

Title: "Fantastic Voyage: Evolution of Science Fiction"

Director: Bill McClane

(Released in 2002)

Approved for use in grades 11-12

Summary of the Work:

"Mary Shelley shocked and captivated 19th century readers with her tale of a man-made monster. H.G. Wells won legions of fans with his visionary worlds and futuristic tales. And six of the top-ten grossing films of all time have told stories set in imagined settings, populated with strange creatures, fantastic worlds and imaginary technology. FANTASTIC VOYAGE charts a course of discovery through the history of science fiction, from its origins in the changing world of the Industrial Revolution through the explosion of genre magazines like Amazing Stories and onto the silver screen. See how the stories have evolved and matured over the years, and see sci-fi filmmaking unfold through clips from classics like A Trip to the Moon, King Kong, and Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Author Greg Bear, directors Robert Wise (Star Trek) and Roger Corman (The Pit and the Pendulum, Little Shop of Horrors) and Captain Kirk himself, William Shatner, are among the many insiders interviewed for this fascinating survey of a genre that continues to inspire, challenge and entertain us." (Amazon).

The film will be viewed in the following manner:

- Full-length film** (*Note: Must have purchased appropriate rights. If uncertain, contact your Teacher-Librarian for copyright guidelines.)

Clips of film

Rationale:

This tv-documentary by A&E provides relevant context and background information for a study of the science fiction genre. It describes the literary and film tropes as they evolved over the decades, from the mid-1800s through today, providing an excellent framework for students to use as they expand their knowledge of science fiction writing and film.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

N/A

- * Resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any Teacher-Librarian to view the scholarly sources.
- * Scholarly reviews are also available online. Contact the Teacher-Librarian for guidance.

Noted Distinction:

N/A

Content Rating: TV G

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The film meets the [Learning Resources Guidelines](#) and [Board Policy](#).

Approval:

Submitted to Committee: 8/28/23

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Film:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a film is to personally watch the film in its entirety.)

Connection to the Curriculum:

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Though this is a tv-documentary, it brings to life the timeline students are studying and allows them to add the development of various tropes and notes about how historical events from each era affected the content of the genre. It was made for A&E and aired on the History Channel in 2002, so although few critical reviews are available, it comes from a well-known source of history “edutainment” which allows it to serve a key role in the course.

What purpose is this film serving within your unit?

It supports a timeline of the history of Science Fiction and provides context for a series of sci-fi short stories read with the intention of teaching the standards and tropes of the genre across the decades.

What are students engaged in while viewing the film?

Taking notes by adding details to their timeline, followed by discussion of each decade in which they cite evidence from the film.

Standard Alignment: *(Type which standard number then link to specific standard document on OPI website.)*
[SL.11-12.2](#)

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Other Films, Novels, etc.)