

Why Do You Read Science Fiction? [[Discussion Document](#)]  
Spring, 2017

Please post one to three paragraphs reflecting on this question. Please make sure to include your name with your post and to read over your post at least once before posting it. Note: There is no limit to the number of words you can write in response to this topic in your Reading Journal. However, please do not post more than 500 words to this shared document.

Lorelei Gesse

I've always used science fiction as a form of escapism. Even fictional stories are realistic but science fiction/fantasy are two of the few, if only two genres where we aren't bound by conventional rules of literature. Sometimes, normalcy is not a necessity. Sometimes, one needs to hear about aliens and girls/boys with magic. Whenever I wish to escape to a special sort of reality, I read science fiction. Sure, I use reading as a form of escapism but the other genres are realistic. They can happen.

I was a die hard sci-fi fan by the time I finished the J.R. Tolkien series. I read plenty of other little fantasy novels along the way but they were less complicated and I could see the thin lines of storytelling weaved in Tolkien's novels. I was the elf. I was Gollum. I saw the story very clearly in my head. It made me think. It was rare that I saw myself in characters.

Miquel Dolly (Please!: No one touch my paragraph)

I read science fiction so that i can forget about how uneventful life is. In the stories and adventures I read I can entertain possibilities that aren't normal or feasible whether far off galaxies or past societies that went down paths not like our own these possibilities are fascinating. While laser guns and spaceships are basic now its still amazing to think about how these technologies would make life way more interesting. In one of my favorite franchise's *Fallout* by Bethesda studios the world that's set up the earth in that universe never left the 1950s so all the technologies and fashion resembled that of the 50's. The events of that world are also different from ours because that world never left the cold war and things progressively got worse instead of better and the world was destroyed by nuclear bombs. Thinking about situations like that are fun and allow the mind to expand and think about possibilities and how we can appreciate the current era even though its not as fancy or as cool as all of the stories we read it's still pretty great.

Joseph Mateo

Life is boring, it usually consists of the same daily mundane tasks that eventually leads to what many consider to be an average day. My life is no different, just a clump of expected moments throughout the day. Yet, science fiction offers something that has been increasingly difficult to find over the years, something new. Science fiction is a gateway to the unexpected, where the daily mundane tasks of others are fascinating. The reason I read science fiction is because it is my choice of treatment for the viral disease most of us call boredom.

According to an article written by Jonathan Webb for *BBC*, "Do people choose pain over

boredom,” when people were told do nothing but sit down in a room by themselves for 30 minutes with a button that shocked them if pressed, they decided to shock themselves to have some form of entertainment. Thus confirming that we would rather submit ourselves to pain than be bored. I'm not one of those people who submit themselves to pain to “feel something,” I actually find it really odd. Nonetheless, this gives nice explanation to my obsession with the apocalypse, zombie or nuclear. I know times will be much harder if there was one, however it is something that I still look forward to because it would be different and therefore exciting. I certainly would never be bored.

Webb, Jonathan. "Do People Choose Pain over Boredom?" *BBC.com*. British Broadcasting Corporation, 4 July 2014. Web. 30 Jan. 2017.

Robert Plummer

Science fiction has a unique aspect in that its stories not only focus on an individual and their hardships, but also the society that they live in and how it changes along with them. Concepts of right and wrong, rational and insane, normal and extreme, are outlined in each work of science fiction and can vary wildly from work to work.

Real life and our current society are either too chaotic to have reliable observations, or do not have enough people trying to challenge and understand it. This is the reason why we had to avoid using the commonly used but poorly understood word "technology" as a descriptive term for science fiction. It helps to be able to make these observations on a hypothetical society that uses its own science and reason in a way that complements or contradicts our own.

Noshin Alam

Why does anyone read science fiction? I suppose people look for an escape into another dimension, words or comics can be an out of the box alternative to our everyday lives. Science fiction can help achieve unknown answers, whether it's real or not. It shows us an interesting view of how people portray fiction. From superheroes in comics to unimaginable monsters in films science fiction has guided people through their boring everyday lives. It fills us with curiosity and to admire the unknown. When it comes to science fiction you never know what to expect. I'm actually not a huge science fiction fan mainly because I can't grasp the definition of science fiction yet. In this class I'd like to learn more about this genre.

Andy Persaud

Science fiction to me is a possibility, an unexplored path where the fictional aspect of it can one day become reality. If supplied with enough talented individuals and resources to back them, most of the fiction in science fiction can become tangible. I find the science fiction to be an outlet for people, myself included, who envision something they believe society needs or wants but can not achieve due to limitations: lack of technological advancement, unwilling government support, and plain absence of interest from other people. I read science fiction because it provides insight into what authors view a potential future could hold, with each new science fiction work produced a world of possibilities and ideas becomes available. I also read science fiction works because of the driving force for advancement it creates, as it presents an idea to people who can one day make the fiction in science fiction tangible.

Edwin Wu

Science fiction shows mysterious exploration when many scientist are finding new intelligent life dealing with advanced technology in order to create new world or advanced society of utopia in the future. People are fascinated in science fiction because it gives their mind an amazing ideas in a imaginative ways which will help their society into a perfect world where machines become more efficient to make the people's daily life easier. I thought to myself why I like to read science fiction from the very beginning. The reason why is because I am amazed of the authors work talking about extraterrestrial being in space which scientist may not have an answer to it in my perspective. Also, the technology which exist in the real world would benefit in a huge amount of ways rescuing people's life without causing any consequences. In the article, "A Robot That Prints Tissue" explains a special 3d printer have a ability to replicate the tissues and living cells which can replace any human organ for a transplant to one of the patients who needs it. Hopefully, I get to read more science fiction in many ways to introduce new ideas in the world that would impact the people's life turning into a revolution of advanced civilization.

Thilmany, Jean. "A Robot That Prints Tissue". ASME.org.

<https://www.asme.org/engineering-topics/articles/bioengineering/a-robot-that-prints-tissue>  
Accessed. 31 Jan 2017.

Santos Barahona

Science Fiction is a way to take a step back from reality and to reach out to the obscure. As humans, we all wish that our reality can in some way blend with our imaginations. Although some of the topics and issues going on in our actual lives aren't at all that interesting, authors and directors take those elements in our lives that we deeply despise and add a whole new element of fiction to it to make

the subject seem more fun. An example of this is Spider-Man. Stan Lee's superhero creation is basically a reflection on the struggles of being a high schooler. He adds the element of mutation and super powers to the subject, so that readers can learn about the issue of coming of age in a whole fun different way, in a way they wouldn't read if it was just a normal grounded coming of age story. This is what science fiction is all about, bringing life to social and political issues with elements of fiction so that people can be more aware of these issues and have a good time reading about them.

Giovanni Angel

I like to read science fiction because its a way to jump out of reality where there are rules and limits. There are so many science fiction books out there that authors but there imagination to the test and as we all know there is no limit to our thoughts. Science fiction can go in many different directions: Exploration in space, horror, superheros, past and future. Honestly anything not related to science fiction is very boring because most of us human beings already know what the world offers and what we as humans can do and not do, there is no beyond super physics. But these books and writes bring life and good stories that break our limits is to me a very pleasant time.

Joshua Vega

Science Fiction is something that brings out the desire to see the unknown. Science Fiction and fantasy both have the goal of letting people get to experience something that they may never get to either because they can't get access to it or it is something that does not exist for us. Curiosity is something that is apart of our human nature and want to experience it our self is what leads people to reading or watching a film, we want to know even if we like or dislike it after, the fact that we got to experience it is what both drives to create science fiction as well as enjoy reading or watching science fiction. I enjoy it because it is the perfect escapism for me and most likely for many other people. Real life can be unpleasant and reading something fantastical is a way to escape and find relief that we all so desire.

Stefanya Martinez

The reason why I read science fiction is because when reading you get lost into worlds you don't want to get out of. The way the author's create worlds outside our own filled with unrealistic and unexplainable things make you want to explore more, question more. World's that make you travel in time, space, and into the future are the best they just make you want to live there, or meet people found there. Diving into worlds that make you go places just make you fall in love

with the genre even more, having a little of science fiction at your fingertips makes you believe in the unrealistic and it even makes you want to become part of it. That's why I enjoy reading science fiction.

Sali Fazlija

I often at times read science fiction because of the interest that follows. Science Fiction to me is very different to the things we are often made to read at school. I personally don't really read much unless it's for school but if I was to read something, it'd most likely be a comic. Thanks to this I've touched on a lot of the science fiction genre. I really like it because it's different from everyday life. It's very enjoyable to me to look forward to the future and see what might actually be possible. It makes me think of what else is possible and question if we as humans can become more and have a bigger and larger purpose. For example, are we meant to soar the skies flying and/or are we meant to explore the universe and see what it hides. Science Fiction really does take you away from reality for a bit. It gets me excited to think what tomorrow has in store for us. So I guess one of the biggest reason why I like science fiction, is because of the anticipation it gives me.

Yaya Benamu

I read and watch science fiction to see the world differently. Science Fiction IS often a what if and can show you different ways of thinking and seeing the world. I love the overlap of the possible and the impossible. These kind of books and pieces tend to explore things that may otherwise seem unsafe and unimaginable. I also find that the overlap of fantasy and magic with science fiction explores relationships that many would not want to delve into. The world is full of possibilities and it is up to us to explore them. In non-fiction writing very little is left to doubt and imagination; everything is as is and as should be. Science Fiction opens doors and windows into a world beyond. Who doesn't like to get lost in beyond?

Adegoke Oni

Deep down many of us are escapist. Often times life can be boring and cruel to us. Without our knowing we find ourselves looking for an escape, a small vacation in our imagination or the imagination of someone else. With science fiction we don't have to travel too far. We visit a world of possibilities, built on technology that could exist in our future. In the worlds of science fiction there is more to life than what we see in our reality. We can also see a reflection of human society in these stories. People are introduced into a what if scenario and the writer gives his opinion on people from his reality would react. The what if factor that is presented in science fiction is different from that of other genres of storytelling. Our society has rules of etiquette and behavior that are opposing forces to our base nature. Everyday we organize ourselves to fit these rules and new technology always has a way of blurring these lines. In science fiction storytelling this blur allows the author to expose the rules and our base nature at the same time. Allowing us to see everything from a perspective we have never seen it from before.

Ermis Alushi

I personally watch a lot of science fiction movies because I find it fascinating to think that something that can't be currently done, could be done in the future. It also helps to widen my imagination and it's not a boring subject so it attracts me. Sometimes people need a break from reality so science fiction is there to help them fantasize for a better scenario of themselves in the real world. Reality can be harsh sometimes so people tend to just read a science fiction work to get lost into it and imagine a world where they would like to live without any hardships. I also know people that read science fiction just tend to do it for the simple fact that it involves super natural ideas which attracts them.

Michael Reyes

I without a doubt love science fiction or sf, it's a part of my childhood and therefore my very being. But, I think the reason I read it, is to escape the absurdity that is reality or much rather the absurdity of existence. Existence is so absurd when one truly looks at the aspects of life or what makes up existence. I never need a break from reality, but much rather try to occupy myself with the endless possibilities that science fiction can and will create. Sadly, science fiction does not truly keep one's mind away or gives it a break from the absurdity, but much rather opens it up to a super charged dose of the absurdity that is existence. And usually makes me see the idea of enjoying the absurdity of existence to its fullest. For, once someone sees the absurdity it is hard to unsee. There are three roads, the first way is that one can commit suicide for seeing the absurdity (like in Lovecraft's stories), the second is seeing the absurdity and then going back to seeing the world mundanely as if you never saw it, the last road is that you can't ever unsee it. Science fiction and gothic have these qualities within many of its stories. A story that hits both these genres are Lovecraftian stories. It's a curse to see what existence truly is and yet makes it all the more fun. Therefore, due to this, science fiction invokes a special feeling within me when I read it, like the gothic; and thus makes it all the more special to me.

Hussein Soliman

I actually never read any s.f books I was just interested in the s.f movies like Batman, Superman, Spiderman all the zombie movies and shows, I like stuff that's out of this world

Jonathan Samuel

Sci-Fi is a genre that I enjoy because it explores a fantasy like reality that is somewhere within human reach. My introduction to the genre was Star Wars: The Phantom Menace. For any human being, space is a captivating, as well as boundless mystery. George Lucas just presented his hypothesis. Since then, titles such as Cyborg 009, Zoids, Gundam, and most importantly Ghost in the Shell have raised a question in myself. What would my own science fiction look like? This class serves as a way to develop a clear understanding of the genre's building blocks.

Dorian Douglas

Science fiction gazes into the eye of God, speculating man's existence, purpose and future in an unknown universe. Advanced technology, artificial intelligence, extraterrestrials, interdimensional beings, space, time and infinity. The genre can also be used as a device as a form of social commentary to address issues plaguing an era. I read science fiction because it's provocative and provides an escape from the mundane.

David Roman

I read Science Fiction because it's a very intriguing genre to read and discuss about. Star Wars is what got me into this genre. As i got older i expanded into different sections of this genre and started reading books, watching other movies and shows, and even playing video games with a Science Fiction based setting. Science Fiction has always had me thinking about what our future would look like. We learn from these ideas from this genre and create what people think is impossible and it just keeps you thinking of many possibilities and that is why i read science fiction.

Professor Rodgers

I read science fiction for reasons that change on an almost daily basis. Initially, and not all that long ago, I started reading science fiction because I quite unexpectedly found myself working on a [fiction project](#) related to the genre of science fiction. Before that time (2008?), I did not think that I had ever read science fiction. This was, of course, not true. However, it was what I believed.

I study, write about, and write prose, both fiction and nonfiction, which are part of what we call, generally, literature. Having studied and been educated in the history of Western literature, I tended to draw distinct lines between "literature" and "non-literature" (whatever that is?!). [In the 80s, it was possible to make a distinction between two categories that were related to one another by capitalizing the first letter of one and not capitalizing the first letter of the other. I believe this practice in some way related to Lacan's work, but I'm not sure.] Anyway, in the past, I made a clear distinction between Literature (capital L) and literature (lower case l). What literature was did not concern me. However, over time, it increasingly interested me, for various reasons, all of which related in some way to this question: why is it that given the choice to read works of Literature would anyone choose to read works of literature instead? I still don't have a complete answer to this question, but having spent some time and energy investigating it, I have more of an understanding of what is involved in formulating answers to that question.

Here is the very short version of the answer: literature (lower case l) is a living genre; Literature is not. This fact has mostly to do with economics and economies, but it also has to do with educational systems (defined broadly) and nation states. In other words, the reasons behind how and why and which books are studied and what their import is perceived to be. Literature and literature exist in some relation to one another and sometimes overlap. However how and why these two categories meet is dependent on numerous factors. In particular, the medial environment and affordances of a given culture in any one point in time.

My research and writing are increasingly focused on writing as a medium and as media and on thinking about writing as a set of and systems of technologies. It is these interests, along with the fact that I wrote a writing textbook entitled [Technology: A Reader for Writers](#), that have led me to read more science fiction. What I have learned in the process is that I always read science fiction. However, I did not always know that I was reading science fiction.

Like most people, I read science fiction because I enjoy it and I am interested in it, both as a creative writer and as someone who thinks and writes about technologies and societies. However, I also read and study science fiction because I think it is important socially, culturally, and in the context of literary studies generally.