

Science Fiction Essay
Beckett 3U
2013

Using the compare or contrast point by point method, write an essay that discusses one of the following question-prompts.

1. What is so important about the Truth in Science Fiction?
 - **potential thesis:** The protagonists in Science Fiction are so obsessed the Truth that they are willing to destroy themselves to deepen their knowledge.
 - stories include *The Matrix*, *Alien*, *The Electric Ant*, *Strange Wine*

2. How are SF authors obsessed with an examination of persona?
 - **potential thesis:** In Science Fiction texts, persona is depicted as useful yet destructive. That is to say the inherent falseness of persona, while useful in modern society in certain situations, can also lead to negative consequences for the person presenting a false face.
 - *The Handler*, *Chicxulub*, *The Matrix* (Neo/Thomas Anderson, Cypher, Agent Smith), *Coerl*, *The Life of Anybody*, *The Electric Ant*,

3. The protagonists in much of Science Fiction come to the realization that reality is subjective.
 - **potential thesis:** Many Science Fiction texts posit the notion that the universe is our own construction. That reality is subjective, personal, and fragile.
 - *The Matrix*, *Chicxulub*, *The Electric Ant*, *Strange Wine*,

4. How are liminal beings prevalent in the text we studied in class?
 - **potential thesis:** In Science Fiction, sometimes aliens, robots, cyborgs, and computers are more human than humans. These “liminal” beings often bridge humanity and something different. They can help to tell us about ourselves by illustrating human frailty, or overcoming human limitations, or finally by becoming something uncanny and monstrous.
 - *Alien* (Ash, Kane’s Son), *The Electric Ant*, *The Matrix*, *Strange Wine*, *They’re Made of Meat*.

5. What are the conventions of the bug eyed monster? How do the texts we studied work to embrace or subvert the convention of the bug eyed monster?
 - **potential thesis:** Far more than a stock character or a cliché the parasitoid aliens depicted in modern science fiction play upon fears of rape, disease, and annihilation.

From wikipedia:

“Bug-eyed monster is an early convention of the science fiction genre. Extraterrestrials in science fiction of the 1930s were often described (or pictured on covers of pulp magazines) as grotesque creatures with huge, oversized or compound eyes and a lust for women, blood and/or general destruction. The term is now often abbreviated to BEM.”

Black Destroyer, *Alien*, *Dr Who Ark in Space* (the Wirrin)

The Nuts and bolts:

Include an Inspiration Document as an outline.
Length: 750 - 1000 words (3-4 pages)
References: science fiction texts
Quotations: at least three
Format: Title Page and Works Cited all following the MLA style flawlessly.
Due Date:

Organizer

Question-prompt	Texts choose 2 or 3	main points	support from each chosen text
	The Hander		
	The Life of Anybody		
	Chicxulub		
	Strange wine		
	the electric ant		
	the life of anybody		
	they're made of meat		
	Dr. Who the ark in space		
	The Matrix		
	Alien		