



## Introduction to Science Fiction

What experiences have you had with this genre?

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Are you more likely to watch Science Fiction film in the cinema than at home?

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What Science Fiction films can you name?

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## Task

Read the following articles that discuss the importance of Science Fiction

Why everyone should read more Science Fiction: <https://goo.gl/MJimgR>

The value of Science Fiction: <https://goo.gl/JdG9hv>

**In your own words summarise what both articles suggest about how Science Fiction addresses audiences.**

## Seminal text

Use the digital resource to consider how the genre has developed over time

## Media Industries

The Science Fiction genre is one that has been very profitable for the film industry. At the time of writing, at least half of the films in top ten box office of all time could be considered as Science Fiction. However, while Science Fiction has certainly made larger studios a lot of money, smaller studios have found this success difficult to replicate and the risk factor for larger studios is high, too (Disney's *John Carter* 2012 was a notorious flop). A reason for



this could be because Science Fiction often entails high production values to create a credible Science Fiction mise-en-scene. Science Fiction has lent itself to franchise film making, with several properties comprising of sequential narratives (*Star Wars*, *Planet of the Apes*).

## Audiences

Science Fiction properties often inspire a strong loyalty from audiences, who will take properties such as *Star Trek* to heart and follow all aspects of the franchise.

Science Fiction often offers a variety of audience pleasures. Primarily, there is spectacle that offers a visual pleasure. However, Science Fiction has been used as a vehicle to address *social contexts*, offering commentary on a variety of issues. This allows for Science Fiction texts to have different audience readings.

Often Science Fiction films will be marketed to mainstream audiences with a certification that allows maximum box office.

Gender roles are repeatedly a feature of Science Fiction, with female protagonists being central to Sci-fi narratives.