The Familiar and the Fantastic: A Study of Contemporary High Fantasy in George R. R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire and Steven Erikson's Malazan Book of the Fallen

Abstract

This thesis deals with fantasy as a literary genre, as well as its subgenre "high fantasy," and contemporary genre theorizing. It examines how the cycles A Song of Ice and Fire by George R. R. Martin and The Malazan Book of the Fallen by Steven Erikson exemplifies this. It mainly deals with the theorizing of Brian Attebery, Richard Mathews and Brian Stableford, and looks at how the view of concept of genre in relation to fantasy fiction and its attempts of establishing a framework for critical study of the genre. Attebery's theorizing on formulaic fantasy has its origins in the success of Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings, and the commercial mass-production of fiction that resembled this work. Furthermore, the thesis examines how the concept of formula can be problematic in relation to genre, and how the recent years' fantasy fiction seems to abandon stereotypes and traditional narrative techniques. The thesis also examines different aspects of the fictional worlds presented by Martin and Erikson, and if they offer perspectives on our own reality. It also deals with how literary techniques and narrative strategies are used in these works, how they break from or adhere to the generic framework, and what consequences these differences or similarities have.

These are the top fantasy book series that you simply must read. We have listed our recommendations below and the many suggestions made! A Song of Ice and Fire by George RR Martin. Image © Magali Villeneuve. Summers span decades. I would heavily recommend The Spook's Apprentice to young adults looking for a fantastic series. Chilling, memorable, full of wonderful characters and written in a fluid style that makes the narrative accessible to all ages.” Read our review of The Spook's Apprentice, book one of The Wardstone Chronicles. The Spook's Apprentice. The Malazan Book of the Fallen author talks Game of Thrones, overzealous fans and his latest epic fantasy, Forge of Darkness. One author who's experienced this firsthand is Steven Erikson, author of another popular fantasy series, Malazan Book of the Fallen. "I remember talking to George a few times now," says Erikson in this week's episode of the Geek's Guide to the Galaxy podcast. "Both of us are kind of baffled at the vehemence between our fan bases." Erikson suspects some of this passion stems from the time commitment required by epic fantasy, a genre famous for long-running, multi-volume sagas in which fans often spend years or even decades immersed in their favorite fictional worlds. The story of A Song of Ice And Fire PDF sets in a fantasy world where there are seven kingdoms in the Westeros and there are five major kingdoms to the east. To the North, there are wilding lands across the wall and a major threat is on behest since the Wight Walkers are gathering their army. The main story starts with King Robert Baratheon ruling the Iron Throne. He has friends to the north, the Starks, a noble house whose Lord is Ned Stark. After the death of the King Robert Baratheon, the war of the five Kings starts and this lead to the rest of the main events of the story. All the previously released books have scored rating higher than 4 which is an evidence for the greatness of this book series. A Song Of Ice And Fire Novel Series: A Game of Thrones (1996).