



AND



PRESENT...

Teaching *With* Science Fiction

If you teach science, mathematics, language arts or other fields, and you want to assign readings that illustrate important concepts in an exciting way;

If you want to incorporate science fiction into a reading program;

If you have always thought a science fiction class would be valuable at your school but didn't know what to teach; or,

If you love SF and want to persuade school administrators that teaching science fiction is important, then:

AboutSF's Teaching With Science Fiction Workshop is just what you're looking for!

The Workshop is designed to provide insights into science fiction and the different ways it can be used effectively in the classroom. It answers the questions educators may have about this idea-oriented, forward-looking, student-stimulating body of speculative literature. The workshop lasts approximately four hours and provides:

* Suggested Readings

* Firsthand Experiences from Teachers

* Teaching Approaches

* A DVD with Science Fiction Resources

Presenters: Magi D. Shepley and Christopher Doody — teachers with experience in introducing science fiction within a classroom setting;
John Ashmead — author, and former science fiction magazine assistant editor

Where:	Chase Room, The Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn 245 Shawan Rd, Hunt Valley, MD 21031
When:	Monday, May 31, 2010 (Memorial Day) 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Hosted by:	Balticon (Maryland regional science fiction convention)

Balticon, now in its 44th year, features presentations, discussions, and workshops by noted authors, scientists, artists, and musicians. Its full weekend of activities also includes concerts, dances, movies, anime, board gaming, a film festival of innovative short features, and live original theater. For information on attending the convention visit: www.balticon.org

Fee: There is no charge for teachers attending the workshop or for Balticon attendees. No pre-registration or advance notification of attendance is required.

AboutSF coordinates volunteer efforts throughout the speculative fiction field. AboutSF is a joint project of the [University of Kansas](#), the [Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America](#), and the [Science Fiction Research Association](#), with generous support from [Tor Books](#), [The Heinlein Prize Trust](#), and several individual donors. For communications, questions, or more information regarding this event, contact Balticon's AboutSF Coordinator at pete@bsfs.org.

The Teaching *With* Science Fiction Workshop at Balticon 2010

Teachers attending the Workshop also will be **invited as Balticon's guests** to participate in the Friday evening opening session of Balticon, providing opportunities to talk with Balticon's authors, artists, and scientists at special receptions, and offering a variety of educational lectures, panel discussions, and author readings – not to mention a concert, a dance, and the U.S. premiere of a science fiction comedy film! Unlike the Workshop itself, this Friday evening event requires advance notification so we can send you an authorization to attend without paying the usual Balticon registration fee. To receive a written invitation, please send an email request to Balticon's AboutSF Coordinator at pete@bsfs.org.

IMPORTANT -- PLEASE NOTE: THIS REFLECTS A DATE CHANGE FROM AN ORIGINAL PLAN TO HOLD THIS WORKSHOP ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE BALTICON. THIS MONDAY MAY 31st WORKSHOP WILL NOW BE THE ONLY ABOUT SF WORKSHOP SESSION TO BE HELD DURING BALTICON 2010.

→ **If you had been planning to attend the (previously planned) Friday session, please contact Balticon's AboutSF Coordinator at pete@bsfs.org to let us know, so we can be sure that you have access to the Workshop materials.**

Presentations

Out of the Univers(al) Design, and Using Science Fiction to teach Beowulf and Arthurian Legend

Magi Shepley is a current special education teacher for Park View High School, in Loudoun County, Virginia. She has been a classroom teacher for 14 years, and has taught many different types of students with disabilities. The one thing many of her students seem to have in common is a love for video games, anime & science fiction; not unlike most Balticon attendees!

Summary: As many teachers are aware, the current focus of our school systems is on meeting standards through testing. But, there are students who simply cannot prove what they have learned by using a number 2 pencil on a bubble sheet. The concept of Universal Design for Learning allows teachers to offer a variety of activities and response options to ensure that students have learned and mastered the material. It may include peer grouping, study buddies, the use of technology, and the use of related literature outside of the standard textbook, which of course includes science fiction.

Attendees will learn about how using excerpts from science fiction novels can allow students to access English, and other core course subjects, by providing the “hook” needed to get the students engaged and interested in the lesson. Specific emphasis on the use of graphic organizers and using science fiction literature to teach transitional skills will be covered.

As an added bonus, following the Workshop there will be an optional short session on using computer simulations (also known as video games) to teach critical thinking skills, career readiness, and other transitional concepts.

The Teaching *With* Science Fiction Workshop at Balticon 2010

Presentations (*continued*)

Teaching Science Concepts with Science Fiction

Christopher Doody is a middle school science teacher in Howard County, Maryland, and is also a long-time reader and fan of science fiction. Chris is his school's STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) Coordinator, oversees the rocketry and robotics clubs, and has developed new curriculum through the Center for the Advancement of STEM Education. He has recently been working with his school's Language Arts teacher to compile lists of science fiction stories and novels containing science content suitable for teaching purposes.

Summary: Chris' presentation will share a specific lesson and current assignment that requires his students to creatively write hard SF. Through the examination of students' sample work, he will share the insights and motivations that science fiction can inspire in a classroom setting. Chris will also discuss his experience in helping choose the appropriate texts to integrate science into an advanced reading curriculum.

What Do Editors Look For in a Science Fiction Story or Novel?

John Ashmead is the son of a Professor of English and has been involved with writing and literature from an early age. Previously he was an assistant editor at Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine, and is the author of a book on writing science fiction. Currently he runs his own company, Ashmead Software & Consulting, Inc. He is working on a Ph.D. dissertation, and also maintains a web site (<http://timeandquantummechanics.com/>) focusing on the underlying principles of both time and quantum mechanics.

Summary: John will address how to teach English and math using science fiction with a reprise of his engaging discussion session from the 2009 Workshop. By explaining what professional editors look for in a science fiction story or novel, John will help teachers to appreciate what to look for when selecting science fiction for the classes they teach. Last year's attendees asked so many questions and became so involved in the discussions that we had to keep extending John's allocated time. John will open the 2010 Workshop and give it a lively start.



Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc.

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