

Characteristics of Science Fiction

1. **PACING** – The focus of the story drives the pacing. If there are more adventure elements and physical action, the pacing is usually faster; if ideas are emphasized more, the book generally unfolds at a more leisurely pace.
2. **STORY LINE** – This is speculative fiction, frequently set in the future. It explores moral, social, intellectual, philosophical, and/or ethical questions against a setting outside of everyday reality.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – Authors use characters to underscore issues and atmosphere. Aliens and otherworldly creatures emphasize the otherness of these stories.
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – Setting is crucial and invokes otherness of time, place, and/or reality. Both the physical setting of the story and the inherent technical and scientific detail create this essential frame.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – Titles reflect a wide range of tone or mood from dark to comic. Tone is often used to disorient readers and to highlight the issues considered.
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – From the jargon of Cyberpunk to the lyrical language of some classic tales, Science Fiction offers a range of styles and language crafted to suit the story line and to reinforce the intellectual and speculative nature of the genre.





Science Fiction Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

ADRENALINE:	William C. Dietz L. E. Modesitt Richard K. Morgan David Weber
BIOGRAPHY/ MEMOIR:	Steven Brust and Emma Bull (<i>Freedom and Necessity</i>)
FANTASY:	Lois McMaster Bujold Ursula K. Le Guin Andre Norton
GAY/LESBIAN:	Samuel R. Delany Joanna Russ
GENTLE READS:	Andre Norton
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Connie Willis Kage Baker (<i>In the Garden of Eden</i>)
HISTORY:	Michael Flynn (<i>Eifelheim</i>)
HORROR:	Kate Wilhelm (<i>The Dark Door</i>)
HUMOR:	Douglas Adams (Hitchhiker series) John Scalzi
INSPIRATIONAL:	Jerry Jenkins Madeleine L'Engle C. S. Lewis Bill Myers
LITERARY:	John Crowley William Gibson (<i>Neuromancer</i>) Michael Swanwick (<i>Vacuum Flowers</i>) Gene Wolfe

LITERARY (<i>continued</i>):	Roger Zelazny (<i>The Dream Mastery</i>) Isaac Asimov (Robot books)
MYSTERY:	Paul Levinson (Phil D'Amato series) Richard K. Morgan (Takeshi Kovacs series) Timothy Zahn (Frank Compton series)
MULTICULTURAL:	Andreas Eschbach Nalo Hopkinson Linda Nagata
NATURAL HISTORY:	Greg Bear (Darwin series) Michael Crichton Kim Stanley Robinson
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:	Mark Budz (<i>Till Human Voices Wake</i>) Jack Finney (<i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i>) Stanislaw Lem
ROMANCE:	Catherine Asaro Susan Grant Sharon Shinn
SAGA:	C. J. Cherryh Frank Herbert David Weber
TRUE CRIME:	Robert Asprin and Linda Evans (<i>Time Scout series</i>) Harry Turtledove (<i>The Man with the Iron Heart</i>)
WESTERNS:	Bruce Boxleitner (<i>Frontier Earth: Searcher</i>)
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Octavia E. Butler Marge Piercy Pat Murphy



Authors BEYOND the Science Fiction Genre

ADRENALINE:	Dale Brown Michael Crichton Clive Cussler Stephen Spruill
BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR:	Richard Feynman
FANTASY:	Orson Scott Card Raymond E. Feist Robert Jordan
HISTORICAL FICTION:	Gore Vidal
HISTORY:	Dava Sobel
HORROR:	Max Brooks (<i>World War Z</i>) Richard Matheson
LITERARY FICTION:	Michael Chabon
NATURAL HISTORY/SCIENCE:	David Bodanis Richard Rhodes
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:	Tess Gerritsen
ROMANCE:	Jayne Castle Susan Grant Lyndsay Sands Linnea Sinclair
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Linda Howard (<i>Raintree</i> trilogy) J.D. Robb
WESTERNS:	Ishmael Reed (<i>Yellow Back Radio Broke-Down</i>)
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Margaret Atwood