

5. What made the story interesting or not interesting. Please explain why.

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Science fiction and fantasy (as well as Dystopia and Horror) are classed as 'speculative fiction'⁽¹⁾ which has "supernatural, fantastical or futuristic elements". They are often confused but both have distinct features that may be present. Also, both often come in 'series' which tell the story over several books.

Features of Science Fiction

- ⇒ Often based around known principles of science and technology
- ⇒ Space travel
- ⇒ Set in the future (may predict what life might be like)
- ⇒ Set in a different universe or dimension
- ⇒ Set on a different world
- ⇒ Aliens or other forms of life
- ⇒ Alternative timeline

Some Suggested Authors

Douglas Adams	Arthur C. Clarke	Robert Swindells
K. A. Applegate	Gillian Cross	H. G. Wells
Orson Scott Card	Ann Halam	Chris Wooding
John Christopher	Alexander Gordon Smith	John Wyndham

Features of Fantasy⁽²⁾

- ⇒ A struggle between good and evil
- ⇒ Elves, dwarves, goblins or other imagined races
- ⇒ Mythological creatures
- ⇒ Some reference to or basis in myths and legends, or folklore and fairy tales
- ⇒ The use of some form of magic
- ⇒ Portals to another worlds or to the past
- ⇒ Some sort of quest
- ⇒ Self-aware and talking animals
- ⇒ Coming of age
- ⇒ Supernatural beings or events
- ⇒ A medieval-like setting
- ⇒ Time slip / time travel

Some Suggested Authors

Susan Cooper	Stephen Lawhead	Anne McCaffrey	Terry Pratchett
David Gemmell	Ursula K. Le Guin	Garth Nix	Phillip Pullman

Features of Dystopia "An imaginary place where everything is as bad as it can be."⁽³⁾

- ⇒ Themes of oppression and/or rebellion
- ⇒ Usually set in an imagined future
- ⇒ Authoritarian rulers
- ⇒ Central character(s) who questions society or the authority of the government
- ⇒ Background of war, famine, disaster, etc leading to change in society
- ⇒ Big divides between the poor, middle and upper classes
- ⇒ Freedom and humanity taken away

Some Suggested Authors

Suzanne Collins	Pittacus Lore	Neal Schusterman
Jeanne DuPrau	Patrick Ness	Scott Westerfield
Michael Grant	George Orwell	Moira Young

(1) Collins English Dictionary. Available at <www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/speculative-fiction> [Accessed 8/5/13]

(2) Sinclair, F. 2008. Riveting Reads Plus: Fantasy Fiction. School Library Association

(3) Collins English Dictionary. Available at www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/dystopia > [Accessed 11/11/13]