



Reading Resource Library Guide: Fantasy/Science Fiction

The following high interest books were selected to support an exploration of Fantasy and Science Fiction. Each book has a summary and additional information, such as book trailers and links to reviews, in a separate slide deck. Visit [this link](#) to explore the books.

Suggestions for using the text sets and slide deck:

- ▶ Choose one of the following four topics from the quarter one slide deck to explore with your class: Civil Rights, Activism, Inspirational Stories, and Fantasy/Science Fiction.
- ▶ Books in the collection span different reading levels. Also included is a separate collection, “Engaging Books for Children and Families,” which offers a selection of books that can be used with children, families, and adults.
- ▶ Explore the slides for your topic in the provided link. Each book listed in the table below has a summary and additional information with links to websites that offer supplemental material. Consider selecting one book to read aloud to your students while they read their own text.
- ▶ Share the slide deck with students and explore the books and websites. Allow students individual time to explore the slide deck and choose a book or excerpts from several books to read.
- ▶ Decide how you will interact with these topics and texts. This *information guide* has suggestions for activities for the classroom, tools for teachers, and activities for families, which are starting points for larger units or creative activities to engage with topics and texts.
- ▶ The “Activities for Families” section may be copied into another document and sent home with families for engagement suggestions while reading the books.
- ▶ Use this tool to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners!

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Crenshaw</i>	Katherine Applegate	540
<i>The Witch Hunter</i>	Virginia Boecker	570
<i>The City of Ember</i>	Jeanne DuPrau	680
<i>The Lockwood Series: Book One – The Screaming Staircase</i>	Jonathan Stroud	720
<i>Seraphina</i>	Rachel Hartman	760

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Forest of a Thousand Lanterns</i>	Julie C. Dao	840
<i>The Golden Compass</i>	Philip Pullman	930 420 - Graphic Novel
Engaging books for adults and children		
<i>Finn and the Intergalactic Lunchbox</i>	Michael Buckley	630
<i>Uni the Unicorn</i>	Amy Krouse Rosenthal	640
<i>Dragons in a Bag (series)</i>	Zetta Elliott	740
<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>	Maurice Sendak	740
<i>The Legend of Greg (An Epic Series of Failures)</i>	Chris Rylander	800
<i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i>	Margery Williams	1050

Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ Some of the books in the text set are fantasy and some are science fiction. As you explore the books, have a discussion with learners on the difference between the two genres. Search online topics about **fantasy** and **science fiction** online to learn about the elements of these genres. You may want to have students create Venn Diagrams to compare and contrast the genres.
- ▶ Using what learners have learned about the differences between fantasy and science fiction, explore the books from the slide deck. Ask students to sort the books by fantasy and science fiction and discuss with them how some books cross over into each genre.
- ▶ Fantasy and science fiction usually have an element of good vs. evil and offer an opportunity for readers to learn about character choices and motivations. Consider having students track (in a graphic organizer, such as a T chart) character choices. Have learners label one column **choice/decision** and one column **impact**. If you want to extend this activity, you could have students complete the exercise from the perspective of their own personal experiences such as life choices and impactful decisions. If adult learners are feeling success and confidence with their decision to re-enter the classroom, this could be an affirming activity!
- ▶ Comparing and contrasting text to film is a fun activity with students—especially using fantasy! *The Golden Compass* is an excellent book for comparing and contrasting (and this book is ideal for a read aloud). This book has been made into a high-quality HBO series. Consider reading aloud the first few chapters and include conversations about the main character, Lyra. Consider tracking character traits for Lyra while encouraging students to pull text evidence to support their analysis of the character. Learners should think about how Lyra interacts with herself, others, and her world to support the discussion. Explore characterization of Lyra and other key characters in the first few chapters. Have learners then watch episode one of the HBO series. Complete a similar

activity using this episode. Ask learners what characters traits they would assign to Lyra and why. Lastly, complete a compare and contrast activity for text to film. There are many online tools for analyzing film. Search online topics about **analyzing film** for more support.

Helpful Links for Teachers

Edutopia:

Edutopia is an educational foundation “founded by innovative and award-winning filmmaker George Lucas.” Its mission states that it is geared for K-12, but it has many useful resources for all age groups.

- Explore the website at <https://www.edutopia.org/>
- Explore an article on creative writing, “5 Fiction Writing Tools that Spark Students’ Creativity” at <https://www.edutopia.org/article/5-fiction-writing-tools-spark-students-creativity> and use tips in this article to support activities with fantasy writing.

MasterClass: What is the Fantasy Genre?

MasterClass offers classes by “famous people who teach you about the thing that made them famous.” While you need a paid subscription to access the classes, the site offers free resources such as an outline of the fantasy genre.

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/what-is-the-fantasy-genre-history-of-fantasy-and-subgenres-and-types-of-fantasy-in-literature>

Lewis Carroll Society of North America:

The Lewis Carroll Society of North America (LCSNA), “is an organization of Carroll admirers of all ages and interests, as well as a virtual center for Carroll studies.” It offers lessons and ideas for teachers who want to pursue an exploration of Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*, and other works. His poem “Jabberwocky” from *Alice in Wonderland* offers an opportunity to learn the history of Carroll and practice word parts and parts of speech!

<https://www.lewiscarroll.org>

Activities for Families

- ▶ Choose a book to explore from the “Engaging Books for Adults and Children” section in the table above.
- ▶ Look at the front cover with your child. What do you notice? Explore the pictures and text. Have your child guess at what the story may be about using the picture on the front cover. This is called making a prediction.
- ▶ Read and discuss the book. Make connections to the fantasy books you are reading. Explore words that you do not understand. **Continued on next page...**

- ▶ Explain that fantasy books are books about magical people who live in make-believe worlds. Explore these questions with your child:
 - Why do you think this story was magical?
 - What was your favorite part of this magical story?
 - If you could create your own magical world, what would be in it?
 - If you could have any magical power or super power what would it be and how would you use it?

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