SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

Definition: This category includes novels in which a significant portion or aspect of the story is set in a fantastical, future, or parallel world. Generally, these alternative settings include resources not currently available to humanity (magical abilities, alien experiences, yet-to-be invented technologies, etc.). Entries must have a minimum of 40,000 words to qualify for judging.

Judging Guideline: In this category, futuristic and/or fantastical events are essential to the story. Though subplots of romance and/or drama may exist, the major focus does not have to be on love and romance. These novels must include significant themes, characters, situations, or other content about women or sapphically aligned nonbinary people who are romantically and/or sexually attracted to women or sapphically aligned nonbinary people.

However, the gender norms and social mores of the futuristic or fantastical setting may differ substantially from those of the "real" world. Typically, science fiction stories are set in a futuristic setting, while fantasy novels take place in an alternative, entirely new world. Novels set in our current world as we know it, but with a paranormal/occult/horror twist, should not be entered in this GCLS category but in Paranormal/Occult/Horror.

Evaluation Items:

1. Thinking back on the GOLDIE entry you are about to judge, what were your overall impressions, positive and/or negative?

Using a 10-point scale where "1" means you "Totally Disagree" and "10" means you "Totally Agree," please indicate how much you disagree or agree that each of the following statements describes this GOLDIE entry.

2. The opening of this novel draws readers into the story and makes them want to read further.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

3. The premise of this novel does not depend too heavily on implausible coincidence or far-fetched circumstances that are inappropriate for this type of book.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4. This novel has enough conflict—that is, obstacles standing in the way of characters achieving their goals—to keep readers interested.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

5. The plot of this novel is free of holes and logical inconsistencies—dropped story lines, puzzling disappearance of characters, underdeveloped or contrived story elements, actions leading to illogical consequences, etc.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

6. This novel is appropriately paced. The story moves along smoothly without being too spare, rushed, saggy, bloated, or cluttered with unnecessary detail.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

7. By the end of the novel, the author(s) has reasonably resolved all important plots, subplots, and character conflicts other than those clearly intended to remain unresolved.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8. This novel features compelling, three-dimensional main characters with credible strengths and flaws.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

9. Secondary and/or minor characters are appropriately developed and do not detract from the main characters or plot.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

10. The characters in this novel are portrayed in a believable way—dialogue is reflective of age and social class, actions are consistent with personalities, career levels are age-appropriate, backstories help deepen reader understanding, etc.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

11. This novel has engaging, natural-sounding dialogue that brings the characters to life.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

12. This novel is written in an engaging style. The story flows smoothly, with a sufficient variety of sentence structure and length; the language is fresh, vivid, and original; word choices are effective and fit the style, tone, and mood of the novel; etc.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

13. This novel is virtually free of factual errors, incorrect spelling, poor punctuation and grammar, unnecessary repetition, paragraph structures that don't make sense, and confusing or missing dialogue tags that make it difficult to know who is speaking.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

14. The novel does not jump unnecessarily from the "head" of one character to another within a given scene or describe things a given character can't possibly know, see, hear, or feel. Point-of-view transitions within a scene, if any, are clearly signaled to the reader.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

15. This novel has an effective balance between "showing" what happens (via actions, dialogue, and/or vivid details from a given character's point of view) and "telling" what happens (via explanations and summary).

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

16. This novel has a distinct sense of time and place that skillfully captures the mood, tone, and setting of the story.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

17. This novel has elements (stories, characters, themes, settings, evocative writing, a distinct voice, enjoyable confusion, etc.) that will linger in the reader's mind long after the book is finished.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

18. This novel includes significant themes, characters, situations, and/or other content about women who are attracted to women or sapphic individuals.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

19. Characters of various races, classes, cultures, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, etc. portrayed in this novel are presented in ways that avoid offensive stereotypes.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

20. Fans of science fiction and/or fantasy novels will absolutely want to read this book, maybe even more than once.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

21. The author(s) effectively integrates recognizable features of science fiction and/or fantasy into the plot of this novel.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

22. This novel weaves together tone, mood, and imagery to create a complex, internally consistent world.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

23. The plot, characters, and setting of this novel allow readers to suspend disbelief and lose themselves in the story, despite its futuristic and/or fantastical elements.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

24. This novel will evoke emotion in readers, fascinating them with its futuristic and/or fantastical setting.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

25. This novel employs imaginative, innovative, and/or unique ideas and puts a surprising or unexpected twist on often-used stereotypes and themes (swords and sorcery, galactic exploration, etc.).

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

26. The science fiction and/or fantasy elements of this novel seem logical—e.g., technological and/or fantastical capabilities adhere to clearly defined rules and limitations.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

27. This GOLDIE nominee is a splendid example of high-quality books in the **Science Fiction/Fantasy** category.

Totally Disagree									Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

28. Please summarize your overall thoughts about this book. Constructive criticisms, if any, would be especially helpful. An edited version of your insights and those of other judges—absent any identification—may be shared with the author(s).