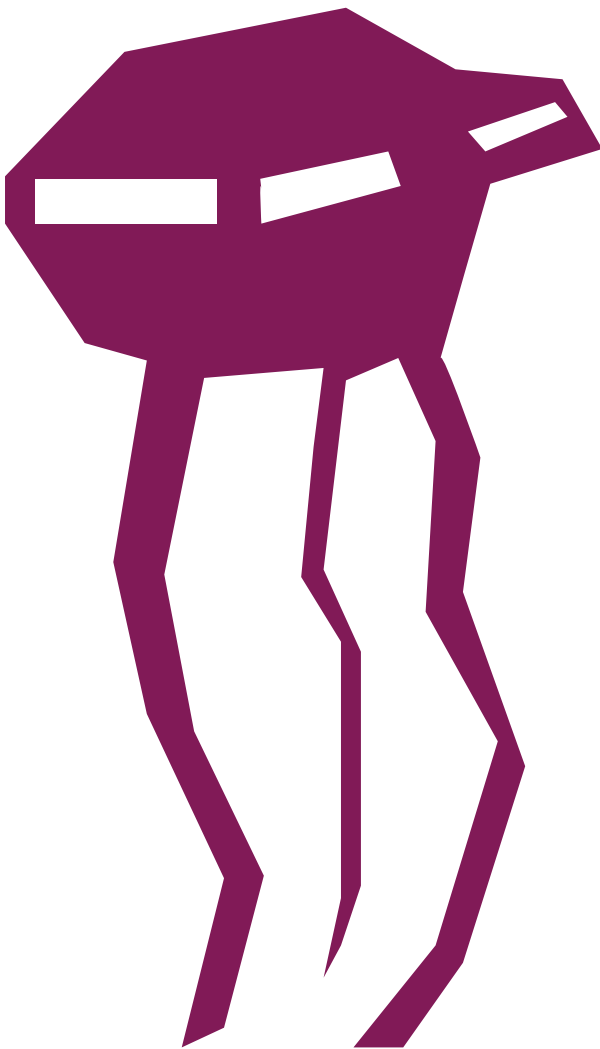


# LEARNING GENRES

## SCIENCE FICTION

The science fiction (or sci-fi) genre is a type of fiction. It can be any imaginary story that involves science and/or technology that's more advanced than what exists today. Sci-fi can include anything from mad scientists to outer space exploration. Most science fiction stories take place in the future. They are also less believable than regular fiction stories because the technology or science in question is only theoretical—it's not something we can find in the real world ... yet.



**H.G. Wells:** Wells was a British author of many books during the late 1800s and early 1900s. He is most famous for his science fiction books that remain popular today.

“And this Thing I saw! How can I describe it? A monstrous tripod, higher than many houses, striding over the young pine trees, and smashing them aside in its career; a walking engine of glittering metal, striding now across the heather; articulate ropes of steel dangling from it, and the clattering tumult of its passage mingling with the riot of the thunder. A flash, and it came out vividly, heeling over one way with two feet in the air, to vanish and reappear almost instantly as it seemed, with the next flash, a hundred yards nearer. Can you imagine a milking stool tilted and bowled violently along the ground? That was the impression those instant flashes gave. But instead of a milking stool imagine it a great body of machinery on a tripod stand.”

-War of the Worlds (1897)



Name some of the words and elements of this quote that tell you it is science fiction.

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# SCIENCE FICTION



**Orson Scott Card:** He is an American sci-fi author who is best known for his book *Ender's Game*. The book is set in the future at a time when the Earth is being constantly attacked by an alien species. The main character is a kid who trains at a *battleschool* and proves to be a genius capable of saving humanity.

“Ender smiled. He was the one who had figured out how to send messages and make them march—even as his secret enemy called him names, the method of delivery praised him. It was not his fault he was a Third. It was the government's idea, they were the ones who authorized it—how else could a Third like Ender have got into school? And now the monitor was gone. The experiment entitled Andrew Wiggin hadn't worked out after all. If they could, he was sure they would like to rescind the waivers that had allowed him to be born at all.”

-Ender's Game (1985)



What elements of this quote suggest it is science fiction?

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**Jules Verne:** Verne was a French writer of fantastical stories. It was not until later that his style would become known as science fiction.

“There is a powerful agent, obedient, rapid, easy, which conforms to every use, and reigns supreme on board my vessel. Everything is done by means of it. It lights, warms it, and is the soul of my mechanical apparatus. This agent is electricity.”

“Electricity?” I cried in surprise.

“Yes, sir.”

“Nevertheless, Captain, you possess an extreme rapidity of movement, which does not agree well with the power of electricity. Until now, its dynamic force has remained under restraint, and has only been able to produce a small amount of power.”

“Professor,” said Captain Nemo, “my electricity is not everybody's and that is all I wish to say about it... I point out only this: I owe all to the ocean; it produces electricity, and electricity gives heat, light, motion, and, in a word, life to the Nautilus [the submarine].”

-20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (1870)



What elements of this quote suggest it is science fiction?

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