



Fall 2022: Visionary Fiction

Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements
Introduction, Outro, and "Revolution Shuffle"

In your small groups, respond to any or as many of these discussion questions as you would like - or talk about the text in whatever way seems right to you!

Visionary fiction

Visionary fiction is "science fiction that has relevance toward building new, freer worlds Visionary fiction encompasses all of the fantastic, with the arc always bending towards justice. We believe this space is vital for any process of decolonization, because the decolonization of the imagination is the most dangerous and subversive form there is: for it is where all other forms of decolonization are born." - Walidah Imarisha

1. **Think broadly:** What does visionary fiction mean to you? What would a new, more just, decolonized world look like?
 - a. What makes an ideal community? What makes an ideal community member?
2. **Start small:** How might you imagine a new UWB/CC community?
 - a. What do you wish was being taught at UWB/CC to prepare students to build the community/worlds they want to live in?
3. **Your dreams:** What possible futures are you imagining right now?
 - a. When thinking about ideas of visionary fiction, what mental barriers stand in the way of your imagination? How might we imagine those barriers away?

Revolution Shuffle

If you read the short story, here are some optional questions to get you started:

1. What in this story felt visionary to you?
2. This story deals with a zombie apocalypse that starts in a similar way to the COVID-19 pandemic. What similarities do you notice in the government's and people's responses to our current situation? What differences?
3. The story ends with the characters on the brink of some kind of revolution. How do you imagine the story going on? Why do you think the ending is left open?
4. What might we take from this story to think through our own society's approach to race, pandemic, and war? How might we imagine things differently?

Other Visionary Fiction

If you enjoyed these readings from *Octavia's Brood* and would like to explore further examples of visionary fiction, here are eight works recommended by Walidah Imarisha.

1. *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler
2. *Fire on the Mountain* by Terry Bisson
3. *Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora* edited by Sheree Renée Thomas
4. *M Archive: After the End of the World* by Alexis Pauline Gumbs
5. *Long Hidden: Speculative Fiction From the Margins of History* edited by Rose Fox and Daniel José Older
6. *Woman on the Edge of Time* by Marge Piercy
7. *Sorry to Bother You*, 2018
8. *Born in Flames*, 1983

Visionary Fiction Brainstorming Prompts

If you'd like to try brainstorming ideas for writing some visionary fiction of your own, here are some prompts you can use to get started:

- What in your community could you reimagine or add your vision to?
- Who are the characters at the center of your community/story? What are their relationships to one another?
- What setting does your community exist in (place, time, etc.)?
- What change are the characters seeking? Are they all seeking the same change, or do some of them have different goals?