

## Thinking about Science Fiction

Discuss what each of the following quotations says about science fiction.

What ideas does each quote raise and what are the implications for your studies?

*'I was attracted to science fiction because it was so wide open. I was able to do anything and there were no walls to hem you in and there was no human condition that you were stopped from examining.'*

Octavia Butler

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*'I love science fiction.'*

Pam Grier

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*'Science fiction writers put characters into a world with arbitrary rules and work out what happens.'*

Rudy Rucker

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*'Science fiction is not just about the future of space ships travelling to other planets, it is fiction based on science and I am using science as my basis for my fiction, but it's the science of prehistory – palaeontology and archaeology – rather than astronomy or physics.'*

Jean M Auel

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*'So, I guess the answer to your question is very few people can bring off a novel of the future because it's just so damn hard to make it look like the future.'*

Jerry Pournelle

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*'Individual science fiction stories may seem as trivial as ever to the blinder critics and philosophers of today – but the core of science fiction, its essence has become crucial to our salvation if we are to be saved at all.'*

Isaac Asimov

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