

DEFINITIONS

science fiction:

Science fiction is largely based on writing rationally about alternative possibilities. It is similar to, but differs from, fantasy in that, within the context of the story, its imaginary elements are largely possible within scientifically established or scientifically postulated laws of nature (though some elements in a story might still be pure imaginative speculation).

Examples of science fiction stories and movies: *Star Wars*, *Avatar*, *The Matrix*, *Inception*, *The Avengers*.

fantasy:

A genre of fiction that uses magic and other supernatural phenomena as a primary element of plot, theme or setting. Many works within the genre take place in imaginary worlds where magic is common. Fantasy is generally distinguished from science fiction and horror by the expectation that it steers clear of (pseudo-)scientific and macabre themes, respectively, though there is a great deal of overlap among the three (which are subgenres of speculative fiction).

Examples of fantasy stories and movies: *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*, *Twilight*, *Harry Potter*.

speculative fiction:

An umbrella term encompassing the more fantastical genres, specifically science fiction, fantasy, horror, supernatural fiction, superhero fiction and alternate history in literature.