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**«ФИГУРА НАСТАВНИКА В НАУЧНОЙ ФАНТАСТИКЕ И ФЭНТЕЗИ  
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Individual essay contest

“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World.

Time for Equal Opportunities.”

Research work (essay)

**“THE FIGURE OF A MENTOR IN SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY**  
**OF THE XX–XXI CENTURIES”**



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## **Theses**

The main idea: The role of a mentor in science fiction and fantasy of the 20th-21st century reveals many problems and issues that are relevant today. Reasoning on this topic can help better understand the role of a mentor in real life.

### 1. Introduction

### 2. Analyzing the character as a leader

#### A) What type of leader is the character

B) What leadership style does the character use (authoritarian, democratic and liberal)

#### C) Qualities of the mentor character

### 3. The character's relationship with other people

#### A) Does the character treat others as subordinates

B) The influence of the mentor on the plot and the feelings of the characters around him

### 4. The inner state of the character

#### A) A story about the feelings of the character

#### B) Analysis of the difficulties faced by the mentor in literature

### 5. The role of a leader in society

#### A) Whether a mentor is needed in literature

#### B) What would happen if there was no mentor in the plot

### 6. Conclusion

In many works of the fantasy and science fiction genre, it is obvious that the heroes cannot overcome all the trials, cope with all the obstacles and show their inner qualities without mentors. Mentors are key figures in the lives of the main characters, who provide them not only with physical, but also spiritual support. They help the characters to unleash their potential, find solutions to difficult situations and overcome their own fears and doubts.

One of the important roles of a mentor is his ability to see the potential and uniqueness of each hero. The protagonists are often confronted with the dedication of mentors, who help them realize and accept their abilities, believe in themselves and cope with difficult trials. They ask the characters questions that reveal their inner world and provoke them to search for their true essence. Such mentors are the spiritual mentors of the heroes, who lead them along the path of self-disclosure and self-realization.

In addition, mentors play the role of wise advisors, supplying heroes with the information and knowledge they need to effectively fight opponents and understand the world in which they find themselves. They pass on wise instructions to their mentees, which become key points in overcoming difficulties and making important decisions.

However, despite the importance of the role of a mentor in science fiction and fantasy works, it faces several problems and issues that are relevant today. For example, how much should a mentor interfere in the hero's life, how much space should he leave for his own growth and mistakes? How do you reach a balance between help and independence? How does a mentor deal with problems that he or she cannot cope with on his own? All these issues are complex and require in-depth analysis and discussion.

Thus, the role of a mentor in science fiction and fantasy of the 20th and 21st centuries is not only one of an auxiliary hero, but also a guide providing the main characters with support and training on the way to self-realization. However, this

role reveals several issues that are relevant today that need to be addressed and highlighted. Thinking about the role of a mentor in science fiction and fantasy can really help us better understand its meaning and impact in real life. After all, a mentor not only exists in a world of fictional stories but is also a real aspect of our daily lives.

Russian writers have created many bright characters who have become leaders in their worlds. Evgeny Veltistov with *Electronics* — the boy from the suitcase, Kir Bulychev with *Alice's adventures*, the Strugatsky Brothers with *The old scientist Khaira* and *historian Kabani*, Alexey Tolstoy with *Aelita*, Alexander Belyev with *the Amphibian Man* and many others.

One of them is Volkodav, the protagonist of the novel "*Volkodav*", written by a Russian writer Maria Semenova. Volkodav is a vivid example of a mentor-leader. He has a strong character, decision-making skills and a willingness to sacrifice himself for the sake of his friends and his loved ones.

Volkodav uses a democratic leadership style, listening to the opinions of his friends and respecting their decisions. However, he is also capable of being authoritarian when the situation needs quick and decisive action.

Volkodav is characterized by such qualities as wisdom, honesty, justice and courage. He also has the gift of foresight, which helps him make the right decisions and successfully overcome difficulties. Volkodav treats his friends with respect and care, however, he does not allow them to forget about discipline and the need for obedience in certain situations. His influence on the plot and the feelings of the characters around him is evident in the fact that he helps them become better and stronger by overcoming difficulties and dangers together.

Volkodav experiences many senses and sensations as he goes through trials and battles. It is fear, anger, joy, and pride in one's achievements. The difficulties he faces reflect the problems and sufferings that many people experience in real life.

Foreign writers have created many bright characters as well. Isaak Azimov with “The Caves of Steel”, Ray Bradbury with “Fahrenheit 451”, Frank Herbert with “Dune” and many others.

A well-known example of a mentor from foreign fantasy is Albus Dumbledore from the Harry Potter universe written by Joanne Kathleen Rowling.

Albus Dumbledore is an example of an inspirational leader. He has charisma, deep knowledge and wisdom with which he inspires and motivates others. His behavior and decisions are based on deep understanding and assessment of the situation. Dumbledore uses a combination of authoritarian and democratic leadership styles. He gives the main characters – Harry, Hermione and Ron – freedom and the ability to make their own decisions but retains authority and control over the overall situation. As he said, “It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends.” [8]

Dumbledore's qualities include wisdom, patience, empathy and compassion. He shows a deep understanding of his students, pupils and other people and is able to find the right solution even in the most difficult situations. “Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light,” he reminds. [9]

Albus Dumbledore does not treat other people as subordinates, but rather as those who are called upon to trust his guidance. He respects individuality and everyone's right to make their own decisions and make mistakes. Albus Dumbledore's influence on the plot and the feelings of the characters around him is significant. This influence plays a key role in the development of the plot, providing information, guiding events and helping the protagonists overcome difficulties. He also influences the feelings of those around him, cultivating confidence and trust. Dumbledore's feelings and sensations reveal his inner struggles, doubts and pain due to past mistakes. He often feels guilty and responsible for subsequent events and tries to correct his mistakes.

In literature and real life, mentors sometimes face difficulties, such as the inability to control or predict future events, conflicts in the inner world, and the confrontation of some characters. Albus Dumbledore is no exception. He faces challenges such as loss of trust, uncertainty, and questions about whether he has done enough to protect others.

An example of a science fiction character who has the characteristics of a mentor is Charles Xavier from the Marvel universe. Professor Xavier is a leader-mentor. He interacts with his wards, the mutants and helps them develop and control their abilities, as well as find their place in the world.

Judging by his leadership style, Xavier takes a democratic approach. He makes decisions based on the views and needs of his mentees, discusses options with them and offers guidance based on cooperation and trust. His qualities as of a mentor character are care, empathy, perseverance, belief in the potential of each person, openness to communication and cooperation. “If someone stumbles and goes astray, it does not mean that he is lost forever.” [10]

Xavier does not treat the other mutants as subordinates, but rather as his wards. He strives to help them, protect them and guide them on the right path.

The influence of the mentor on the plot and on the feelings of the surrounding characters is enormous. Professor Xavier plays a key role in the development and evolution of all mutants. He inspires his business travelers, helping them to overcome difficulties and cope with internal conflicts.

Professor Xavier cares deeply about the fate of mutants and strives to help each of them find their place in the world. He also shows strong feelings of compassion and empathy for those around him. Xavier faces many challenges in his life. He has lost loved ones, his legs and his superpowers. Despite this, he does not give up and continues to fight for his wards and the ideals of peace. “There is no greater joy for a teacher than to see a student who has surpassed the teacher.” [7]

A mentor in literature plays an important role in the development and evolution of heroes. He acts as their guide, helping them overcome obstacles and become better people. A mentor can be a paragon of wisdom, experience, strength, or moral values. It can be represented as a real character or a symbolic archetype.

If there were no mentor in the stories, this would affect the development of characters and plots. The absence of a mentor can lead to a loss of direction and purpose for the heroes, loss of the opportunity for personal growth and overcoming obstacles. Without a mentor, heroes can get lost in their journeys and be more vulnerable to psychological or physical dangers.

Also, without a mentor in the stories, we would lose their wisdom, experience and knowledge that can be useful to readers. Mentors can impart valuable lessons that can be essential to the development and nurturing of readers.

In conclusion, the role of a mentor in 20th and 21st century science fiction and fantasy is an important and relevant aspect that helps us better understand the role of a mentor in real life. By analyzing mentor characters, we can determine their type of leader, leadership style, and the qualities that make them effective mentors. Executive mentors in science fiction and fantasy play an important role in character development and plot formation. They provide wisdom and guidance that help other characters grow and develop. Without their presence, the works would lose a significant element and become less interesting.

In general, the role of a mentor in science fiction and fantasy of the 20th and 21st centuries reveals many problems and questions that are relevant today. Studying and discussing this topic helps us better understand the role of mentors in real life and realize their importance for development and growth today.



## Illustrations



“If you want to be a human, be one!” [12]



“Luck — it doesn't just come into your hands.  
She will come only to the brave and able to lure her.” [5]



“The truth. It is a beautiful and terrible thing, and should therefore be treated  
with caution.”[6]



“Whatever the obstacle, it can be overcome.” [7]

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