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Nota di contenuto	1. Defining science fiction. One definition. Three definitions. The SF novum. Difference. Prediction and nostalgia. Case study: Frank Herbert, Dune (1965) -- 2. The history of science fiction: from beginnings to the 1960s. Origins. Jules Verne and H G Wells. Pulp SF. The Golden Age: Asimov. New wave. Case study: Star Wars (1977) and intertextuality -- 3. Gender. Feminist science fiction. Women and aliens. Case study: Ursula Le Guin, The Left Hand of Darkness (1969) -- 4. Race. Representing race. Race and Star Trek. Alien abduction. Case study: blackness in Sonnenfeld's Men in Black (1997) -- 5. Technology and metaphor. Spaceships. Robots. Cyberspace. Case study: William Gibson, Neuromancer (1984) -- 6. Conclusion.