

Title:

The Three "Questions" Of Science Fiction

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Summary:

There is a great deal of misunderstanding about what that particular branch of literature called Science Fiction, broadly speaking, is story-telling that deals with the impact of organized knowledge on our lives.

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Article Body:

There is a great deal of misunderstanding about what that particular branch of literature called Science Fiction, broadly speaking, is story-telling that deals with the impact of organized knowledge on our lives. Many classic S.F. films and books take place in worlds identical to ours, except for the creative changes made by the author. But at the core, there are three questions or musings most often asked or explored in any work of Science Fiction.

- 1) What if?
- 2) If Only
- 3) If This Goes On

Although these three "questions" overlap considerably, the first, "What If?", is the most essential. The second adds a bit of longing to the equation. "If Only President Kennedy hadn't been assassinated" There is an emotional quality to the "If Only" questions, and they often speak to a sense of nostalgia. The third question, "If This Goes On" is tailor-made for cautionary tales. "If we continue to pollute the earth, what will happen?" These questions are starting places for speculation. While it is easy to use any of them for the sake of a story, by concentrating on the question, or proposition, at the core of your story, it becomes easier to create a unique question with a unique answer. The more deeply you delve, the more likely you will be to create a unique question with a unique answer. Even if it IS about a 300-foot radioactive lizard!

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