

The Science Fiction Handbook

M. Keith Booker
and
Anne-Marie Thomas

 **WILEY-BLACKWELL**

A John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Publication

Contents

Part 1 Introduction	1
Science Fiction in Western Culture	3
Part 2 Brief Historical Surveys of Science Fiction Subgenres	13
The Time-Travel Narrative	15
The Alien Invasion Narrative	28
The Space Opera	40
Apocalyptic and Post-Apocalyptic Fiction	53
Dystopian Science Fiction	65
Utopian Fiction	75
Feminism, Science Fiction, and Gender	86
Science Fiction and Satire	98
Cyberpunk and Posthuman Science Fiction	110
Multicultural Science Fiction	124
Part 3 Representative Science Fiction Authors	137
Isaac Asimov (1920–1992)	139
Margaret Atwood (1939–)	141
Octavia E. Butler (1947–2006)	143
Samuel R. Delany (1942–)	145
Philip K. Dick (1928–1982)	147
William Gibson (1948–)	149
Nicola Griffith (1960–)	151
Joe Haldeman (1943–)	153
Robert A. Heinlein (1907–1988)	155
Nalo Hopkinson (1960–)	157
Ursula K. Le Guin (1929–)	159
Ian McDonald (1960–)	161
China Miéville (1972–)	163

George Orwell (1903–1950)	165
Marge Piercy (1936–)	167
Frederik Pohl (1919–)	169
Kim Stanley Robinson (1952–)	171
Neal Stephenson (1959–)	173
H. G. Wells (1866–1946)	175
Part 4 Discussions of Individual Texts	177
H. G. Wells, <i>The Time Machine</i> (1895)	179
H. G. Wells, <i>The War of the Worlds</i> (1898)	185
George Orwell, <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> (1949)	193
Isaac Asimov, <i>I, Robot</i> (1950)	200
Frederik Pohl and C. M. Kornbluth, <i>The Space Merchants</i> (1952)	207
Robert A. Heinlein, <i>Starship Troopers</i> (1959)	214
Philip K. Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i> (1968)	222
Ursula K. Le Guin, <i>The Dispossessed</i> (1974)	229
Joe Haldeman, <i>The Forever War</i> (1974)	236
Marge Piercy, <i>Woman on the Edge of Time</i> (1976)	243
Samuel R. Delany, <i>Trouble on Triton</i> (1976)	250
William Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i> (1984)	257
Margaret Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (1985)	264
Octavia Butler, "Xenogenesis" Trilogy (1987–1989)	271
Neal Stephenson, <i>Snow Crash</i> (1992)	278
Nicola Griffith, <i>Ammonite</i> (1994)	285
Kim Stanley Robinson, "Mars" Trilogy (1993–1996)	292
Nalo Hopkinson, <i>Midnight Robber</i> (2000)	299
China Miéville, <i>Perdido Street Station</i> (2000)	306
Ian McDonald, <i>River of Gods</i> (2005)	314
Glossary	321
Selected Bibliography	333
Index	341