

DOCTOR WHO



Resource Handbook

This material was designed to supplement the television series, *Dr. Who*, broadcast on TV Ontario. TV Ontario is the television service of The Ontario Educational Communications Authority.

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Who Is Dr. Who?

Dr. Who is a Time Lord, one of an advanced race of beings with extraordinary intellectual and psychic powers who are based on the planet Gallifry, on the far edge of the Galaxy. The Time Lords possess the ability to travel through time and space. In the *Tardis*, a time/space machine that resembles an old-fashioned British police call-box on the outside and a sophisticated spaceship on the inside, Dr. Who has travelled to the planet Earth in the twentieth century. Here, as special advisor to UNIT, a United Nations intelligence group, Dr. Who uses his powers to outwit a seemingly endless variety of inter-galactic monsters and villainous forces.

Dr. Who is a television phenomenon, a BBC-produced science fiction series that has been running in Britain since 1963. Intended originally as a children's show, over the years the series has picked up enthusiastic viewers of all ages. Its popularity can be explained in part by imaginative and exciting plot design, but there are also a wry, gentle wit and an unobtrusive concern with educational and moral issues: the role of politics in everyday life, traditionalism vs. modernization, interpreting messages from the past, nationalism vs. globalism, warlike vs. non-violent behaviour, and ultimately, the triumph of good over evil.

Since the series started, four actors have played the title role; the episodes on TVOntario feature the third Dr. Who, Jon Pertwee.

Futurist Dr. Jim Dator introduces individual episodes.

What's In This Handbook

The handbook was designed for people who want to find out more about futures studies and science fiction. It contains a brief outline of themes in the *Dr. Who* programs, some suggestions for discussion, resources and reference material.

Some Themes in Dr. Who

The following is a list of the programs in the *Dr. Who* series, and some of the themes suggested by the programs.



The Three Doctors

Episode 1: the personality of Dr. Who

Episode 2: the Tardis and time travel

Episode 3: scientific vs. militaristic ways of solving problems

Episode 4: black holes, anti-matter, and singularity (new concepts in physics and astronomy)



Dr. Who and the Daleks

Episode 1: the Daleks

Episode 2: the idea of changing history from the future; of coming back from the future to interfere with the present in order to change the future

Episode 3: slavery vs. freedom; revolution vs. acceptance of one's lot in life

Episode 4: a dystopic view of the future, the present is worse than the past and the future will be worse than the present



The Curse of the Peladon

Episode 1: the possibility of extra-terrestrial life and intelligence

Episode 2: intermarriage; the possibility of more than two sexes

Episode 3: the role of politics in everyday life

Episode 4: traditionalism vs. modernization



The Claws of Axos

Episode 1: biotechnology as a concept and as the dominant technology of the future

Episode 2: technology assessment, the need to assess the social impact of technology before it is widely used; attempts to create a way to do so

Episode 3: nationalism vs. localism vs. globalism vs. universalism

Episode 4: Dr. Who's attitude to politics and politicians



The Time Warriors

Episode 1: swearing without swear words; the difficulty of writing convincing dialogue when some words are taboo

Episode 2: concept and examples of appropriate technology

Episode 3: time travel

Episode 4: warlike vs. nonviolent behaviour



The Mutants

Episode 1: literary allusions in *Dr. Who*

Episode 2: race and sex stereotypes

Episode 3: scientific vs. bureaucratic ways of solving problems

Episode 4: interpreting messages from the past

Episode 5: new technologies used by *Dr. Who*

Episode 6: mutation and change: normal or abnormal?



Ideas for Consideration and Discussion

1. What is science fiction?
2. What are the origins of SF? How has it developed? What significant trends have there been in the last ten years?
3. Is SF scientifically sound? To what extent are concepts in SF related to known realities?
4. What are some actual forecasts of future life on earth? Can you recall your first encounter with the idea that life on earth is threatened?
5. Try to recall when you first heard of pollution, ecology, population explosion, ozone, future shock, enzyme, pH? Do these things mean more to you now than they did when you first encountered them?
6. What contact do you have with science and technology? Assess your understanding of how electricity works, television, elevators, the telephone, movies, computers, pocket calculators, vacuum cleaners, etc.
7. What is serious investigation of the future? How does it relate to SF?
8. Compare the study of the future to the study of the past.
9. How has the world changed since you were ten? What changes have made the most difference in your life?
10. Is there any technology that you find surprising? Startling? What is your reaction to the kind of technology found in SF?
11. How much thought have you given to the future? Do you have definite plans? Do you anticipate changes? Try thinking about what you will be doing in 2 days, 2 months, 1 year, 10 years, 50 years from now.

Audiotapes

At Any Time

This series of six half-hour OECA radio programs (available on audio tape) explores science fiction and its themes. Programs include interviews with science fiction writers, dramatized

excerpts from novels and short stories, as well as suggestions and questions for discussion.

1. *Sail On, O Spaceship of State*
Journeys to and from earth, since Lucian to Arthur C. Clarke are considered with special emphasis on space travel.

2. *The Made as Master*
The machine was developed to lighten man's load. But far too often, it seems the servant has become the equal, if not the master, of its inventors.

3. *Future Imperfect*
What are the possibilities for future life on earth?

4. *All that Groks Is God*
A major theme in science fiction is the evolution of organized religion in the future. If God does not exist, it seems there will be a necessity for people to invent one. What might be the new religion?

5. *The Fine Print in the Social Contract*
What will happen to democracy in the post-atomic world? Various utopias in science fiction are examined as models for future society.

6. *Armageddon and Afterwards*
How might people survive and exist after a nuclear holocaust or some other colossal disaster?

The programs are available on audio-tape to educational institutions in Ontario. For information about purchasing, contact: OECA Order Desk, Box 200, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario M4T 2T1.

Videotapes

The Prisoner Puzzle

The Prisoner Puzzle is a series of 17 one-hour television programs, the primary component of which is Patrick McGoohan's classic series, *The Prisoner*. Following each episode Warner Troyer analyzes elements and themes in the drama. The programs are available on videotape to educational institutions. A viewer's guide is available free. For information about purchasing videotapes and to obtain the free guide, write to: OECA Order Desk, Box 200, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario M4T 2T1.

Organizations

Spaced-Out Library
40 St. George
Toronto, Ontario

This reference library is the only library in North America that specializes in science fiction.

Bakka Science Fiction Book Shoppe
282 Queen Street West

Toronto, Ontario M5V 2A1
The book store publishes a quarterly magazine cum catalogue, *The Bakka Magazine*.

Canadian Association for Future Studies
c/o Faculty of Education
Althouse College
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario N6G 1G7

This association provides a national point of reference and means of communication among those interested in long-range concerns and issues that face Canadians in the world. Membership is open to anyone interested in future studies.

Courses

Some community colleges and university departments of continuing studies offer courses that explore science fiction. For example, the University of Toronto offers a course entitled "Science Fiction: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Bibliography

Science Fiction

Science fiction novels, short stories and anthologies are legion. Well-known writers include: Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, Frank Herbert, Philip Dick, Kurt Vonnegut, Ursula K. LeGuin, Jules Verne, Fritz Leiber, George Orwell, Brian Aldiss, Stanislaw Lem, Judith Merril, Gordon Dickson. Magazines include: *Analog*, *Galaxy*, *Amazing*, and *Fantasy and Science Fiction*.

Critical Works

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Rottensteiner, Franz. *The Science Fiction Book: An Illustrated History*. New York: Seabury Press, 1975.

Periodicals

Extrapolation: A Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy (2/year)
Thomas D. Clareson, editor
Box 3186
The College of Wooster
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Luna Monthly

Frank and Ann Dietz
655 Orchard Street
Oradell, New Jersey 07649

Futures Studies

Books

Beitz, Charles, and Washburn, Michael, eds. *Creating the Future: A Guide to Living and Working for Social Change*. New York: Bantam, 1974.

Bundy, Robert, ed. *Images of the Future: The Twenty-First Century and Beyond*. Buffalo: Prometheus, 1976.

Clarke, Arthur C. *Profiles of the Future*. New York: Bantam, 1967.

Commoner, Barry. *The Closing Circle*. New York: Bantam, 1972.

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Papanek, Victor. *Design for the Real World*. New York: Bantam, 1974.

Toffler, Alvin. *Future Shock*. New York: Bantam, 1970.

Toffler, Alvin, ed. *The Futurists*. New York: Random House, 1972.

Periodicals

Futures: The Journal of Forecasting and Planning
(6/year)

IPC (America)
205 East, 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

The Futurist: A Journal of Forecasts, Trends and Ideas about the Future
(bi-monthly)
World Future Society
Box 30369, Bethesda Branch
Washington, D.C. 20014