*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 Kuttners'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

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

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| Space and time warps |
| Causality |
| Time slips |
| Time loops |

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| Time machines |
| Time tourism |
| Time wars |

## Benefits of Reading

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| Provides readers with social commentary on current issues | Allows readers to reflect on second chances |
| Encourages readers to consider free will versus determinism | Permits readers to explore human endeavors and speculate on progress |
| Offers readers an opportunity to contemplate individual versus cultural responsibility | Inspires readers to ponder humanity's existential search for meaning |

## Modern Literary Examples

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| *The Accidental Time Machine* (2007) by Joe Haldeman | *Kindred* (1979) by Octavia E. Butler |
| *Bones of the Earth* (2002) by Michael Swanwick | *The Last Day of Creation* (1981) by Wolfgang Jeschkle |
| *Collision Course* (1973) by Barrington J. Bayley | *Let Time Pass* (1986) by Svend Aage |
| *The Dark Age* (1996) by Traci Harding | *The Light of Other Days* (2000) by Arthur C. Clarke and Stephen Baxter |
| *Doomsday Book* (1992) by Connie Willis | *A Long Time Until Now* (2015) by Michael Z. Williamson |
| *The Fall of Chronopolis* (1974) by Barrington J. Bayley | *Lord Kelvin's Machine* (1992) by James P. Blaylock |
| *The Future of Another Timeline* (2019) by Analee Newitz | *The Map of Time* (2008) by Félix J. Palma |
| *The Green Futures of Tycho* (1981) by William Sleator | *The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate* (2007) by Te Chang |
| *The H-Bomb Girl* (2007) by Stephen Baxter | *Midsummer Century* (1972) by James Blish |
| *In the Garden of Iden* (1997) by Kage Baker | *Millennium* (1983) by John Varley |
| *Island in the Sea of Time* (1998) by S. M. Sterling | *An Ocean of Minutes* (2018) by Thea Lim |

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