Afrofuturism: Imagining a Just Future
Summer Reading Assignment 2023

Task:

Read and annotate Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture

Annotation Advice:

There are many ways to interact with a text. Everybody has a tendency when it comes to the type of annotations they tend to write – I ask a lot of questions, define words I don’t know, make personal connections, and comment on language that I find beautiful, challenging or confusing. Find a way to balance your annotation with your enjoyment of reading.

Guiding Questions:

You do not need to write responses to these questions. They are designed to help guide you as you read this summer.

1) What do you think are the most important ideas in Afrofuturism?
2) How is Afrofuturism similar to and different from other “science fiction”?
3) How can radical imagining help liberate humanity?
4) What Afrofuturistic art and/or artists strike you as something you would like to research in more depth?
5) What unanswered question do you still have about Afrofuturism?

Book Information:

Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture is available on Amazon and other online and in-store locations. You are responsible for purchasing the book on your own.

Please finish reading and annotating Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture before the first day of school and bring your book to your first English class.

Synopsis (from amazon.com):

“In this hip, accessible primer to the music, literature, and art of Afrofuturism, author Ytasha Womack introduces readers to the burgeoning community of artists creating Afrofuturist works, the innovators from the past, and the wide range of subjects they explore. From the sci-fi literature of Samuel Delany, Octavia Butler, and N. K. Jemisin to the musical cosmos of Sun Ra, George Clinton, and the Black Eyed Peas’ will.i.am, to the visual and multimedia artists inspired by African Dogon myths and Egyptian deities, the book’s topics range from the “alien” experience of blacks in America to the “wake up” cry that peppers sci-fi literature, sermons, and activism. With a twofold aim to entertain and enlighten, Afrofuturists strive to break down racial, ethnic, and social limitations to empower and free individuals to be themselves.”