CRASH COURSE
IN FANTASY
Panelists

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Access Services Manager
Skokie Public Library

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NoveList
The top ten books published this month that librarians across the country love.

libraryreads.org
Speculative Fiction

Science Fiction
What if our scientific theories are real?

Horror
What if our nightmares are real?

Fantasy
What if magic or magical creatures exist?
History of the Genre
J.R.R. Tolkien
Fantasy in the ’60s and ’70s
Fantasy in the ’80s
Fantasy in the ’90s
Fantasy for All Ages
Awards

The **Hugo Awards** are probably the most prestigious fantasy and science fiction awards. Categories include: literature, artwork, film, performance and other accomplishments in science fiction and fantasy.

The **Nebula Awards** recognize only literature. Categories include best novel, novella, novelette and short story.

The **World Fantasy Awards** recognize literature and artists, and are voted on by attendees of the annual World Fantasy Convention.
Why Fantasy?

• Escape from reality into immersive worlds
• Magic and magical creatures are awesome
• Forge strong emotional connections to characters (often) over the course of multiple books
“Fantasy is silver and scarlet, indigo and azure, obsidian veined with gold and lapis lazuli. Reality is plywood and plastic, done up in mud brown and olive drab. We read fantasy to find the colors again, I think ...”

― George R.R. Martin
Fantasy Readers

- Are whole-collection users, frequently well-versed in pop culture
- Often don’t discriminate between adult, teen, or youth books
- World-building is essential, but also read for character, pacing and tone within the genre
Fantasy Appeal
Fantasy Subgenres
Classic Subgenres

- Epic Fantasy (Adults)
- High Fantasy (Juvenile)
- Sword and Sorcery
- Military Fantasy
Rooted in This World

- Contemporary Fantasy: The Book of Life by Deborah Harkness
- Gateway Fantasy: Every Heart a Doorway by Seanan McGuire
- Urban Fantasy: Half-Resurrection Blues by Daniel José Older
- Historical Fantasy: A Brightness Long Ago by Guy Gavriel Kay
Inspired by Setting, Myth, or Culture

Afrofuturism and Afrofantasy
Arthurian Fantasy
Asian-Influenced Fantasy
Celtic Fantasy
Middle Eastern-Influenced Fantasy
Mythological Fiction
Fantasy Themes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classic Storylines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be careful what you wish for</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defend the realm!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quest for magical items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slaying the dragon</td>
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<tr>
<td>To the rescue!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vengeance is mine</td>
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Slaying the Dragon

Only hero(in)es true may face these beasts and live to tell the tale.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chosen one</td>
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<td>Dark lord</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hidden heritage</td>
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<td>Last of their kind</td>
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<td>Reluctant allies</td>
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<td>Rightful heir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scum and villainy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women of steel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zero to hero</td>
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Scum and Villainy

Sometimes you have to root for the bad guy. Antiheroes, villains, thieves and assassins make compelling protagonists in these morally grey tales.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concepts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bad religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Court intrigue</td>
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<tr>
<td>For the resistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magic goes away</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metaphorical racism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return of magic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Too powerful to contain</td>
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Court Intrigue

What's better than power? More power. In the halls of the mighty, any cup might be poisoned and any friend may be foe.
Return of Magic

Legend becomes reality as magic reenters the world.
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<th>Setting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Academies of magic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faerie realm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hidden among us</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laws of magic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Realm of the dead</td>
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Academies of Magic

No. 2 pencils, pointy hats, owls, wands, superhero capes, etc.; these young people are off to a very specialized school for the gifted.
Laws of Magic

A wizard did it ... in accordance with a complex magical system.
A few words about series...
A few words about series …

✔ Series Complete

❗ Series Complete
Popular Complete Series

- First Law
- Queen of the Tearling
- Mistborn Trilogy Novels
- The Magicians
Popular Ongoing Series

- Dandelion Dynasty
- Dresden Files
- Kingkiller Chronicles
- Mercy Thompson
Helping Readers
NovelList Resources
Genre outlines

What is Fantasy Fiction?

Fantasy fiction is a type of literature that involves magical or supernatural elements. These elements can range from magic, mythical creatures, utopias, and dystopias. 

Where to find Fantasy fiction?

Fantasy fiction can be found in any book section, including fiction, young adult, teen, and adult. You can also find fantasy fiction in the children's section. 

Recommended reads lists

Explore FANTASY themes like this one...

We Recommend...
Do you want something action-packed or do you prefer dense world-building?
Do you want something funny or do you prefer something more menacing?
Fantasy Starter Pack

✓ Representative of genre
✓ Well-reviewed
✓ Wide appeal
✓ Stand-alone or series starter
Uprooted by Naomi Novik

- Lush writing
- Subtle romance
- Strong heroine
- Inspired by folk tales
A Darker Shade of Magic by V.E. Schwab

• Fast-paced adventure
• Court intrigue
• Parallel worlds
The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms by N.K. Jemisin

- Multifaceted characters
- Intricately plotted
- Thematic complexity
Sorcerer to the Crown
by Zen Cho

• Regency-era London setting
• Sparkling dialogue and humor
• Diverse lead characters
Trail of Lightning
by Rebecca Roanhorse

• Post-apocalyptic urban fantasy shot through with supernatural elements
• Based on Native American mythology
• Action-driven with strong characters
A Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin

- Multiple first-person viewpoints
- Intense family drama
- First book feels more like historical fiction than fantasy
BRACE YOURSELVES

TRENDS ARE COMING
Diverse Mythologies
“Science Fantasy”
More TV Tie-ins
Books we can’t wait to read
CRASH COURSE
IN ROMANCE

July 17, 2019 at 2pm Eastern
Questions?

WE’VE HAD OUR “INCITING INCIDENT” AND WE’RE ON THE “JOURNEY” SO IT SEEMS LIKE WE’LL BE HAVING A “CRISIS” ANY MINUTE NOW...

THIS QUEST WAS A LOT MORE FUN BEFORE YOU GOT THAT BOOK ON STORY STRUCTURE.
THANK YOU
FINDING FANTASY IN NOVELIST
THANK YOU