CRASH COURSE IN FANTASY
Panelists

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Access Services Manager
Skokie Public Library

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Director, Book Discovery
NoveList
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

- The Eye of the World by Robert Jordan
- A Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin
- Guilty Pleasures by Laurell K. Hamilton
- Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone by J.K. Rowling
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
large cast of characters
sweeping
dramatic
intricately plotted
bleak
gritty
violent
lush

world-building

offbeat
amusing
quirky

funny
lyrical
descriptive

NovelList
Fantasy Subgenres
Classic Subgenres

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

Contemporary Fantasy

Gateway Fantasy

Urban Fantasy

Historical Fantasy

NovelList
Inspired by Setting, Myth, or Culture
Genreblends

Fantasy Mysteries  
Fantasy Romances  
Science Fantasy  
Steampunk  
Weird Westerns
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>
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<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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NoveList
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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Reluctant allies</td>
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<tr>
<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.
Concepts

- Bad religion
- Court intrigue
- For the resistance
- Magic goes away
- Metaphorical racism
- Return of magic
- Too powerful to contain
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.

- Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell by Susanna Clarke
- The Rise and Fall of Dodo by Neal Stephenson and Nicole Galland
- Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
- The Memory of Fire by Callie Bates
<table>
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<tr>
<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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<td>Laws of magic</td>
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<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
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

- **Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman**
  - *Good Omens: The Apocalypse has never been funnier.*
  - Soon to be a TV series.

- **Andrzej Sapkowski**
  - *The Last Wish: Introducing The Witcher*

- **Nnedi Okorafor**
  - *Who Fears Death*
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

Learn more at ebscohost.com/novelist & libraryreads.org
FINDING FANTASY IN NOVELLIST
THANK YOU