

Reach for the stars – or the sci-fi book?

Would scientists bother **(0)** *to* read science fiction? We often imagine them **(9)** hard-headed people who would find fiction like this frivolous but, apparently, many enjoy **(10)** They claim to love the possibilities that science fiction presents – **(11)** aliens might look like or the development of new life forms. Science fiction **(12)** us out of our comfort zones, our familiar and known environment, and encourages us to think **(13)** the box. Science fiction also provides an alternative perspective, giving fresh insights into life in general. The act **(14)** creating a new society peopled with strange beings enables science fiction writers to raise issues of morality in a meaningful yet unthreatening way. This, in turn, allows those of us who read their work to question **(15)** and the values we hold dear. And the issue of whether the science in fiction is really far-fetched is debatable – who knew **(16)** things as mobile phones were possible when *Star Trek* came up with them?