Abstract

This thesis explores and attempts to better understand what makes us human through the lens of science fiction novels. The novels analyzed include *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K Dick (1968), *Planet of the Apes* by Pierre Boulle (1963), and *Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang* by Kate Wilhelm (1976). Science fiction can be used to reveal how people make moral and intellectual sense of the world, and these three novels all share a common focus on what it means to be human by contrasting humans with groups of beings who were not quite human. I have chosen to analyze these three novels in particular because they each highlight different aspects of what makes one human. I will analyze these different aspects of what make us human, focusing on the themes of individuality, creativity, and empathy, among others.

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