

Reading Passage

The techniques employed by science fiction writers are meant to draw the reader into a world where extraordinary events can occur and where unexpected scenarios draw a striking comparison to events which mirror our everyday, real-life experiences. For that reason, good science fiction needs to stay within the limits of what is feasible or what may eventually one day transpire. At the same time, science fiction writers needs to stay away from the genre of fantasy, where stories of spells, potions, fairy tales and dragons paint a scenario which will most likely never occur.

Readers of science fiction expect to be exposed to a world different than our own but in which certain physical rules and laws still apply, and where there is at least some sense of credibility and coherence. In addition, any plot as part of a science fiction novel or story needs to mirror events which are familiar to many of us, and which may include the universal ideas of hope, loss, perseverance, love, redemption, or coming-of-age. Association with real-life events solidifies the credibility of a science-fiction plot and helps the author maintain the suspension of disbelief, without which a science fiction story becomes too unrealistic and in fact an insult to the science fiction community.

Questions

1. According to the passage, the term suspension of disbelief is defined as which of the following?
 - a. A loosely used term used to refer to stories that insult our intelligence
 - b. A term used only in science fiction literature which is meant to engage the reader in fantasy role playing scenarios
 - c. A literary term describing credible events which should not be included in any fantasy or science fiction novel
 - d. A term used to describe the science fiction community's insatiable desire for far-fetched tales which incorporate fantasy within the confines of physical laws
 - e. A literary term describing a state in which the reader of a story does not question the credibility of the events in the plot

2. This passage is most likely intended for which of the following audiences?
 - a. Aspiring historian writers with an interest in documentary analysis.
 - b. An editorial board of a life sciences publishing house.
 - c. A symposium for scholars of literary techniques and the analysis of various types of prose.
 - d. Participants in a workshop which aims to help writers develop good spelling skills.
 - e. A meeting of well-renowned science fiction published authors who desire to have their work critiqued and analyzed.