



| Genre Summary | | Key Themes | Some of the vocabulary you'll read during this unit: |
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| <p>Setting in an alternative world: One thing we'll find over and over again in sci-fi is a setting that is strange, different, or faraway.</p> <p>Non-human characters: It's about robots, aliens, or people who are just a little bit more (or less!) than human.</p> <p>Allegory in Sci-Fi: Sci-fi tends to be allegorical. The best sci-fi works often have a hidden meaning, because they work as a commentary on our own world and our own social and political systems.</p> <p>Science and Technology: What makes a sci-fi text is the fact that their settings, their plots, their characters, their conflicts, all center around science and technology in some sense.</p> <p>Time travel: Often, the whole plot of a sci-fi work is set in a distant time, usually in the future. Sci-fi writers explore times that are very different from ours.</p> <p>Journey: We'll find a lot of journeys in sci-fi; people might zip from galaxy to galaxy, or from time to time.</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequality and social class • Technology and progress • Humans, nature and the universe • Fear and kindness | <p>catastrophic (adjective): involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering.</p> <p>dystopia (abstract noun): an imagined state/society where there is great suffering or injustice.</p> <p>futuristic (adjective): having or involving very modern technology or design.</p> <p>inequality (abstract noun) – difference in circumstances.</p> <p>technological (adjective): relating to technology.</p> <p>time-travel (noun): time travel is the concept of movement between certain points in time.</p> <p>Victorian (adjective): from the time when Queen Victoria was the monarch in Britain (1837-1901)</p> |
| | | Key Characters | |
| | | <p>The Time Traveller: a scientist and inventor, we never learn his name.</p> <p>The Narrator: Mr. Hillyer is the Time Traveller's dinner guest.</p> <p>The Eloi: a kind of dull, tiny, and fragile but also peace-loving, kind, beautiful, and most of all, happy and affectionate race of creatures.</p> <p>Weena: one of the Eloi. Possibly female, the Time Traveller saves her life and she eagerly becomes his friend. Her behaviour toward him is not unlike that of a pet or small child.</p> <p>The Morlocks: remorseless, callous and filthy creatures dwelling underground and in dark alleys.</p> <p>Minor characters: Filby, the Medical Man, The Psychologist, a Very Young Man, The Editor, Man with a Beard, the Journalist and the Provincial Mayor</p> | |
| Key Terminology | | Sound It Out | Etymology- Word Origins |
| Core | Climax – the peak of the story, when the main character faces their main problem or key moment | cly-max | From the Greek <i>klimax</i> , meaning 'ladder' |
| | Genre- a style of literature | jarn-ruh | From the French <i>genre</i> , meaning 'style' |
| | Theme – an idea that recurs in a piece of literature | thee-m | From the Latin <i>thema</i> meaning 'subject' |
| Intermediate | Flashback: a scene in a, novel set in a time earlier than the main story | flash - back | From the Icelandic <i>flasa</i> meaning 'to rush' and the Old English <i>baec</i> meaning 'behind' |
| | Foreshadowing- A hint about a future plot event | for-shadow -ing | From the Old English prefix <i>fore-</i> meaning 'before in time' and <i>shadow</i> meaning 'cast a shadow' |
| Advanced | Frame - the outer story, in this case the world outside the time travel. | fray-m | From the Old English <i>framian</i> meaning 'be helpful' and the Middle English meaning 'make ready for use' |
| | Motif – a repeated symbol forming a pattern | mo-teef | From the French <i>motif</i> meaning 'dominant idea or theme' |
| | Denouement- the action which occurs after the climax of the narrative, including the resolution | day- noo- mon | From the French 'denouer' meaning 'unknot' |