Science fiction in Science Education

Day 2 of the Fiction Unit

Why use SciFi

- Motivation
- Integration
- Equity
  - Language
  - POV
- Conceptualization
- STS/NOS/Ethics

History of SciFi

(Note: lots of authors cross over and write in multiple categories)

- Classic (Shelley, Verne & Wells)--1800s-1910
- Pulp (E. E. Doc Smith, Burroughs) 1910-1940
- Hard SciFi (Asimov, Heinleim, Bradbury) 1950
- Speculative Fiction (Soft SciFi) (Norton) 1960
- Ethics/Culture/Critique (Le Guin, Card, Lem) 1970
- Cyberpunk (Gibson, Sterling, Cadigan, Stephenson) 1980-?

History of SciFi in Audio-Visual Media

- Classic: Orson Wells's "War of the World"
- Pulp: Flash Gordon
- Hard SciFi: The Day the Earth Stood Still
- Speculative Fiction (SF): Twilight Zone
- Ethics/Culture/Critique: Silent Running, Omega Man, Planet of the Apes
- Cyberpunk: Blade Runner, The Matrix

How to use SciFi

- Negative Uses
  - Critique “wrong phenomena”
  - Critique bad science
- Positive Uses
  - To raise ethical issues
  - To discuss the nature of science
  - To discuss emerging technologies/sciences (implications)
  - As a science genre to write in as well as read/watch

Dangers of SciFi (and Fiction)

- Takes time
- Many kids hate reading
- Teachers who use film are often seen as lazy
- The book can hijack your objectives
- Blood, guts, sex, etc.

Solutions(?)

- Collaborate with language arts and social studies
- Use clips
- Make sure the literature is linked with your objectives
- Note home warning about what you're using, also justifying the use, have alternatives ready (report from library)
- Edit (you never heard it from me) your films!

Matt Broda's Resource Page

- http://www.intuitor.com/moviephysics/
- http://www.flickclip.com/badindex.htm
- http://www.4techtv.com/callforhelp/features/33895/Bad_Movie_Science_pg1.html
- http://www.badastronomy.com/