

Week 1 Discussion Questions: A Short Course on Ursula K. Le Guin

Samuel R Delany has said that that one of the ways of approaching SF is to look at the way people read it—that those of us who read it have built up a set of skills for reading SF which let us enjoy it, where people who don't have this approach to reading are left confused.

Do you agree that you must learn, (presumably by doing) to read a particular genre in order to assess (and possibly to enjoy) it.

Can you think of examples of works with plots structured more like a bag and less like a spear?

What is the role of conflict in engaging the reader's interest? Can you be interested in a work without it?

Can you imagine a utopian work which is a utopia for everyone?

What is your most instant reaction to discovering the book you are reading has dragons in it?