

Whether through cybernetic enhancements, genetic modifications, or mind uploading, science fiction explores the potential evolution of humanity and the ethical dilemmas associated with such advancements. Novels like *Neuromancer* (1984) by William Gibson, and *Altered Carbon* (2002) by Richard K. Morgan are good examples of this type.

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* as a science fiction:

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818) is glorified as an influential work in the realm of science fiction. This novel showcases the author's imaginative ability and power to grapple with profound ethical questions. The novel predates the formal establishment of the science fiction genre, making it a pioneering piece that laid the groundwork for subsequent explorations of the relationship between humanity and scientific innovation.

One key element that positions *Frankenstein* within the science fiction genre is its engagement with the concept of reanimating life through scientific means. Victor Frankenstein, the ambitious and obsessive protagonist, examines the realm of alchemy and chemistry to create a living being from lifeless matter. Shelley's narrative explores the consequences of this audacious experiment, delving into the moral implications of playing god and tampering with the natural order. In this way, *Frankenstein* anticipates the core theme of science fiction which is the impact of scientific advancements on the human condition.

Furthermore, the novel summarises the fear and fascination with progress that is characteristic of science fiction. In an era marked by rapid scientific and industrial developments, Shelley's work reflects the societal anxieties surrounding unchecked scientific experimentation. Victor's unchecked ambition and the subsequent havoc wreaked by his creation underscore the potential dangers of unbridled scientific pursuits, a theme that resonates in many subsequent science fiction works.

The characterisation of Victor's creature also aligns with science fiction tropes. Unlike the supernatural creatures prevalent in gothic literature of the time, Shelley's creation is a result of scientific intervention. The creature's humanoid form, brought to life through a scientific process rather than mystical means, places *Frankenstein* at the forefront of a genre that would later come to explore the consequences of playing with the fundamental forces of life.

Moreover, the narrative structure of *Frankenstein* contributes to its classification as science fiction. The novel is framed as a series of letters and accounts, presenting a pseudo-scientific veneer to Victor's experiment. This framing device enhances the believability of the tale and aligns with the speculative and scientific nature of the genre.

Thus, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* undeniably qualifies as a significant example of science fiction. Its exploration of the moral and ethical ramifications of scientific pursuits, coupled with the portrayal of a creature brought to life through scientific means, positions the novel as a pioneering work that paved the way for the development of the science fiction genre. Shelley's foresight in addressing the societal implications of scientific progress has allowed *Frankenstein* to transcend its time that solidifies its place as a timeless and influential piece within the realm of speculative fiction.

Jules Verne: Father of Science Fiction

Jules Verne is called to be one of the father figures of Science Fiction. He is a towering figure in the realm of speculative literature. His works, characterised by their imaginative exploration of technological advancements and adventurous journeys, have left an indelible mark on literature. Verne's ability to foresee and articulate future technological developments, coupled with his narrative flair, places him at the forefront of science fiction authors. This critical note examines Verne's contribution to the genre, highlighting five of his seminal works that exemplify his mastery in crafting compelling tales of scientific speculation.

Jules Verne's impact on science fiction is monumental, and his works continue to captivate readers with their blend of scientific speculation and adventurous storytelling. Through novels like *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*, *From the Earth to the Moon*, *The Time Machine*, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, *The Mysterious Island*, and *Around the World in Eighty Days*, Verne has earned his place as a pioneer in the exploration of the extraordinary possibilities that lie at the intersection of science and fiction. His greatness in the literary field endures as a source of inspiration for generations of writers and readers alike, shaping the trajectory of science fiction literature.



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Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* (1870) is glorified as a testament to his profound understanding of marine science and technology. Published in 1870, the novel takes readers on an unforgettable submarine journey with Captain Nemo aboard the Nautilus. Verne's meticulous descriptions of underwater landscapes, marine life, and the advanced technology of the Nautilus showcase his keen interest in the scientific possibilities of the time.

In the novel, *From the Earth to the Moon* (1865), Verne showcases his fascination with space exploration. The novel revolves around the Baltimore Gun Club's ambitious plan to launch a projectile to the moon using a colossal cannon. Verne's foresight into the realm of space travel is remarkable, considering the novel predates the actual moon landing by more than a century. His depiction of the technicalities involved in space travel, though speculative at the time, mirrors the eventual achievements of modern space exploration.

Around the World in Eighty Days (1873) is another jewel in Verne's literary crown and is often exemplified as a classic science fiction. This novel explores the possibilities of travel and technology in the late 19th century. The story follows Phileas Fogg, a wealthy and eccentric Englishman, who accepts a wager to circumnavigate the globe in just 80 days. This ambitious journey is made possible through the advancements in transportation, including trains and steamships, which were cutting-edge technologies at the time. Verne's novel reflects the fascination of the era with the potential of science and engineering to overcome geographical and temporal barriers. The book showcases Verne's imaginative vision of a world interconnected

by technology and the spirit of adventure, making it a pioneering work in the science fiction genre.

Verne's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* (1864) exemplifies his penchant for blending scientific curiosity with thrilling adventures. The novel follows Professor Otto Lidenbrock and his nephew Axel as they explore a subterranean world beneath the Earth's surface. Verne's detailed descriptions of geological formations and the imaginative landscapes encountered during the journey contribute to the overall sense of wonder and discovery that defines his science fiction.

The Mysterious Island (1874) further exhibits Verne's mastery in combining scientific knowledge with narrative ability. Stranded on a mysterious island, a group of characters employs their scientific acumen to overcome challenges and establish a thriving community. Verne's emphasis on resourcefulness and the application of scientific principles in solving problems highlights his belief in the potential of human ingenuity.