

PROJECT

SCIENCE FICTION

DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

DATE

1/14/2013

CLIENT

LITERACY / MR. HOLDER

Objective & Warm-Up:

All of us have been exposed to Science Fiction in one form or another whether it was in a movie, TV or even video games. On your warm-up paper for this week, describe something that you have seen or read that you think is Science Fiction. Based on what you read or saw, what do you think the definition to Science Fiction would be?

WHAT IS SCIENCE FICTION?

Science fiction is a genre of fiction literature with imaginative, but more or less plausible content such as settings in the future, futuristic science and technology, space travel, parallel universes, aliens, and paranormal abilities.



Out with the old, in with the new...

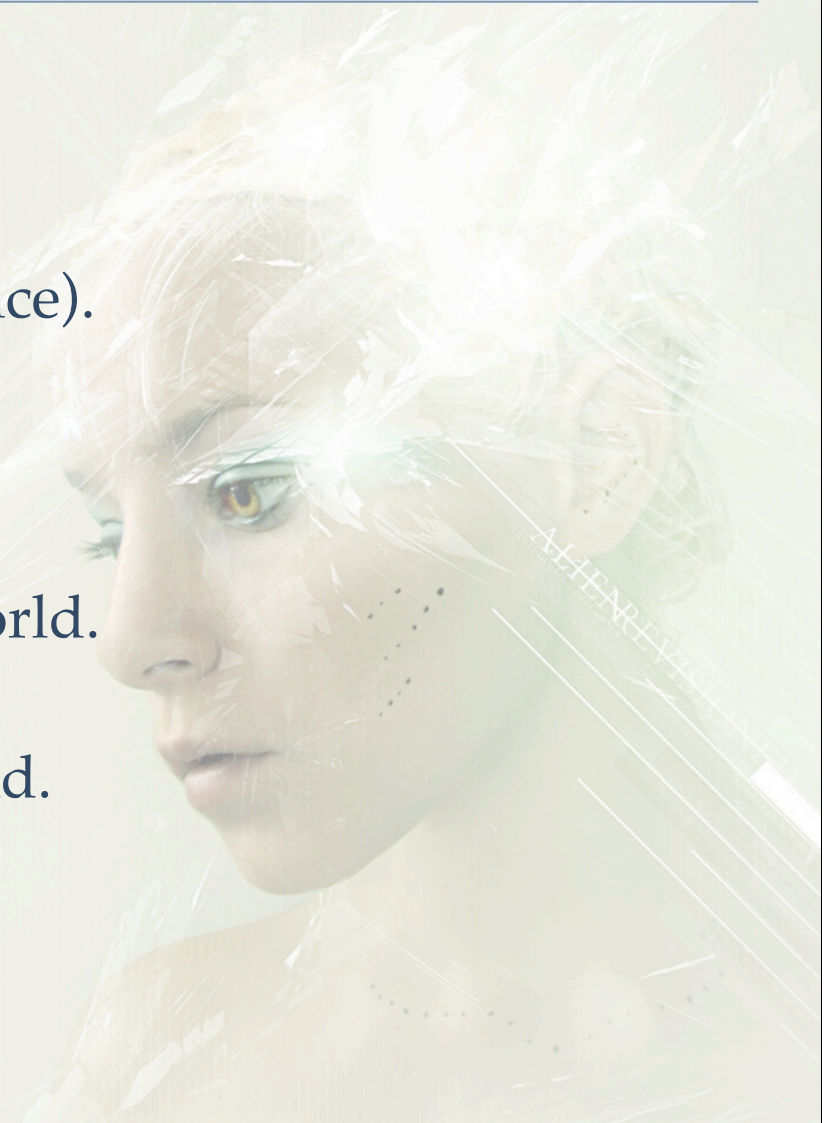
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The 5 Elements of Science Fiction

- ☑ Futuristic/ Alternate History Setting.
- ☑ Advance technology (grounded in science).
- ☑ The “Alien” or “Other”.
- ☑ Makes a serious comment about our world.
- ☑ Often contains a warning for humankind.



Consequences to our actions

Science Fiction tries to explore the ***consequences*** of scientific innovations and the progress of humankind.



“Let us redefine progress to mean that just because we can do a thing, it does not necessarily mean we must do that thing.” - Star Trek VI

THE 9 SUB-GENRES OF SCIENCE FICTION:

☑ **Cyberpunk** - Combines cybernetics and punk, usually near-future dystopian setting.
(The Matrix)

☑ **Time Travel** - A character travels to the past or the future.
(Time Machine by H.G. Wells)

☑ **Alternate History** - Stories based on the premise that historical events might have turned out differently.
(Iron Skies movie 2013)

☑ **Military** - Set in the context of conflict between national, interplanetary, or interstellar armed forces; the primary viewpoint characters are usually soldiers
(Starship Troopers by Robert Heinlein).



THE 9 SUB-GENRES OF SCIENCE FICTION:



☒ **Apocalyptic** - Concerned with the end of civilization through war, pandemic, astronomic impact, ecological disaster, or with some world or civilization after such a disaster.

☒ **Space Opera** - Adventure science fiction set in outer space or on distant planets. The conflict is heroic and typically on a large scale.
(*Star Wars* by George Lucas)

☒ **Space Western** - Transposes themes of the American Western books and film to a backdrop of futuristic space frontiers.
(*Star Trek* by Gene Roddenberry)

☒ **Superhuman** - Stories deal with the emergence of humans who have abilities beyond the norm.
(*Superman* by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster)

Alternate History Sci-Fi:

Iron Skies



Space Western Sci-Fi: *Star Trek*

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Space Opera Sci-Fi: *Star Wars*

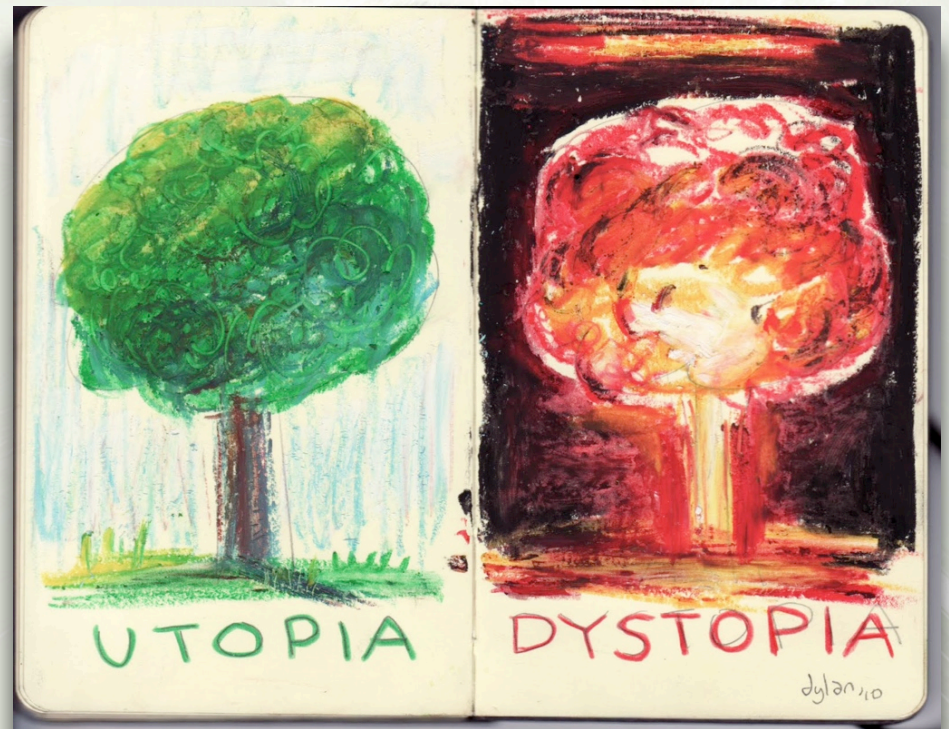
To understand Dystopia, you must first understand Utopia

- ✦ Based on the book *Utopia* written by the religious / political philosopher Sir Thomas Moore in 1516.
- ✦ A Utopia is a community or society possessing highly desirable or perfect qualities.
- ✦ Utopia does not, and has never, existed.
- ✦ The attempt to create an ideal society - as portrayed in literature - spawns dystopia.

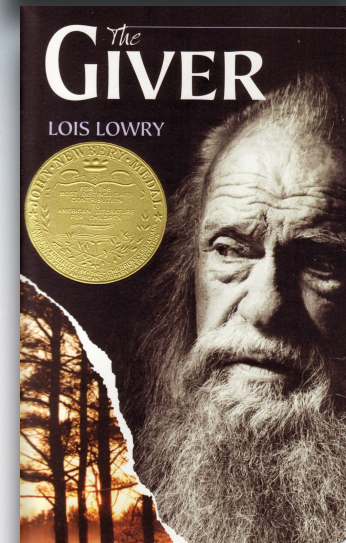
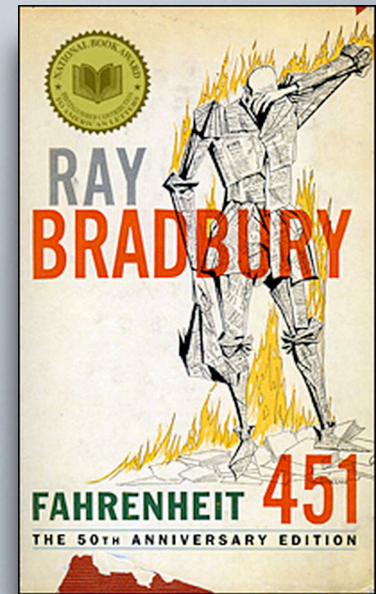
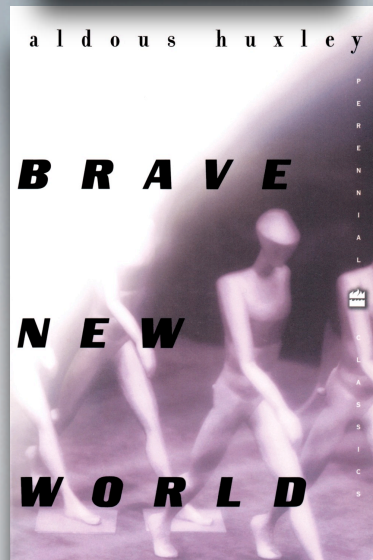
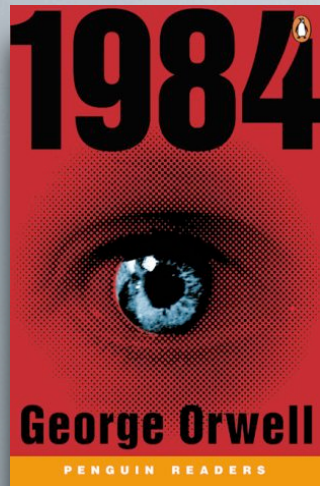


Dystopian Literature

- ❖ A **dystopia** is a community or society that is in some important way frightening or undesirable.
- ❖ Dystopias are the opposite of utopias.

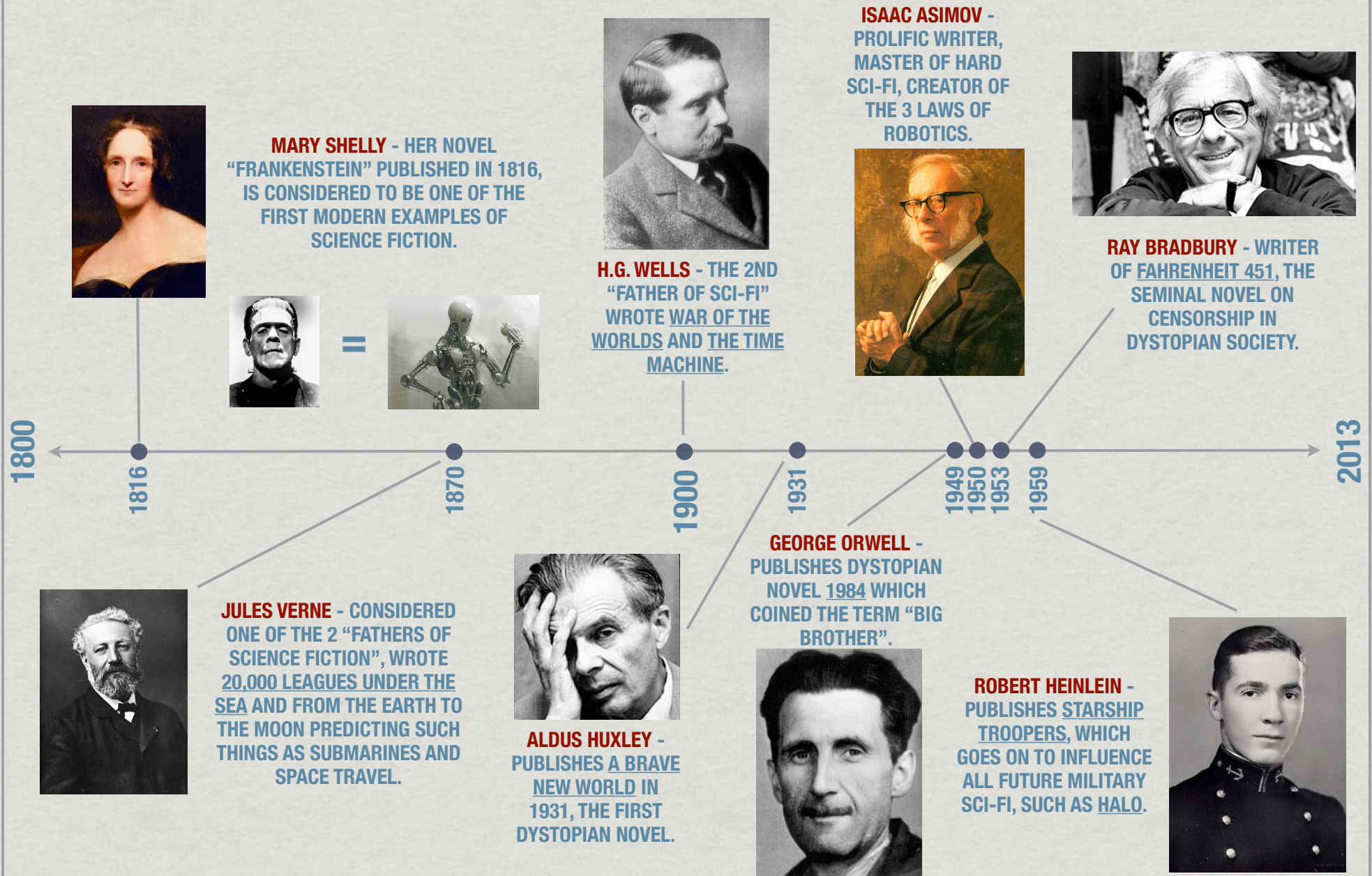


FAMOUS DYSTOPIAN NOVELS



Never Let Me Go

The History of Sci-Fi



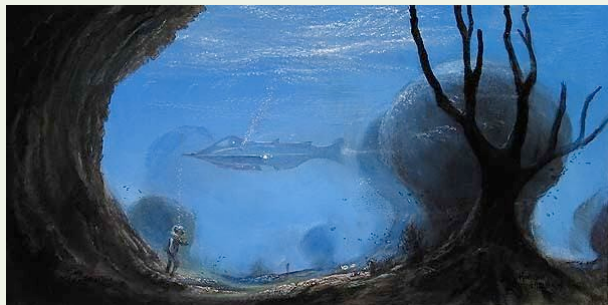
Science Fiction as Prophetic



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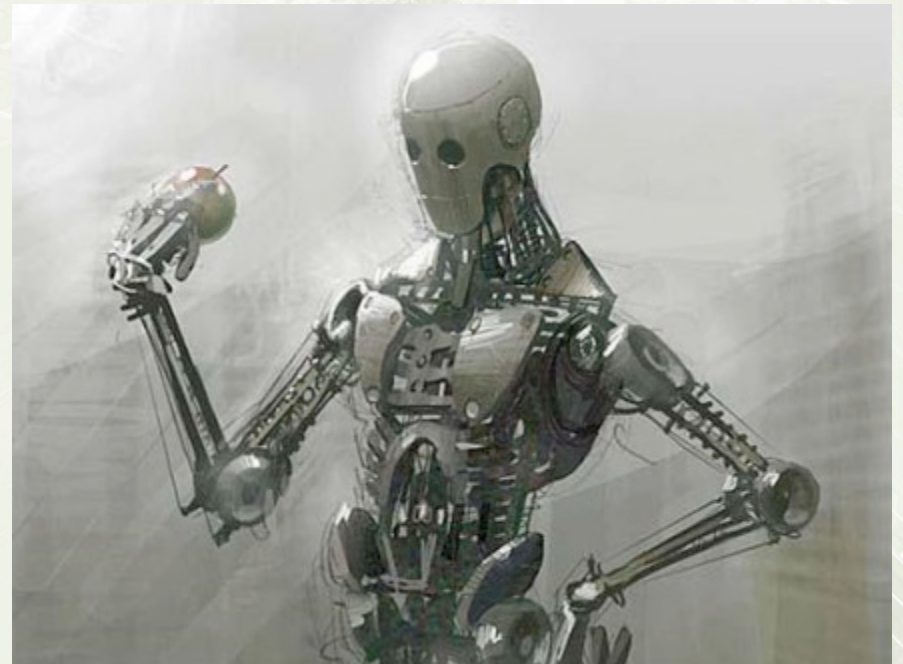
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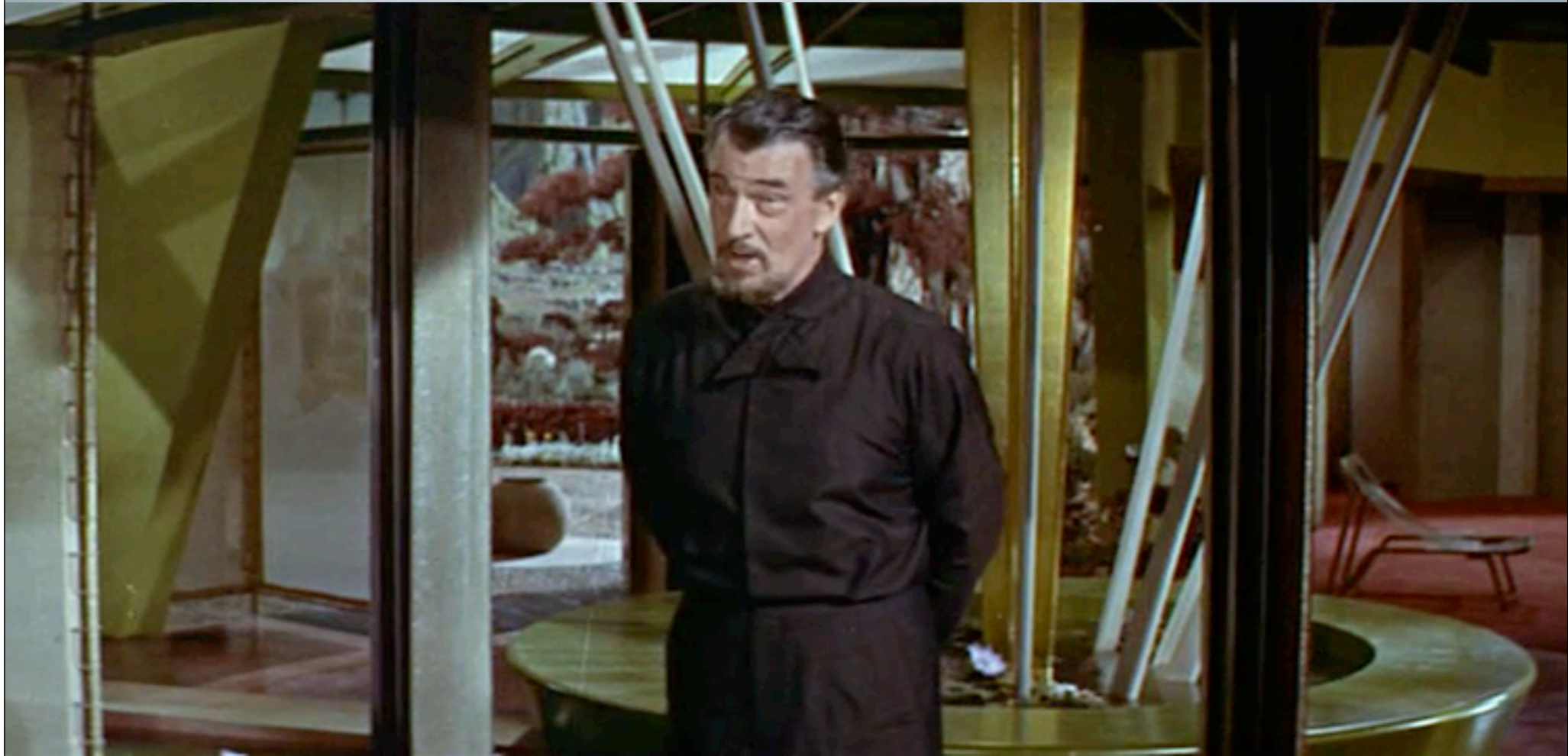
The 3 Laws of Robotics

(according to Isaac Asimov)

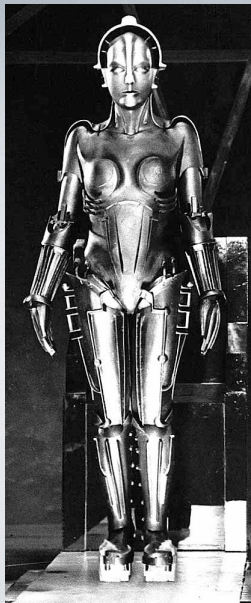
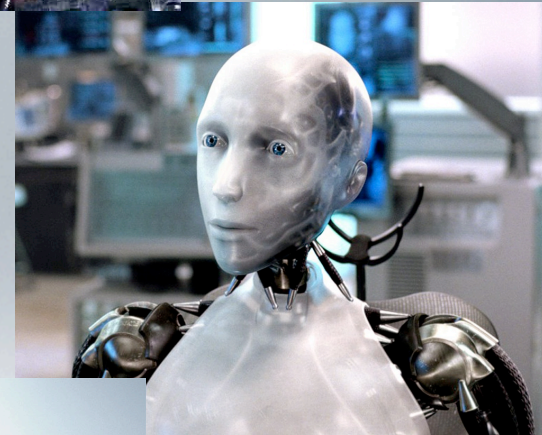
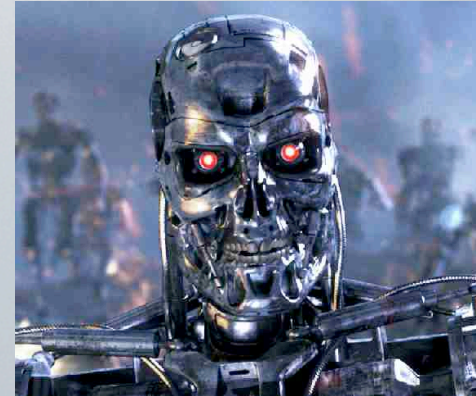
- ❖ A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
- ❖ A robot must obey the orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
- ❖ A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws.



ROBBIE THE ROBOT

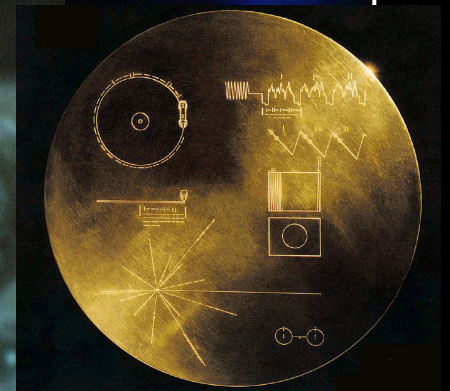


ROBOTS IN SCIENCE FICTION



Voyager I

- ★ Voyager I was launched by NASA in 1976 to conduct research on the outer solar system.
- ★ Carl Sagan helped develop probe and gold disc containing sounds and images selected to portray the diversity of life and culture on Earth, including the word “hello” spoken in every language on Earth.
- ★ Voyager I and its disc are meant to be a proverbial “message in a bottle” to any other intelligent life out there in the Universe.
- ★ The Voyager I space probe left our solar system and entered deep space in 2012.



Pale Blue Dot

- Carl Sagan

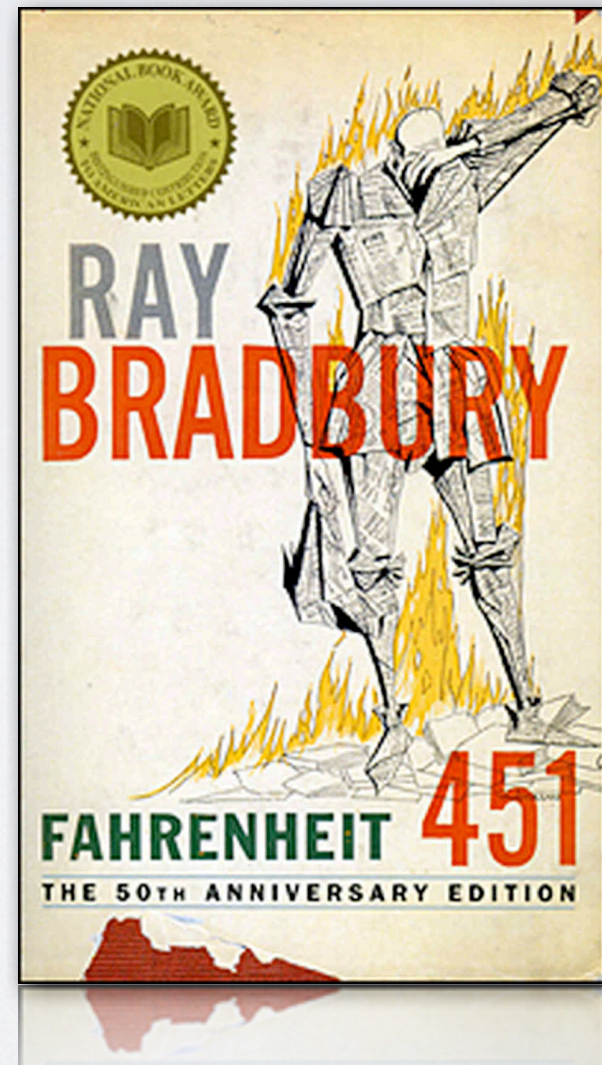


Parody

FAHRENHEIT 451

BY RAY BRADBURY

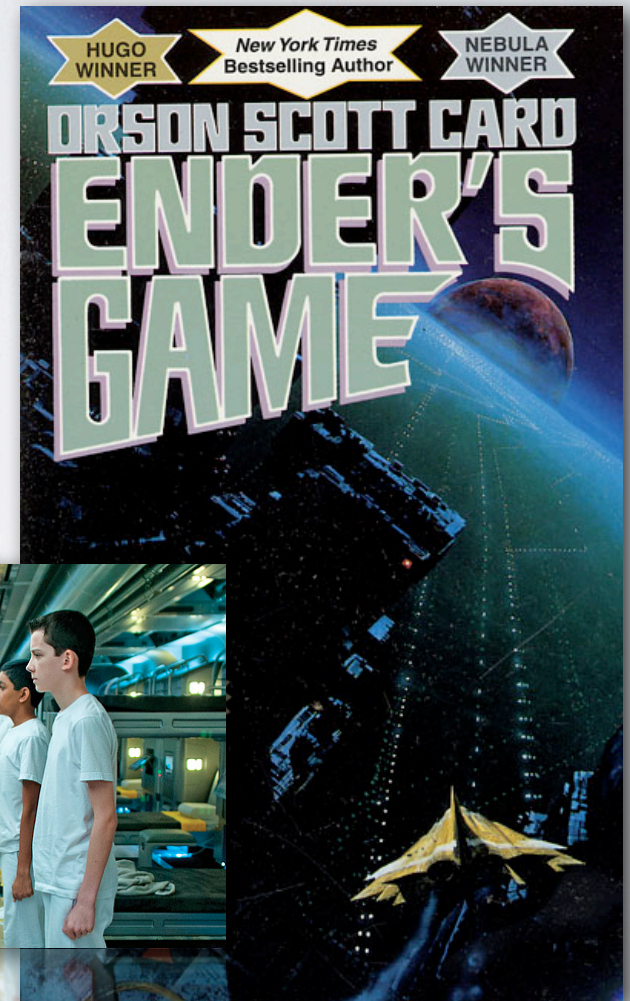
- Published 1953
- A dystopian novel which presents a future American society where books are outlawed and firemen burn any house that contains them.
- Lexile Score = 890L / 10.0



ENDER'S GAME

BY ORSON SCOTT CARD

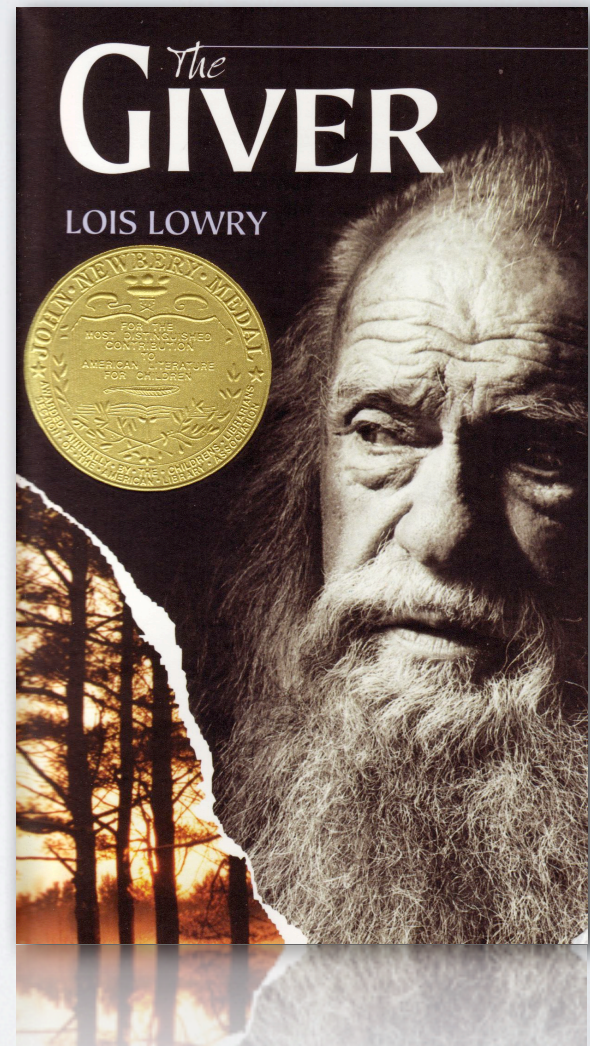
- Published 1985
- A military dystopian novel which presents an imperiled humankind who have barely survived two conflicts with an insectoid alien species. In preparation for the 3rd conflict, children are bred as military geniuses.
- Lexile Score = 780L / 9.0



THE GIVER

BY LOIS LOWRY

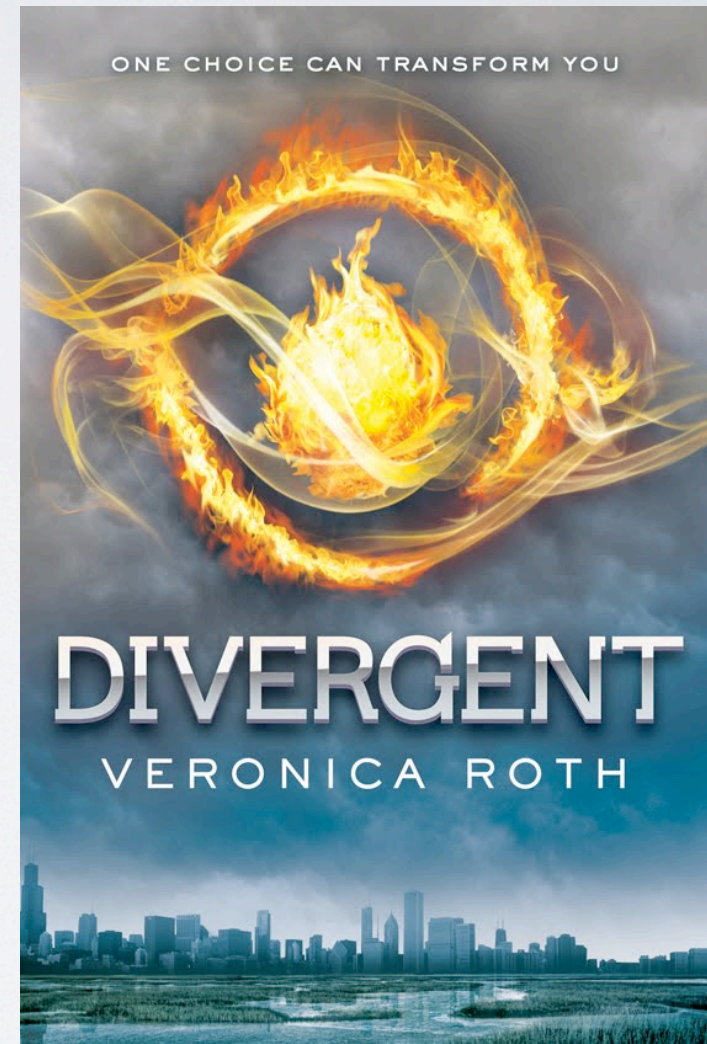
- Published 1993
- A dystopian novel that follows a child named Jonas through the twelfth year of his life and his decision whether to convert to “sameness” or to rebel and save the life of his little brother.
- Lexile Score = 760L / 6.0

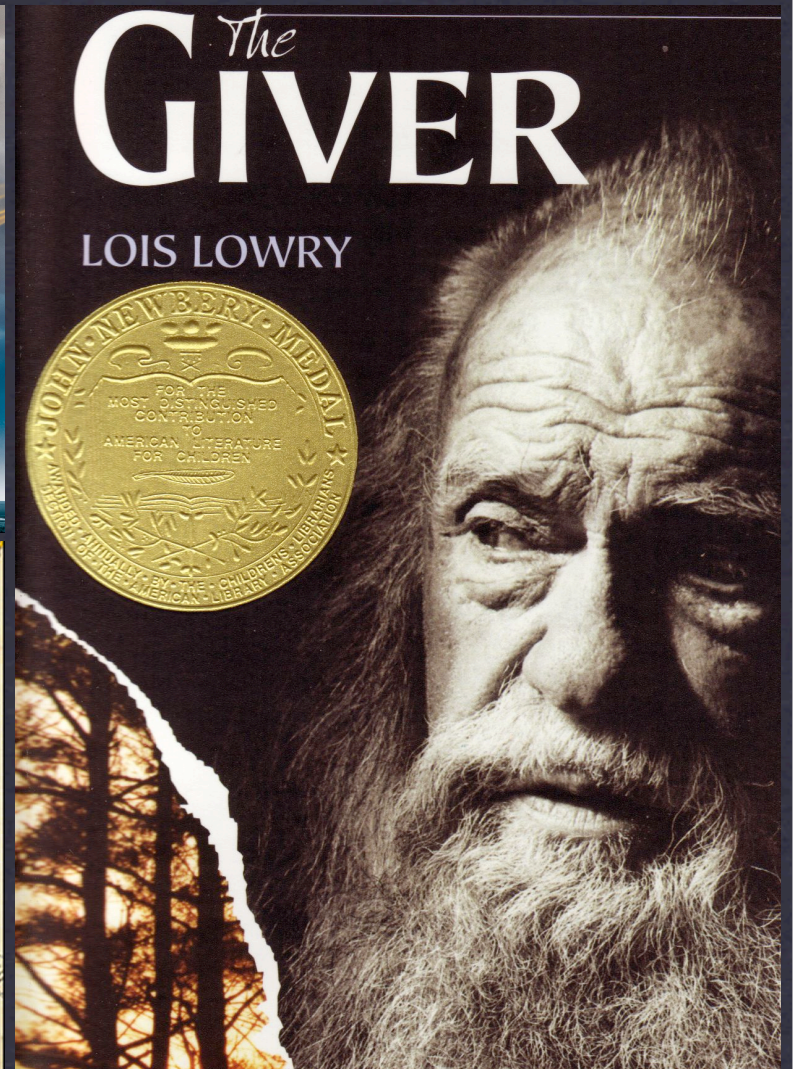
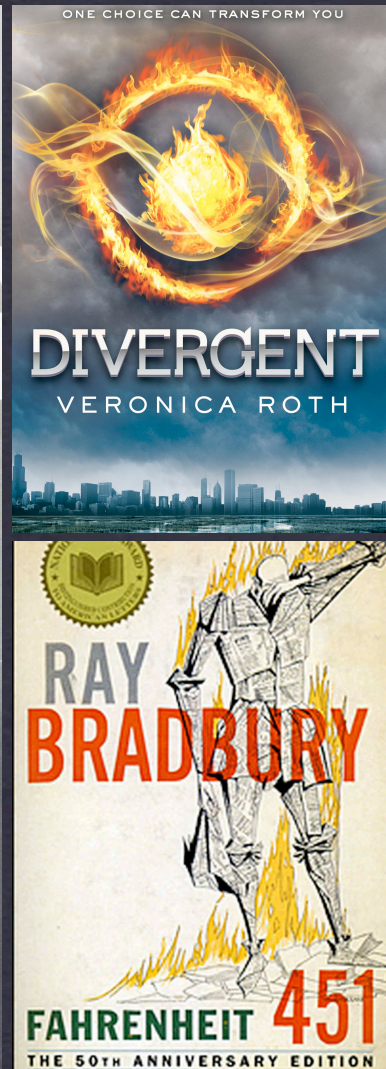
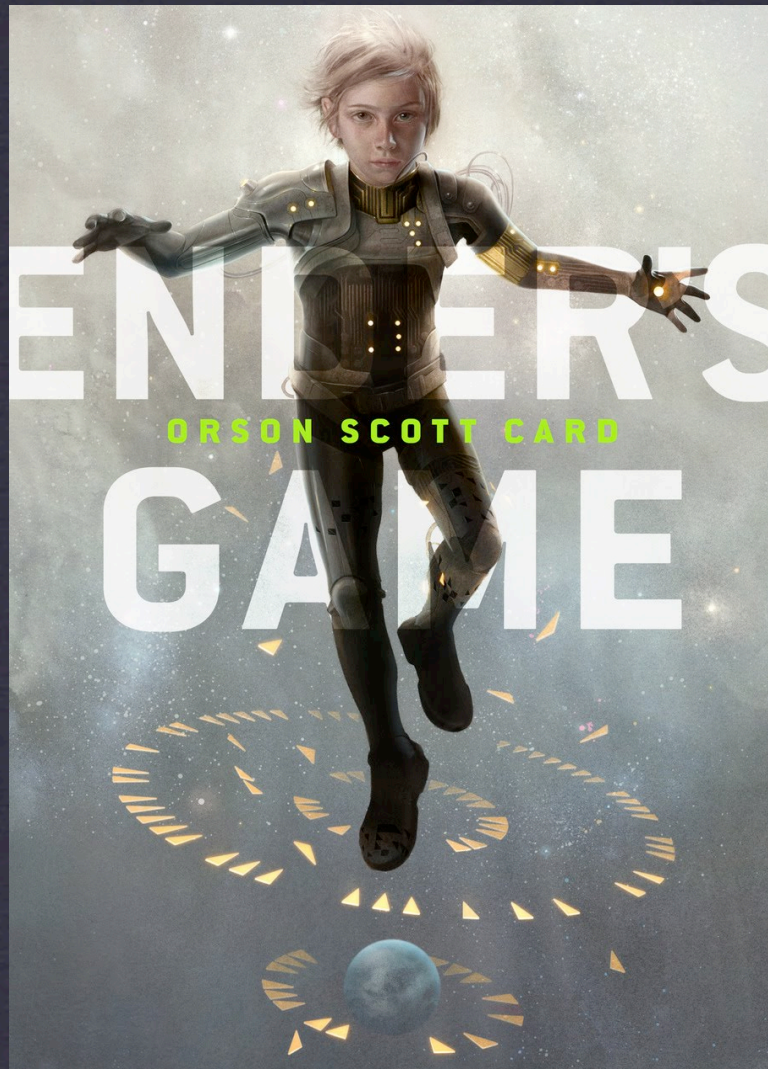


DIVERGENT

BY VERONICA ROTH

- Published 2011
- Set in Chicago in a dystopian future, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue. On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives.
- Lexile Score = 700L





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INDEPENDENT READING

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