce Sterling. *The Difference Engine*
Gould, Steven. *Wildside*
Harrison, Harry. *West of Eden*
Heinlein, Robert A. *Farnham's Freehold*
Keyes, J. Gregory. *Newton's Cannon*
Robinson, Kim Stanley. *The Years of Rice and Salt*
Sawyer, Robert J. *Hominids (Neanderthal Parallax)*
Steele, Allen M. *Tranquility Alternative*
Stirling, S.M. *Under the Yoke*
Turtledove, Harry. *Guns of the South*
American Empire—The Center Cannot Hold,
Agent of Byzantium.

Teen

Askounis, Christina. *The Dream of the Stone*
Card, Orson Scott. *Seventh Son (Alvin Maker series)*
Charnas, Suzy McKee. *The Kingdom of Kevin Malone*
L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*

Cyberpunk

A bleak future where tentacles of technology invade almost everything

Anderson, M.T. *Feed*
Cadigan, Pat. *Fools*
Effinger, George Alec. *When Gravity Fails*
Friedman, C.S. *This Alien Shore*
Gibson, William. *Count Zero (Neuromancer Trilogy),*
Virtual Light
Mason, Lisa. *Arachne*
Noon, Jeff. *Vurt*
Saberhagen, Fred. *Octagon*
Sagan, Nick. *Idlewild*
Sawyer, Robert J. *The Terminal Experiment*
Stephenson, Neal. *Snow Crash*
Sterling, Bruce. *Islands in the Net*
Williams, Tad. *The City of Golden Shadow*
(Otherland)

Teen

Hughes, Monica. *Invitation to the Game*

Virtual Reality

A cross between computers and alternate realities where people cope with situations within a computer-created world.

Asaro, Catherine. *The Veiled Web*

Anderson, Poul. *Genesis*

Bova, Ben. *Death Dream*

Chalker, Jack L. *The Cybernetic Walrus*

Egan, Greg. *Permutation City,
Diaspora*

Gibson, William. *Idoru*

Haldeman, Joe. *Old Twentieth*

Hogan, James P. *Bug Park*

McCarthy, Wil. *Murder in the Solid State*

Sagan, Nick. *Idlewild*

Stephenson, Neal. *The Diamond Age*

Williams, Tad. *The City of Golden Shadow
(Otherland)*

Williams, Walter Jon. *Aristoi*

Teen

Applegate, K.A. *Mother May I (Remnants series)*

Odom, Mel. *High Wire (Tom Clancy's Net Force)*

Skurzynski, Gloria. *The Virtual War (The Virtual War
Chronologs)*

Vande Velde, Vivian. *User Unfriendly*

Time Travel

Traveling through time to take characters to exotic settings or untimely conflict, using some scientific or pseudoscientific ploy to explain the mechanics of time travel.

Anderson, Poul. *Genesis,
There Will Be Time*

Asimov, Isaac. *The End of Eternity*

Baxter, Stephen. *Ring,
The Time Ships*

Benford, Gregory. *Timescape.*

Bester, Alfred. *The Stars My Destination*

Bishop, Michael. *No Enemy but Time*

Boulle, Pierre. *Planet of the Apes*

Brunner, John. *The Tides of Time*

Dick, Philip K. *Counter-Clock World*

Dickson, Gordon R. *Time Storm*

Haldeman, Joe. *The Forever War*

Heinlein, Robert A. *Farnham's Freehold*

Leiber, Fritz. *The Big Time*

Norton, Andre. *Time Traders*

Powers, Tim. *The Anubis Gates*

Stirling, S. M. *Island in the Sea of Time*

Wells, H. G. *The Time Machine*

Willis, Connie. *The Doomsday Book
To Say Nothing of the Dog*

Zelazny, Roger. *A Dark Traveling*

Teen

Hautman, Pete. *Mr. Was*

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*

Levitin, Sonia. *The Cure*

Paulsen, Gary. *Transall Saga*

Price, Susan. *The Sterkarm Handshake*

Sleator, William. *Singularity,
Strange Attractors*

Post-Apocalypse

Survival after the almost total destruction of Earth as we know it—the nature of the disaster, its effect on the nature of man, and the shape of society thereafter.

Baxter, Stephen. *Manifold: Time*
Brin, David. *The Postman*
Card, Orson Scott. *The Folk of the Fringe*
Clarke, Arthur C. *Childhood's End*
Crowley, John. *Engine Summer*
Dick, Philip K. *Dr. Bloodmoney*
Dickson, Gordon R. *Wolf and Iron*
Frank, Pat. *Alas, Babylon*
Miller, Walter M., Jr. *A Canticle for Leibowitz*
Sheffield, Charles. *Aftermath*
Stewart, George. *Earth Abides*
Turner, George. *Drowning Towers*
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Cat's Cradle*
Wyndham, John. *The Chrysalids*,
The Day of the Triffids

Teen

Armstrong, Jennifer. *The Kindling (Fire-Us Trilogy)*
Christopher, John. *Empty World*
Hoffman, Alice. *Green Angel*
Kaye, Marilyn. *The Vanishing*
McIntyre, Vonda M. *Dreamsnake*
Murphy, Pat. *The City, Not Long After*
Nix, Garth. *Shade's Children*
O'Brien, Robert C. *Z for Zachariah*
Oppel, Kenneth. *Dead Water Zone*
Reeve, Philip. *Mortal Engines*
Stevermer, Caroline. *River Rats*
Ure, Jean. *Plague*
Weaver, Will. *Memory Boy*

Robots, Cyborgs, and Androids

The possibility of the thinking machine endowed with human qualities rebelling against its creator.

Asimov, Isaac. *Positronic Man*,
I, Robot.
Aspirin, Robert. *Phule Me Twice*
Baker, Kage. *In the Garden of Iden (The Company Series)*
Barnes, John. *Mother of Storms*
Dick, Philip K. *Blade Runner*,
Simulacra.
Dietz, William. *Steelheart*
Foster, Alan Dean. *Greenthieves*
Lee, Tanith. *The Silver Metal Lover*
McCaffrey, Anne. *The Ship Who Sang (Brainship)*
Pohl, Frederick. *Man Plus*
Ringo, John. *Von Neumann's War*
Saberhagen, Fred. *Berserker*
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*
Simak, Clifford D. *City*
Williamson, Jack. *The Humanoids*

Computers, Automation, and Artificial Intelligence

Will humans and computers live in cooperative harmony or in a master-slave relationship?

Anderson, Poul. *The Boat of a Million Years*

Barnes, John. *Armies of Memory*

Benford, Gregory. *In the Ocean of Night (Galactic Center)*

Brunner, John. *Shockwave Rider, A Maze of Stars*

Foster, Alan Dean. *Codgerspace*

Haldeman, Joe. *Old Twentieth*

Heinlein, Robert A. *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress*

Ouellette, Pierre. *The Deus Machine*

Stirling, S.M. *T2: Infiltrator* (Based on Terminator Movies)

Weber, David. *In Fury Born*

Religious/Messianic

Human needs and emotions somehow remain unsatisfied in the millennium of technology. A savior, messiah, or superman brings redemption and salvation. This subgenre considers science and faith, speculating about future religions.

Bear, Greg. *The Forge of God*

Blish, James. *A Case of Conscience*

Butler, Octavia E. *Parable of the Sower, Parable of the Talents*

Clarke, Arthur C. *Rendezvous with Rama*

Dick, Philip K. *The Divine Invasion*

Heinlein, Robert A. *Stranger in a Strange Land*

Herbert, Frank. *Dune (Dune Chronicles)*

Kleier, Glen. *The Last Day*

Lewis, C. S. *Out of the Silent Planet (Perelandra Trilogy)*

Miller, Walter M., Jr. *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

Morrow, James. *Towing Jehovah, Only Begotten Daughter*

Russell, Mary Doria. *The Sparrow*

Shinn, Sharon. *Wrapt in Crystal, Angelica*

Simmons, Dan. *Hyperion (Hyperion Series)*

Stewart, Ian. *Heaven*

Tepper, Sheri S. *Raising the Stones*

Vidal, Gore. *Kalki*

Vonnegut, Kurt. *The Sirens of Titan, Cat's Cradle*

Zelazny, Roger. *Lord of Light*

Dystopia/Utopia

While Utopia presents an ideal society, Dystopia portrays a horrid society, illustrating a pessimistic view of politics and society, as well as of science and technology.

Anderson, M.T. *Feed*

Asimov, Isaac. *Foundation (Foundation Trilogy)*

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*

Brin, David. *Glory Season*

Brunner, John. *Shockwave Rider*

Harrison, Harry. *Make Room! Make Room!*

Heinlein, Robert A. *Beyond this Horizon*

To Sail Beyond the Sunset

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World, Island*

Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Dispossessed*

Moon, Elizabeth. *The Speed of Dark*

Orwell, George. *1984*

Reed, Kit. *Thinner Than Thou*

Skinner, B. F. *Walden Two*

Teen

Bondoux, Anne-Laure. *The Destiny of Linus Hoppe*

Colfer, Eoin. *The Supernaturalist*

Davidson, Ellen Dee. *Stolen Voices*

Halam, Ann. *Siberia*

Levitin, Sonia. *The Cure*

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver.*

Gathering Blue.

Stahler, David. *Truesight*

Thompson, Julian. *Gypsyworld*

Westerfeld, Scott. *Uglies (The Uglies Trilogy)*

Militaristic

Portrays all varieties of military connection in the future or in space with less attention to sociological and political issues than in space opera. Themes vary from mercenaries and war to antimilitary and parody, but always with a heavy dose of adventure.

Bujold, Lois McMaster. *Dreamweaver's Dilemma (Vorkosigan)*

Card, Orson Scott. *Empire*

Dickson, Gordon R. *Dorsai (Dorsai series)*

Drake, David. *Hammer's Slammers*

Feintuch, David. *Midshipman's Hope (Nicholas Seafort)*

Forstchen, William. R. *Star Voyager Academy*

Haldeman, Joe. *The Forever War*

Harrison, Harry. *Bill, the Galactic Hero*

Heinlein, Robert A. *Starship Troopers*

McKinney, Jack. *Genesis (Robotech series)*

Moon, Elizabeth. *Hunting Party, Engaging the Enemy*

Niven, Larry. *Man-Kzin Wars (Man-Kzin Wars series)*

Pournelle, Jerry. *The Mercenary (CoDominion)*

Ringo, John. *Yellow Eyes*

Saberhagen, Fred. *Berserker (Berserker Series)*

Weber, David. *On Basilisk Station (Honor Harrington series)*

Teen

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game (Ender Wiggins Saga)*

Space Opera and Galactic Empires

Westerns in space. Action, adventure, intrigue, and romance set in galaxy-spanning empires. Views of communities and worlds of humans and aliens in a variety of political and sociological relationships.

Anderson, Kevin J. *Hidden Empire (The Saga of the Seven Suns)*

Asimov, Isaac. *Foundation (Foundation trilogy)*

Brin, David. *Sundiver (Uplift)*

Bujold, Lois McMaster. *Dreamweaver's Dilemma (Vorkosigan)*

Card, Orson Scott. *The Memory of Earth (Homecoming)*

Cherryh, C. J. *Heavy Time (Union-Alliance – The Company Wars),*

Cyteen (Union-Alliance – Unionside)

Heinlein, Robert A. *Starship Troopers, A Citizen of the Galaxy*

Moon, Elizabeth. *Hunting Party, Command Decision*

Niven, Larry, and Jerry Pournelle. *The Mote in God's Eye*

Sawyer, Robert J. *Starplex*

Simak, Clifford D. *Way Station*

Simmons, Dan. *Hyperion (Hyperion Cantos)*

Star Wars series. Various authors

Vinge, Vernor. *A Fire Upon the Deep*

Weber, David. *On Basilisk Station (Honor Harrington series)*

Teen

Crispin, C. A. *Starbridge (Starbridge series)*

Psionic/Paranormal Powers

The term *psionics* (psychic electronics) describes the powers of the mind, including precognition, telepathy, clairvoyance, telekinesis, and teleportation.

Asaro, Catherine. *Primary Inversion*

Bester, Alfred. *The Stars My Destination, The Demolished Man*

Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *Darkover Landfall (Darkover series)*

Delany, Samuel. *The Einstein Intersection*

Dickson, Gordon. *Dorsai!*

Foster, Alan Dean. *Mid-Flinx*

Gould, Steven C. *Jumper*

Herbert, Frank. *Dune*

King, Stephen. *Firestarter*

Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Lathe of Heaven*

McCaffrey, Anne. *Pegasus in Flight, Damia*

Resnick, Michael. *Soothsayer*

Van Vogt, A. E. *Slan*

Wilson, Robert Charles. *Gypsies*

Zelazny, Roger. *The Dream Master*

Teen

Clements, Andrew. *Things Not Seen*

Cormier, Robert. *Fade*

Lubar, David. *Hidden Talents*

Vinge, Joan D. *Psion*

Alien Beings

Alien beings and humankind's contact with them. Descriptions may be monstrous, humanoid, godlike, or even disembodied intelligence. Encounters may be with alien invaders of Earth or as the result of exploration of space.

Anderson, Poul. *Byworlder*
Asimov, Isaac. *The Gods Themselves*
Benford, Gregory. *Across the Sea of Suns*
Brin, David. *The Uplift War*
Cherryh, C. J. *Foreigner*
Haldeman, Joe. *The Forever War*
Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Left Hand of Darkness*
Leiber, Fritz. *The Wanderer*
Lem, Stanislaw. *Solaris*
McIntyre, Vonda. *Starfarers*
Moon, Elizabeth. *Remnant Population*
Niven, Larry, and Jerry Pournelle.
Ringworld
Tepper, Sheri S. *Grass*,
Raising the Stones
Wells, H. G. *The War of the Worlds*
White, James. *Double Contact*
Zahn, Timothy. *Conqueror's Pride*

Teen

Bell, Hilari. *A Matter of Profit*
Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*
Gilmore, Kate. *The Exchange Student*
Klause, Annette Curtis. *Alien Secrets*
Logue, Mary. *Dancing with an Alien*
Lowachee, Karin. *Warchild (The Warchild Trilogy)*
Service, Pamela F. *Under Alien Stars*
Slade, Arthur G. *Dust*
Sleator, William. *Interstellar Pig (Piggy Series)*

Space Travel

Spaceships, starships, interstellar travel, galactic empires.

Anderson, Poul. *Starfarers*
Brin, David. *Startide Rising*
Cherryh, C. J. *Downbelow Station*,
Tripoint
Clarke, Arthur C. *Rendezvous with Rama*,
2001: A Space Odyssey
Heinlein, Robert A. *Orphans of the Sky*,
A Citizen of the Galaxy
Pohl, Frederick. *Gateway*
Russo, Richard Paul. *Ship of Fools*
Sheffield, Charles. *Higher Education*,
The Ganymede Club
Star Trek series. Various authors
Verne, Jules. *From the Earth to the Moon*