

BARTON

LIBRARY

Dare to Know

Time-Travel Fiction

Fiction that centers on travel into the future or the past and the resulting consequences or implications.

A sub-genre which assumes the capability of time travel is possible and employed by protagonists, whether publicly or in secret, easily or with difficulty, or frequently or rarely. In time-travel fiction, the main characters may move to different points in time or travel to parallel or alternate universes in an unknown time. The effects and consequences of these temporal ventures vary widely, including the changing of history, whether intentionally or accidentally. Some stories assert that time is fixed, and the past and future cannot be altered. Time travelers may be called upon to facilitate past events they were to observe and ensure history unfolds as recorded. Authors in this sub-genre often create their own version of the mechanics of time travel.

Washington Irving's *Rip Van Winkle* (1819) and Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889) utilized the concept of a time slip. Edward Paige Mitchell's "The Clock That Went Backward" (1881) and H. G. Well's *The Time Machine* (1895) popularized the idea of time traveling by mechanical means. P. D. Puspensky's *Strange Life of Ivan Osokin* (1915) depicted a character experiencing a time loop.

Warwick Deeping's *The Man Who Went Back* (1940), René Barjavel's *Future Times Three* (1944), Catherine L. Moore and Henry Kuttner's *Vintage Season* (1946), Clifford D. Simak's *Time and Again* (1951), Ray Bradbury's *A Sound of Thunder* (1952), Isaac Asimov's *The End of Eternity* (1955), Fritz Leiber's *The Big Time* (1958), Wilson Tucker's *The Lincoln Hunters* (1958), Andre Norton's *The Time Traders* (1958), Charles Eric Maine's *Calculated Risk* (1960), Keith Laumer's *The Great Time Machine Hoax* (1964), Poul Anderson's *Guardians of Time* (1960) and *The Corridors of Time* (1965), David James Karashima's *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time* (1967), and Robert Silverberg's *The Masks of Time* (1968) are classic examples of the sub-genre.

Common Elements

Altered timelines
Predetermined futures
Historical immutability
Temporal paradoxes
Special theory of relativity
General theory of relativity
Quantum mechanics
Butterfly effect

Space and time warps
Causality
Time slips
Time loops
Time machines
Time tourism
Time wars

Benefits of Reading

Provides readers with social commentary on current issues

Encourages readers to consider free will versus determinism

Offers readers an opportunity to contemplate individual versus cultural responsibility
Allows readers to reflect on second chances

Permits readers to explore human endeavors and speculate on progress
Inspires readers to ponder humanity's existential search for meaning

Modern Literary Examples

<i>The Accidental Time Machine</i> (2007) by Joe Haldeman
<i>Bones of the Earth</i> (2002) by Michael Swanwick
<i>Collision Course</i> (1973) by Barrington J. Bayley
<i>The Dark Age</i> (1996) by Traci Harding
<i>Doomsday Book</i> (1992) by Connie Willis
<i>The Fall of Chronopolis</i> (1974) by Barrington J. Bayley
<i>The Future of Another Timeline</i> (2019) by Analee Newitz
<i>The Green Futures of Tycho</i> (1981) by William Sleator
<i>The H-Bomb Girl</i> (2007) by Stephen Baxter
<i>In the Garden of Iden</i> (1997) by Kage Baker
<i>Island in the Sea of Time</i> (1998) by S. M. Sterling
<i>Kindred</i> (1979) by Octavia E. Butler
<i>The Last Day of Creation</i> (1981) by Wolfgang Jeschke
<i>Let Time Pass</i> (1986) by Svend Aage
<i>The Light of Other Days</i> (2000) by Arthur C. Clarke and Stephen Baxter
<i>A Long Time Until Now</i> (2015) by Michael Z. Williamson
<i>Lord Kelvin's Machine</i> (1992) by James P. Blaylock
<i>The Map of Time</i> (2008) by Félix J. Palma
<i>The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate</i> (2007) by Te Chang
<i>Midsummer Century</i> (1972) by James Blish

<i>Millennium</i> (1983) by John Varley
<i>An Ocean of Minutes</i> (2018) by Thea Lim
<i>The Other One</i> (2022) by Sarah Zachrich Jeng
<i>The Plot to Save Socrates</i> (2006) by Paul Levinson
<i>Replay</i> (1986) by Ken Grimwood
<i>Sea of Tranquility</i> (2022) by Emily St. John Mandel
<i>Son of Man</i> (1971) by Robert Silverberg
<i>There Will Be Time</i> (1972) by Poul Anderson
<i>This is How You Lose the Time War</i> (2019) by Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone
<i>Thrice Upon a Time</i> (1980) by James P. Hogan
<i>The Tides of Time</i> (1984) by John Brunner
<i>Time After Time</i> (1979) by Karl Alexander
<i>Time After Time</i> (1985) by Allen Appel
<i>Time of the Fox</i> (1990) by Matthew Costello
<i>The Time Ships</i> (1995) by Stephen Baxter
<i>Time Travelers Never Die</i> (2009) by Jack McDevitt
<i>Time Was</i> (2018) by Ian McDonald
<i>Time's Eye</i> (2003) by Arthur C. Clarke and Stephen Baxter
<i>Timeline</i> (1999) by Michael Crichton
<i>Wrong Place Wrong Time</i> (2022) by Gillian McAllister
<i>The Year of the Quiet Sun</i> (1970) by Wilson Tucker