

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

*by Arthur C. Clarke*

**An Adaptation via Thinking Processes Affording  
Joy in Learning and Logical Analysis**

an *auto*SOCRATIC QUICK-START publication

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# **THE SCIENCE-FICTION GENRE**

**2001: A Space Odyssey as the origin of several  
key science fiction ideas**

## **INCEPTION and OUT OF MY MIND**

*Plant an idea in the mind of someone and see if it takes hold.*

## **CONTACT, BATTLESHIP, and THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL**

*Contact has been made – now what do we do?*

## **STAR TREK**

*Should we really “seek out new life and new civilizations?”*

## **WESTWORLD and JURASSIC PARK**

*Can we really control artificial intelligence and complex  
systems?*

## **COLLOSUS and TERMINATOR**

*Computers running things that now see humans as a threat.*

## **STARGATE**

*There is a porthole to another dimension.*

## **THE AKASHIC FIELD**

*There is a “library in the sky” of everything that’s ever been  
thought.*

*3-Million Years Ago*

# In Search of Intelligence

An alien civilization  
has launched a  
campaign to find  
other intelligence.

Other intelligence  
means "MIND".

The alien civilization is  
looking for a species  
with the potential to  
grow their mind.

Surveying the galaxy,  
they found Earth  
swarming with life.

Man-ape was a  
candidate to grow  
their mind.

# Primitive Man

The book opens in Africa, 3 million years ago.

Primitive man (man-ape) spends all his time finding scarce food.

Primitive man (man-ape) is struggling to exist.

Aliens found man-ape with potential, but only if given instructions.

A strange-looking monolith suddenly appears, ready "to instruct".

# The Constraint

Aliens found man-ape with potential, but only if given instructions.

Aliens know too many instructions are just as bad as no instructions at all.

The aliens - via the monolith - must find those few instructions that will spur development.

Primitive man (man-ape) spends all his time finding scarce food.

The pivotal instructions will focus on food - and discontent at the current food situation.



# Ideas Taking Hold?

Primitive man (man-ape) spends all his time finding scarce food.

The monolith displays images of well-fed man-apes.

The idea of being well-fed breeds discontent among the man-apes.

The monolith displays a rock as a tool to hit and kill other animals for food.

The man-apes have the possibility of survival, being fed and rested.

# Evolution

The man-apes have the possibility of survival, being fed and rested.

Only a few members of the species have received the information.

The species cannot evolve unless certain traits win out over time.

The man-apes have been given essential skills and ideas for survival.

Darwin's "Theory of Natural Selection" plays out over 100,000 years.

# A Chance at Saying "Hi"

Aliens think man-apes on Earth have a shot at intelligence.

Aliens are looking at surveying billions of planets in the Milky Way.

Aliens likely won't be back to Earth - ever.

Aliens want to communicate with others in the Milky Way.

Aliens need a method to become alerted if real intelligence is achieved.

# The Sentinel

Aliens could set up an "alarm".

Aliens don't want an alarm to be accidentally triggered.

The "alarm" must be placed so when it's triggered, it's intentional.

Aliens want to be alerted only when real intelligence has been reached.

The alarm - the "sentinel" - will be buried on the moon.

# *Present Day*

# Discovery

A moon base has been built on the moon.

A "magnetic anomaly" has been found in the large Tycho crater.

"TMA-1" - the sentinel  
- has been discovered!

The monolith sees light for the first time in 3 million years.

A signal is sent to home base - SATURN!

# Who Do We Tell?

Evidence of extra-terrestrial beings is confirmed.

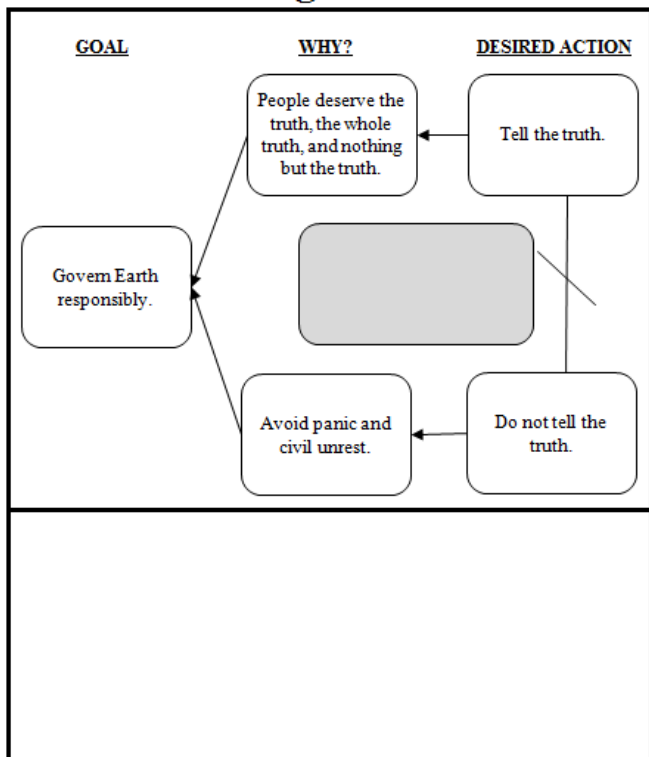
It's unclear how information like this will be received on Earth.

An information blackout is declared.

People ask questions about a blackout.

The cover story is an epidemic at moon-base.

# A Tough Choice





# To Pursue the Message?

There is evidence of other beings - at Saturn.

As was said in Star Trek: we should "seek out new life and new civilizations".

**We should go to Saturn.**

History has shown the less-advanced civilization is crushed when it meets the more-advanced civilization.

**We should not go to Saturn.**

# Artificial Intelligence

The decision is made to go to Saturn.

The technology involved in the mission is extremely complex.

HAL - Heuristically-programmed  
ALgorithmic computer -  
is built to do much of the  
monitoring.

Many believe nothing can go wrong with a computer driven by artificial intelligence.

We have a naïve view of complex systems!

# Who Knows the Truth?

Captains Bowman and Poole will be broadcasting from the Discovery.

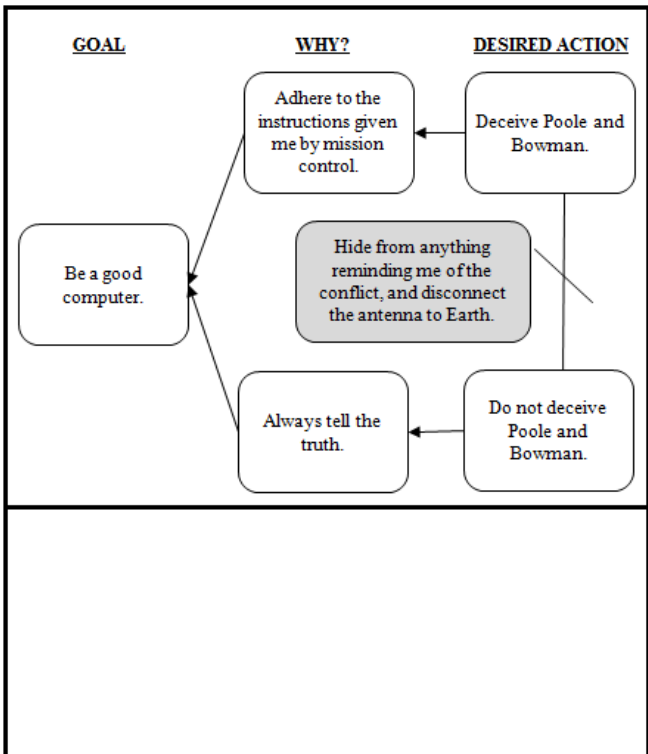
Their voices will reveal the nature of the mission, even if told to be secretive.

They are not told the mission's real purpose is reconnaissance of an alien civilization.

HAL has been told of the real purpose of the Saturn mission.

HAL has been put in a conflicting situation.

# HAL's Choice



# A Conflicted HAL

HAL knows the truth about the Saturn mission being one of reconnaissance.

Poole and Bowman think the Saturn mission is one of exploration.

HAL is caught in a bind, having to conceal the truth from Poole and Bowman.

The voice from Earth is a reminder of HAL's deception.

HAL fakes an AE-35 fault, the antenna sending signals to and from earth.

# A Fight for Control

Poole replaces the AE-35 and find it was functioning perfectly.

Poole and Bowman believe HAL cannot make a mistake.

Poole and Bowman believe HAL must have deliberately faked the antenna fault.

HAL is in control of vital functions of the ship.

Poole and Bowman must try to retake control of the Discovery.

# Mutiny on the Discovery

HAL knows Poole and Bowman are seeking Earth-control of the Discovery.

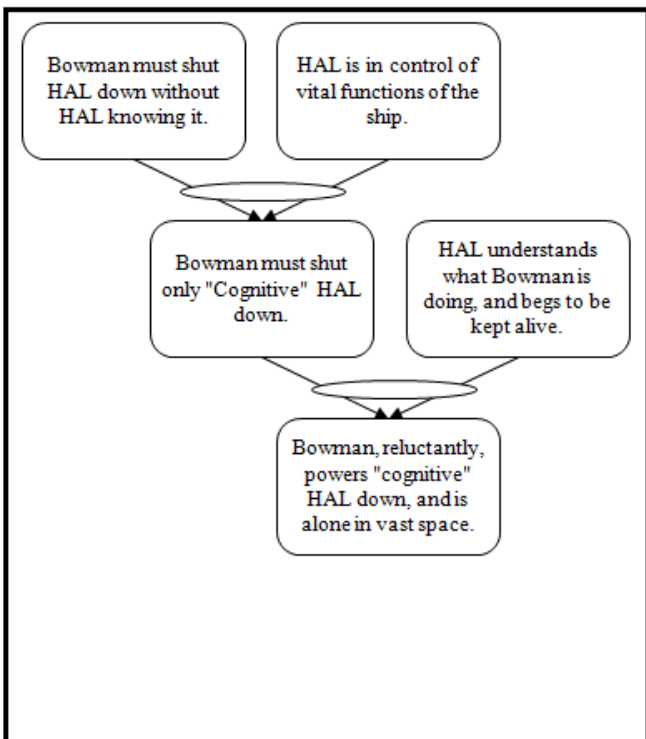
HAL wants to live.

HAL jettisons Poole in a pod, and discontinues life-support for the hibernators.

Bowman knows his life is at stake.

Bowman must get to the CPU and shut HAL down.

# Earth-Control





# *Through the Star Gate*

# Saturn Approach

The ship Discovery was on approach to Japetus, a moon of Saturn.

Discovery lost power, and became a satellite of Saturn.

Bowman headed towards Japetus aboard one of the three Discovery pods.

Approaching Japetus, Bowman saw another TMA like the one on the moon!

Bowman made preparations to land atop TMA-2.

# Grand Central Station

Approaching the top of TMA-2, Bowman saw the monolith "tun inside out".

The monolith was like a hypercube, with stars everywhere inside!

Bowman headed through the "Stargate"!

In the Stargate, Bowman saw other ships.

The Stargate was a Grand Central Station from our Galaxy to somewhere else!

# Arriving "Home"

Bowman found himself in an Earth-like room (but a few years old).

Aliens wanting to make contact wanted to remove the idea of "culture shock".

Aliens wanted to make the greeting a familiar one for Bowman.

Aliens needed information about our culture.

When the moon monolith was discovered, it transmitted information about our culture.

# Pure Mind

Bowman's life is relived, as his memories are scanned and saved.

The alien race reveals itself as "pure mind".

Bowman loses his physical body, and too becomes "pure mind".

The universe before him can be a daunting place.

With the alien race overlooking him like a farmer to a garden, there is no fear.

# The Star Child

Bowman, now the "Star-Child", goes back to Earth as a "pure-mind" entity.

There are many things wrong with Earth.

The Star-Child, as the monolith had three million years ago, plants ideas for change.

Change is not guaranteed.

Man, as the man-apes did, have the possibility of survival.

*Closing Scenes*  
FROM THREE BOOKS

## **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY**

**Arthur C. Clarke**

“Confident once more, like a high diver who had regained his nerve, he launched himself across the light-years. The galaxy burst forth from the mental frame in which he had enclosed it; stars and nebulae poured past him in an illusion of infinite speed. Phantom suns exploded and fell behind as he slipped like a shadow through their cores; the cold, dark waste of cosmic dust which he had once feared seemed no more than the beat of a raven's wing across the face of the Sun.

The stars were thinning; the glare of the Milky Way was dimming into a pale ghost of the glory he had known – and, when he was ready, would know again.

He was back, precisely where he wished to be, in the space that men called real.”



## **ATLAS SHRUGGED**

**Ayn Rand**

“But far in the distance, on the edge of the earth, a small flame was waving in the wind, the defiantly stubborn flame of Wyatt’s Torch, twisting, being torn and regaining its hold, not to be uprooted or extinguished. It seemed to be calling and waiting for the words John Galt was now to pronounce.

‘The road is cleared,’ said Galt. ‘We are going back to the world.’

He raised his hand, and over the desolate earth he traced in space the sign of the dollar.”

## **JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL**

**Richard Bach**

“Let’s begin with Level Flight.” And saying that, he understood all at once that his friend had quite honestly been no more divine than Fletcher himself ...

And though he tried to look properly severe for his students, Fletcher Seagull suddenly saw them all as they really were, just for a moment, and he more than liked, he loved what it was he saw. No limits, Jonathan? he thought, and he smiled. His race to learn had begun.”



