“HARD” SCIENCE FICTION

Arthur C. Clarke
Isaac Asimov
Larry Niven
Kim Stanley Robinson
Peter F. Hamilton
Michael Crichton – The Andromeda Strain, Sphere
John Sandford and Ctein – Saturn Run
Neal Stephenson – Seveneves
Andy Weir – The Martian, Artemis

“SOFT” SCIENCE FICTION

George Orwell – 1984
Ursula K. LeGuin
Anthony Burgess – A Clockwork Orange
Madeline L’Engle – A Wrinkle in Time
Robert Heinlein – Stranger in a Strange Land
David Levithan – Every Day
Colson Whitehead – The Underground Railroad
Alena Graedon – The Word Exchange

DYSTOPIAN

Margaret Atwood – The Handmaid’s Tale, The Heart Goes Last
Philip K. Dick – A Scanner Darkly, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, Minority Report
George Orwell – Animal Farm: A Fairy Story
Ray Bradbury – Fahrenheit 451
Aldous Huxley – Brave New World
Emily St. John Mandel – Station Eleven (also near future, apocalyptic, post-apocalyptic)
Suzanne Collins – Hunger Games trilogy (also near future, apocalyptic, post-apocalyptic)
Naomi Alderman – The Power
Omar El Akkad – American War
Blake Crouch – Wayward Pines series

HANDMAID’S TALE READALIKES

Louise Erdrich – Future Home of the Living God
Kaethe Schwehn – The Rending and the Nest
Leni Zumas – Red Clocks
Carrie Vaughn – Bannerless
Megan Hunter – The End We Start From

**APOCALYPTIC/POST-APOCALYPTIC**

Cormac McCarthy – The Road
Stephen King – The Stand (some debate about whether this is sci fi, or just horror/fantasy)
William Forstchen – One Second After (and its sequels)
Hugh Howey – Silo series: Shift, Wool, Dust, standalone: Sand (as an aside, Howey credits Fraggle Rock with being the biggest influence on him)
Charlie Jane Anders – All the Birds in the Sky
Karen Thompson Walker – Age of Miracles
Justin Cronin – The Passage series
PD James – Children of Men
Colson Whitehead – Zone One

**ALTERNATIVE HISTORY**

Philip K. Dick – The Man in the High Castle (also a series on Amazon)
Stephen Fry – Making History
Michael Chabon – The Yiddish Policeman’s Union
Steve Erickson – Shadowbahn
Harry Turtledove – The Guns of the South
Omar El Akkad – American War
Kim Stanley Robinson – The Years of Rice and Salt
William Gibson and Bruce Sterling – The Difference Engine

**ALTERNATE REALITY/PARALLEL UNIVERSE**

Stephen King – The Dark Tower series
Blake Crouch – Dark Matter
Alan Averill – The Beautiful Land
Iain M. Banks – Transition
Cory Doctorow – Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town (free download from his website!)
Peter Clines – The Fold
Audrey Niffenegger – The Time Traveller’s Wife

**NEAR FUTURE**

Philip K. Dick – Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
Ernest Cline – Ready Player One
Max Berry – Jennifer Government
Octavia E. Butler – Parable of the Sower
Ray Bradbury – Fahrenheit 451
Neal Stephenson – Snow Crash
Rachel Cantor – A Highly Unlikely Scenario: or a Neetsa Pizza Employee’s Guide to Saving the World

**SPACE OPERA**

John Scalzi – The Collapsing Empire
Kameron Hurley – The Stars Are Legion
Ernest Cline – Armada
Frank Herbert – Dune
Anne McCaffery – The Ship Who Sang
Larry Niven – Ringworld
Lois McMaster Bujold – Shards of Honor
Orson Scott Card – Ender’s Game
Peter F. Hamilton – The Commonwealth Saga (“the one with all the trains”)
Becky Chambers – The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet

**GENERATION SHIP**

Beth Revis – Across the Universe (series – YA)
Kim Stanley Robinson – Aurora
Mur Lafferty – Six Wakes
Greg Bear – Hull Zero Three
Richard Paul Russo – Ship of Fools
Larry Niven and Gregory Benford – Bowl of Heaven

**CYBERPUNK**

William Gibson – Neuromancer, Mona Lisa Overdrive, Pattern Recognition, Burning Chrome
Neal Stephenson – Snow Crash, Reamde, The Diamond Age, Cryptonomicon
Philip K. Dick – A Scanner Darkly, Do Androids Dream....
Ernest Cline – Ready Player One
Richard K. Morgan – Altered Carbon

**LIGHT/HUMOROUS**

Douglas Adams – Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy
John Scalzi – Red Shirts
Charles Strosser – The Laundry Files series
Cory Doctorow – Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom
Ursula K. LeGuin – Changing Planes

**STEAMPUNK**

William Gibson and Bruce Sterling – The Difference Engine
Scott Westerfeld – Leviathan trilogy
China Miéville – Railsea (also a retelling of Moby Dick)
Daniel H. Wilson – A Clockwork Dynasty
Philip Reeve – Mortal Engines
Mary Shelley - Frankenstein
Cherie Priest – Boneshaker
Phil & Kaja Foglio – Agatha H & the Airship City

WEIRD/NEW WEIRD

Edgar Allan Poe (Weird)
H.P. Lovecraft (Weird)
China Miéville – Three Moments of an Explosion: Stories
Jeff VanderMeer – Borne, Southern Reach trilogy (Annihilation, Authority, Acceptance) (New Weird)
Laline Paull – The Bees (described as The Handmaid’s Tale meets The Hunger Games.....)

SLIPSTREAM

Mohsin Hamid – Exit West
Robin Sloan – Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore
Kurt Vonnegut – Slaughterhouse-Five
Emma Donoghue – Wonder
Kate Atkinson – Life After Life
https://electricliterature.com/oh-slippery-slipstream-who-is-the-weirdest-genre-of-them-all-755bead4389c

HIGH FANTASY

J.R.R. Tolkien – The Lord of the Rings trilogy
Laini Taylor – Strange the Dreamer
George R.R. Martin – A Game of Thrones series
Brandon Sanderson – Mistborn trilogy
N.K. Jemisin – The Broken Earth trilogy
Terry Brooks – Shannara series

LOW FANTASY

Leigh Bardugo – Six of Crows, Crooked Kingdom
Ransom Riggs – Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children
Tamora Pierce – Terrier
John Updike – The Witches of Eastwick
Stephen King and Peter Straub – The Talisman

CONTEMPORARY FANTASY
J.K. Rowling – Harry Potter series
Charlie Jane Anders – All the Birds in the Sky
Peter S. Beagle – various
Michael Ende – The Neverending Story
Scott Hawkins – The Library at Mount Char
Charlaine Harris – Southern Vampire series (and its tv show True Blood)

**URBAN FANTASY**

Jim Butcher – The Dresden Files series
Patricia Briggs – Mercy Thompson Series
Silvia Moreno-García – Certain Dark Things
Lindsay Ribar – Rocks Fall, Everyone Dies (described as Twin Peaks meets Stars Hollow...)
Chuck Wendig – Miriam Black series (described as Six Feet Under if Stephen King and Chuck Pahniuk got a hold of it...)

**MAGICAL REALISM**

Yann Martel – Life of Pi
Toni Morrison – Beloved
Laura Esquivel – Like Water for Chocolate
Eowyn Ivey – The Snow Child
Alice Hoffman – Practical Magic
Erin Morgenstern – The Night Circus

**JUVENILE FANTASY**

J.K. Rowling- Harry Potter series
C.S. Lewis – Chronicles of Narnia
Brian Jacques – Redwall
Rick Riordan – Percy Jackson series....
Christopher Paolini – Eragon
Erin Hunter – Warriors, Seekers, etc.

**YA FANTASY**

Laini Taylor – Daughter of Smoke and Bone Series, Strange the Dreamer
Leigh Bardugo – The Grisha Trilogy (Shadow & Bone, Siege & Storm, Ruin & Rising), Six of Crows & Crooked Kingdom
Maggie Stiefvater – The Raven Cycle, The Shiver Trilogy, The Scorpio Races
Suzanne Collins – The Hunger Games series (obviously)
Rhoda Belleza – Empress of a Thousand Skies (space opera)
Paola Bacigalupi- Ship Breaker, The Drowned Cities & Tool of War
Charlie N. Holmberg – The Paper Magician (first in a series)
Sarah Maria Griffin – Spare and Found Parts
Julianna Baggott – Pure (series)
Rainbow Rowell – Carry On