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| **Overview of topic:** In this unit, students will study the genre of science fiction. They will read a range of extracts and short stories and explore the use of different conventions and how they achieve effects. Students will use their annotation skills to help decipher meaning, select evidence and help identify the different meanings and effects created by the writer. |
| **Key content/ ideas/ concepts** | **Keywords/ Glossary** |
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| 1  | **‘Foundation’ by Isaac Asimov**Gaal is a young mathematician and originates from [Synnax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synnax). He has been invited to [Trantor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trantor) by Hari Seldon to join the [psychohistory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychohistory_%28fictional%29) project; a science which combines [history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History), [sociology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology), and [mathematical statistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical_statistics) to make general predictions about the future behavior of the [Galactic Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galactic_Empire_%28Asimov%29). He meets Seldon shortly after arrival on Trantor, but is already under surveillance by agents of the Committee of Public Safety. |
| 2  | **‘The Fifth Season’ – N.K. Jemisim**This story takes place on a planet with a single [supercontinent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supercontinent) called the Stillness. Every few centuries, its inhabitants endure what they call a "Fifth Season" of catastrophic climate change. |
| 3 | **‘The Red Rising’ by Pierce Brown**Set on a future planet of Mars, it has been seven hundred years since mankind colonised other planets. The powerful ruling class of humans has installed a rigid and color-based social hierarchy, where the physically superior Golds at the top rule with an iron fist. The story follows lowborn miner Darrow, a lowly Red, as he infiltrates the ranks of the elite Golds. |
| 4 |  **‘The Time Machine’ by H.G. Wells**The Time Traveller has finally finished work on his time machine, and it rockets him into the future. When the machine stops, in the year 802,701 AD, he finds himself in a paradisiacal world of small humanoid creatures called Eloi. They are frail and peaceful, and give him fruit to eat. |
| 5 | **‘The Power’ by Naomi Alderman**This tells the story of the imagined history of the tumultuous era during which women across the world developed and shared the power to emit electricity from their hands. This fictional historical fiction chronicles the experiences of Allie, Roxy, Margot, Jocelyn, and Tunde, as they navigate their rapidly changing world. |
| 6 | **‘The Martian Chronicles – Ylla’ by Ray Bradbury**On Mars, a Martian woman named Ylla has dreams of a rocket coming down from the sky, bearing a light-skinned, blue-eyed creature. Martians have golden skin, light hair, and yellow, button-like eyes. Her husband Yll thinks she is sick and takes her to town to distract her. She has more dreams, and learns exactly when the rocket will land. But she talks in her sleep, and Yll hears her. The rocket is coming that afternoon, but he makes her stay inside. She hears two gunshots from far away at just the time the rocket is supposed to have arrived. |
| 7 | **‘Beyond Lies the Wub’ by Philip K. Dick**Peterson, a crew member of a spaceship loading up with food animals on [Mars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mars), buys an enormous pig-like creature known as a "wub" from a native just before departure. The captain indicates it would make a good meal. The crew soon realises that the wub is a very intelligent creature, capable of [telepathy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telepathy) and maybe even [mind control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_control). They feel sorry for it but the captain insists on killing and eating the wub. At the dinner table, Captain Franco apologises for the "interruption" and resumes an earlier conversation between Peterson and the wub - which now has apparently taken over the Captain's body. |
| 8 | **‘The Stolen Bacillus’ by H. G. Wells**The Bacteriologist has a visitor to his laboratory, a pale stranger who inspects the cholera bacillus. A vial of the live cholera is stolen by the visitor who threatens to administer the vial into London’s water supply, but there is a humorous twist.  |

**Key Features of Science Fiction**Science fiction is the fiction of the possible. It can include some of the following conventions: a futuristic setting or alternative time zone, a place in outer space or alternative versions of earth, developments or advances in technology (such as robots), new scientific principles (such as time travel), conflict between good and evil, and extra-terrestrial life (such as aliens). | **Language devices****Adjectives –** words used to give more detail about a noun**Adverbs –**  words used to describe how an action is performed**Alliteration** – words starting with the same letter – sound them out and analyse the sound, *e.g. slippery slope***Complex Sentence** - A complex sentence has one main idea and at least one extra phrase. or clause to give more information about the main point**Compound Sentence –** a sentence in which two simple sentences are joined by a connective**Foreshadow** – to warn or indicate a future event**Hyperbole** – an extreme exaggeration**Imagery** - visually descriptive or figurative language, especially in a literary work. **Imperatives**- The form of a verb used to give commands, e.g. *‘Take my hand.’***Metaphor** – comparing things by saying something is something else *e.g. the belly of the waiting jeep* **Noun –** a word that names a person, place or thing**Onomatopoeia** – A word that sounds like the thing that it is describing *e.g. rumbles and jingle***Oxymoron**- words that contrast each other that are placed next to each other. *E.g. dark light* **Pathetic fallacy** – when the environment is reflective of the mood or feelings of a character**Personification** – the attribution of human qualities and actions to inanimate objects**Repetition**- When one word or phrase is repeated, *e.g. the earth is the earth is the earth***Showing Not Telling –** allowing your audience to see how a character is feeling rather than simply telling them.**Simile** – A way of describing something comparing it to something else *e.g. Trees falling heavy as whales***Simple Sentence –** a sentence that expresses one idea |

Glossary

Conflict – arguments and disagreements

Extra-terrestrial – a hypothetical or fictional being from outer space

Futuristic – pertaining to future events or circumstances

Hierarchy - a system in which members of an organisation or society are ranked according to relative status or authority

Telepathy - the supposed communication of thoughts or ideas by means other than the known senses

medley - a varied mixture of people or things.

drone - make a continuous low humming sound.

hoists - raise (something) by means of ropes and pulleys

freight - goods transported in bulk by truck, train, ship, or aircraft

jar – to move or try to move something by pushing

visa - an endorsement on a passport indicating that the holder is allowed to enter, leave, or stay for a specified period of time in a country

immensity - the extremely large size, scale, or extent of something

anonymous - not identified by name; of unknown name

nonchalant - feeling or appearing casually calm and relaxed; not displaying anxiety, interest, or enthusiasm

idly - with no particular purpose, reason, or foundation

context - the circumstances that form the setting for an event

plateaus - an area of fairly level high ground

dynamism - the quality of being characterized by vigorous activity and progress

empire - an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch

wilted - (of a plant, leaf, or flower) become limp through heat, loss of water, or disease; droop

mosaics - a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small pieces of stone, tile, glass

geodesic -  the shortest possible line between two points on a sphere

precarious - not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse

genteel - exaggerated or affected politeness, refinement, or respectability

emulation - effort to match or surpass a person or achievement, typically by imitation

coercion - the action or practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats

hubris - excessive pride or self-confidence

girth - the measurement around the middle of something

perpetual - never ending or changing

obelisk - a tapering stone pillar

pitiless (line 4)

imperious (line 7)

nurture (line 8)

dominion (line 13)

feeble (line 18)

stoic (line 27)

lament (line 29)

noxious (line 46)

Glossary

futilely (line 50)

tendril (line 58)

dexterity (line 65)

rations (line 80)

cauterising (line 92)

snag (line 104)

futurity

exquisite

tentacles

frail

hitherto

minute

egotism

intellectual (line 43)

suspended (line 45)

vain

poxy (line 14)

sulking (line 15)

prickle (line 24)

static (line 34)

crook (line 53)

prone (line 58)

instinct (line 71)

welling (line 76)

crooning (line 77)

fern (line 79)

tendrils (line 79)

wary (line 85)

hearth (line 104)

lopsided (line 108)

sodden (line 114)

lolling (115)

primrose

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| **Self-Quiz Questions** | **Self-Quiz Questions** | Challenge Self-Quiz Quizzing  |
| 1. Write your own definition of a conflict.
 | 1. List three conventions of the Science Fiction genre. | 1. Write your own definition of Science Fiction. |
| 1. Write your own definition of extraterrestrial.
 | 2. Write your own definition of futuristic.  | 2. Write your own definition of a hierarchy. Can you think of an example of a hierarchy? |
| 1. Find an example of a noun from the summaries.
 | 3. Find an example of an adverb from the summaries. | 3. Create your own example of a metaphor. How is it effective? |
| 1. Find an example of an adjective from the summaries.
 | 4. Create your own example of a simile. | 4. Create your own example of personification. How is it effective? |
| 1. Find an example of a verb from the summaries.
 | 5. Create your own example of alliteration. | 5. Why is ‘show not tell’ an effective technique? |
| 1. Where is ‘The Fifth Season’ set?
 | 6. Who is watching Gaal in ‘Foundation’? | 6. What sort of leaders are the physically superior Golds? How do you know? |
| 1. What is the name of the main character in ‘The Red Rising’?
 | 7. What disaster occurs every few hundred years in ‘The Fifth Season’? | 7. Why do you think Yll makes Ylla stay inside? |
| 1. What does Ylla dream about in ‘The Martian Chronicles’?
 | 8. Which group of people are in charge in ‘The Red Rising’? | 8. What does the reader realise the wub has done by the end of the story? |
| 1. What does one of the crew members find and take onto the spaceship in ‘Beyond Lies the Wub’?
 | 9. How do the women use their power in ‘The Power’? | 9. Why do you think it would it be so dangerous if the cholera virus entered London’s water supply? |
| 1. What is stolen by the visitor from the Bacteriologist’s laboratory?
 | 10. Why does the visitor steal the vial of live cholera in ‘The Stolen Bacillus’? | 10. Using some ambitious vocabulary, write your own summary of what a piece of science fiction should be about.  |
| **Total score:** | **Total score:** | **Total score:** |