

Putting Science in Storytelling

By Roger White

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“I’m Roger White. It’s my world.”

About Roger White

- 1960's Vietnam Veteran
- 1970's MIT engineering student
- 1980's PC and Novell pioneer
- 1990's English teacher in Korea
- 2000's Pioneer web site maker

And an author



Adding science to a story

- The heart of the issue: What difference does the science or invention make to how people live?
- The story should explore these differences using interesting characters

Examples of Bad Science

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- Sulu announces, “We can go Warp 8 now.”

How to think about neat inventions

- What is the first use?
 - (faster, better and cheaper)
- What is the surprise use?
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- Let's try some

This is wide ranging

- Strong language skill
- First use
- “Follow me.” and “Danger!”
- Surprise uses
- Teaching
- Arranged marriage????

Motivate your Monsters

- Why is your monster there?
- What are his first use powers?
- What are his surprise uses?

How to get better at this

- Learn a lot – then see patterns
- Be tolerant – there are many right ways
- Ask “Why is this happening?”
- Ask “Why do you think that way?”
- Try lots of things. Get surprised.

The End

- Some of my books related to this topic
 - Science and Insight for Science Fiction Writers
 - The Honeycomb Comet
 - Tips for Tailoring Spacetime Fabric
 - Child Champs
 - Evolution and Thought
 - How Evolution Explains the Human Condition