

# FURTHER READING:

GLIMPSES OF THE  
EXTRAORDINARY:

A READER'S GUIDE TO

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

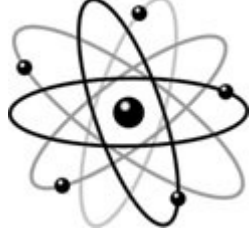
This website was created by Spring Lea Henry to help readers connect with beloved books. The site includes bibliographies, descriptions of the various types of science fiction and fantasy, links to great online resources, book reviews, and a list of some great reasons to read science fiction and fantasy. The titles featured at this site are directly linked to Amazon.com for easy purchase.

[WWW.SPRINGLEA.COM/GLIMPSES/](http://WWW.SPRINGLEA.COM/GLIMPSES/)

GLIMPSES OF THE  
EXTRAORDINARY

A Reader's Guide  
to the Science  
Fiction Theme:

**Speculative  
Fiction**



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## CHARACTERISTICS OF SPECULATIVE FICTION :

- Focus on social issues like overpopulation, AIDS, fear of technology, poverty, classism, racism, or environmental concerns.
- Setting is usually future or near future Earth, but can sometimes be an alternate dimension or another planet used as an allegory for contemporary Earth.
- Societal structure is often a complete dystopia or a utopia that is based on an ethically questionable act, such as ritual human sacrifice or Big Brother.
- Main character is usually in dissent with the society, even if he/she begins story at harmony with society.
- Political systems and various philosophies are often explored in a "petri dish" environment.

## SOME MAJOR CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS:

- Nancy Kress: genetic engineering addressed in many of her works.
- George Turner: usually addresses overpopulation and class structure.
- Robert Heinlein: questions religion and social mores about relationships.
- Octavia E. Butler: writes from an African-American feminist perspective.
- Ayn Rand: examines the role of the individual in a conformist society and promotes the idea of objectivism.
- Phillip K. Dick: his major theme is that technology cannot solve fundamentally human problems.
- Robert L. Sawyer: demonstrates how humans react to the new or unusual.

## RECOMMENDED STARTER BOOKS:

- Stranger in a Strange Land by Robert Heinlein: A human raised among Martians comes to Earth and challenges its religions.
- 1984 by George Orwell: A man lives within a totalitarian communist society.
- Commitment Hour by James Alan Gardner. In a futuristic society, a person's gender is a choice when one turns 18.
- The Giver by Lois Lowry: A young boy's coming of age in a society where everyone is expected to be identical.
- Brave New World by Aldous Huxley: A young man encounters an outsider and begins to question his society's structure.
- Anthem by Ayn Rand: A young man finds his individual voice by rebelling against his society.