

Science Fiction Short Stories Knowledge Organizer

Elements of Science Fiction		
Science fiction is a genre of fiction that deals primarily with the impact of actual or imagined science upon society and individuals and contains elements that don't exist in the real world.		
Speculative	Describes fiction in which the "laws" of the world (either explicit or implied) are different than ours.	
Technology	The application of scientific knowledge to the practical aims of human life; the change and manipulation of the human environment	
Subgenres	Within the genre of science fiction, there are dozens of subgenres or categories with their own unique themes or attributes. Stories may fall into multiple subgenres. Subgenres include:	
	Post-apocalyptic	Fiction set after an apocalypse or devastating event causing decline of humanity or Earth itself.
	Futuristic	Contains elements that do not exist in real life but might occur in the future
	Mundane	Stories incorporate a believable use of science and technology as it exists at the time the story is written
Utopia	An ideal society; an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect	
Dystopia	The opposite of a utopia; an imagined society in which there is great suffering or injustice	

Information on the Stories and Authors		
Year	Title	Author Notes
1940	"Robbie"	Isaac Asimov (1920-1992) was an American writer who invented the word " robotics ."
1950	"There Will Come Soft Rains"	Ray Bradbury (1920-2012) was an American author and screenwriter best-known for his dystopian novel <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> .

Literary Terms	
Allusion	Reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance
Ambiguity	Leaving an event or idea open to multiple interpretations; often purposefully unclear
Incongruity	The state of being out of place, inconsistent, or incompatible
Irony	A literary technique in which what appears to be true differs radically from what is actually the case
Juxtaposition	The placement of two (or more) images or ideas close together to emphasize the contrast between them
Mood	The overall atmosphere or feeling of a scene for the reader created by the author
Motif	A meaningful pattern; an image, idea, or symbol that repeats throughout a text
Personification	The attribution of a human characteristics or emotions to something nonhuman; one type is anthropomorphism , the depiction of an animal or object as behaving and/or appearing like it is human
Theme	A message conveyed by a text that applies to multiple other texts
Twist ending	Introduces a radical change in the expected outcome of a work of fiction near the end of the story

Social Commentary	
Using art to comment on or critique issues in society; authors may communicate views on human nature generally or specific situations	
Term or Event	Explanation
World War II (1939-1945)	War between the Allied Powers (including the United States and the Soviet Union) and the Axis Powers led by Germany. In August of 1945, the United States detonates nuclear weapons over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki , ending the war.
Cold War (1947-1989)	A period of geopolitical tension between the communist Soviet Union and the capitalist United States.
Nuclear Arms Race	During the Cold War, the United States and Russia spend billions building stockpiles of nuclear weapons , extremely powerful weapons capable of massive destruction.

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