

Philosophical Thoughts and Artworks

Thr, July 2 (Week 2.5)

Allegory of the Cave (Plato, 400 BC)



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The Butterfly Dream (Zhuangzi, 300 BC)

Did I have a dream of a butterfly, or am I a dream of a butterfly?

Taoism: Find freedom inside the rules of nature.



Dream Argument (Descartes, 1641)

Argument: Given that dreams can be so real, we should not trust our senses.

Always Dreaming Doubt: What if the whole life was a dream?

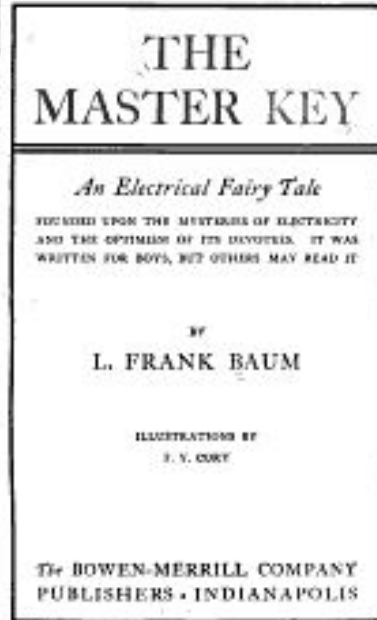
Skepticism to human senses



Simulacra and Simulation (Baudrillard, 1981)



The Master Key (Baum, 1901)



the Character Marker. It consists of this pair of spectacles. While you wear them every one you meet will be marked upon the forehead with a letter indicating his or her character. The good will bear the letter 'G,' the evil the letter 'E.' The wise will be marked with a 'W' and the foolish with an 'F.' The kind will show a 'K' upon their foreheads and the cruel a letter 'C.' Thus you may determine by a single look the true natures of all those you encounter."

Pygmalion's Spectacles (Weinbaum, 1935)

Literally starts with this question: "But what is reality?"

PYGMALION'S SPECTACLES

By **STANLEY G. WEINBAUM**

Author of "The Black Flame," "A Martian Odyssey," etc.

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Unbelieving, still gripping the arms of that wicker chair, Don was staring at a forest



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VIRGE FINLAY
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Star Wars (Lucas, 1977)



Tron (Lisberger, 1982)

Entering a world (game)



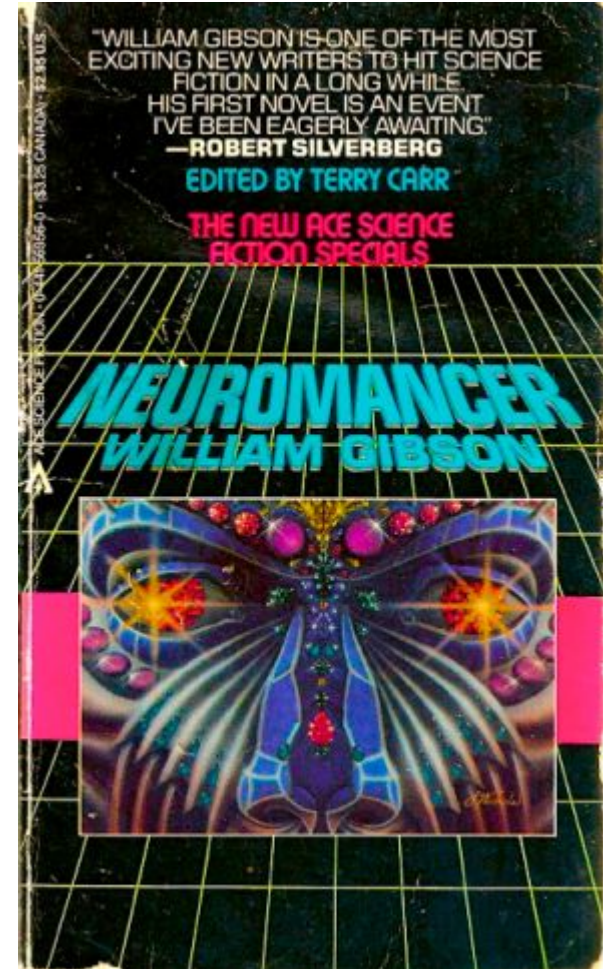


<https://youtu.be/-BZxGhNdz1k>

Neuromancer (Gibson, 1984)

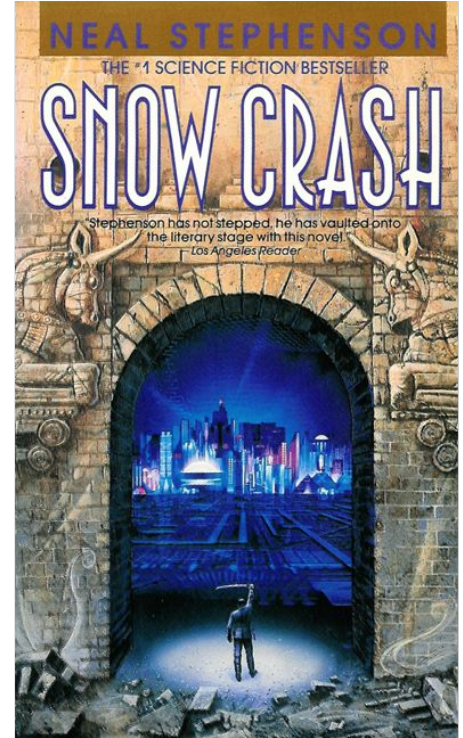
Cyberspace

Cyber-cowboys



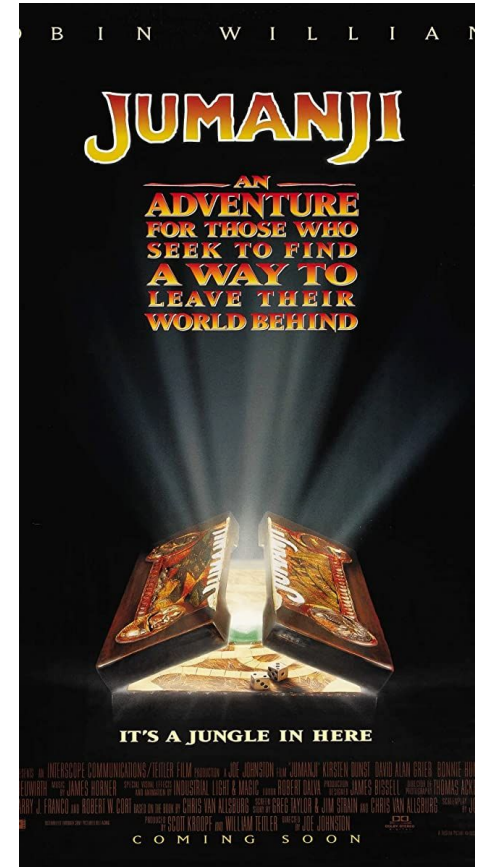
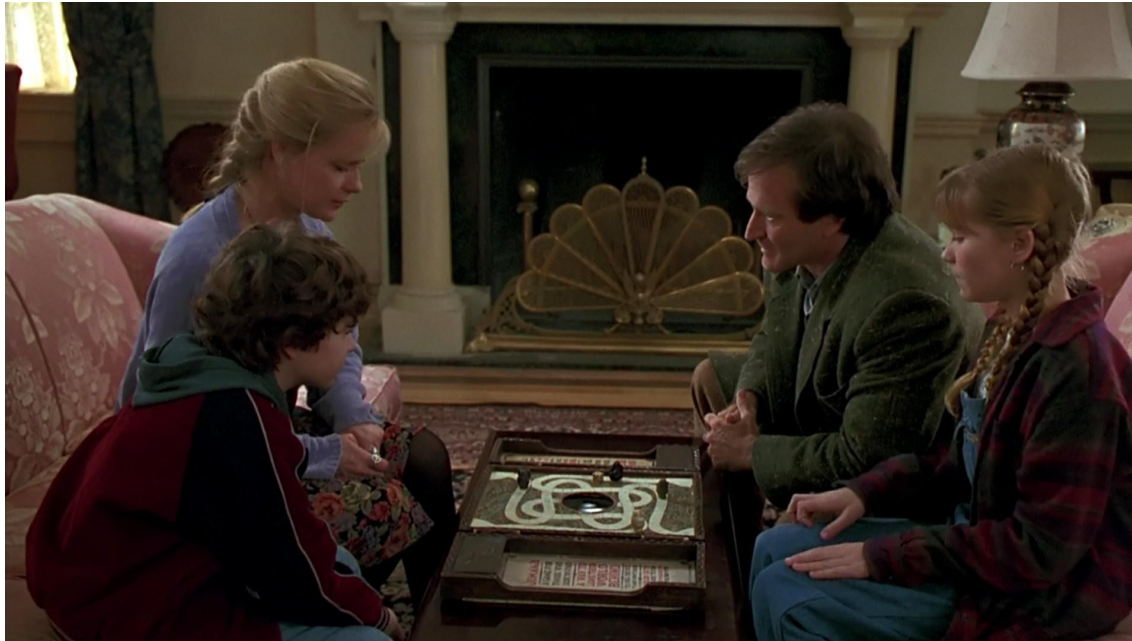
Snow Crash (Stephenson, 1992)

"Gargoyles are no fun to talk to. They never finish a sentence. They are adrift in a laser-drawn world, scanning retinas in all directions . . . You think they're talking to you, but they're actually poring over the credit record of some stranger on the other side of the room, or identifying the make and model of airplanes flying overhead."



Jumanji (Johnston, 1995)

Opening (or connecting) another world



Johnny Mnemonic (Gibson, 1981; Longo, 1995)



Matrix (The Wachowskis, 1999)

Starting from inside of the virtual world.

Brain-machine interaction.

Red pill: turning around in the Plato's allegory.





<https://youtu.be/vX5vJRU6x7s>

Star Wars Prequels (Lucas, 2005)





<https://youtu.be/0ekQrcXEZb0>

Iron Man (Favreau, 2008)

MR with video-see through or AR.



Ready Player One (Cline, 2011; Spielberg, 2018)

Oasis

