



MOTIF

**DO ANDROIDS DREAM
OF ELECTRIC SHEEP?**



ANDROID





ANDROID

/ˈændrɔɪd/

NOUN

1. (in science fiction) a robot resembling a human being

ADJECTIVE

2. resembling a human being

WORD ORIGIN

from Late Greek *androeidēs* manlike





ANDROID

A ROBOT RESEMBLING A HUMAN BEING

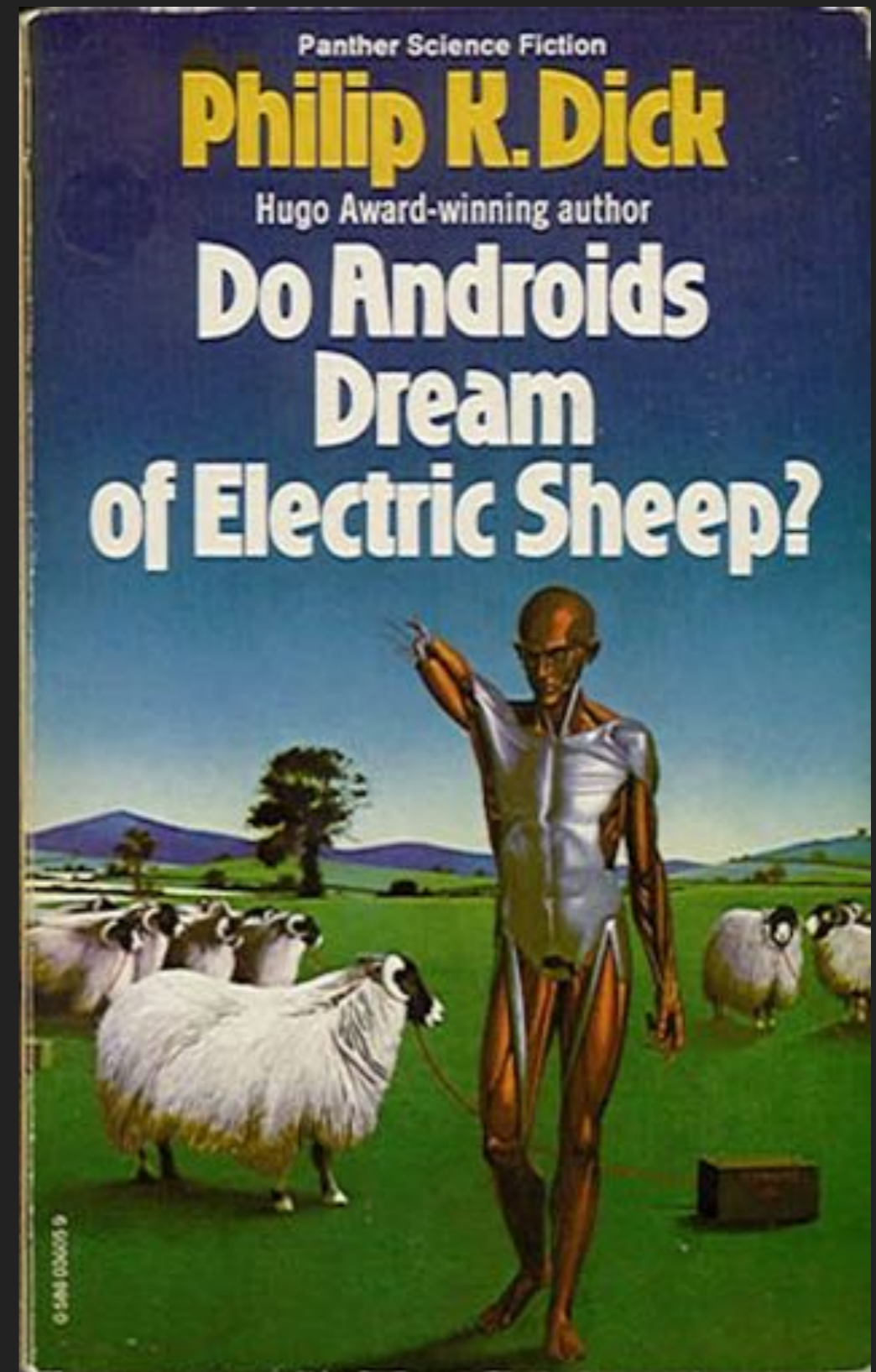
- ▶ Advantages
- ▶ Disadvantages
- ▶ Fears





ELECTRIC SHEEP

- ▶ Philip K Dick
- ▶ 1968
- ▶ After nuclear war
- ▶ Robot animals, robot people
- ▶ What value is there to life if it is artificial?





BLADE RUNNER

- ▶ Ridley Scott film released in 1982
- ▶ Androids called “replicants”
- ▶ “Blade Runners” hunt and “retire” runaway replicants
- ▶ How do you know who is a human and who is a replicant?
- ▶ What happens when powerful machines are out of control?
- ▶ Is “retiring” a replicant the same as killing a person?





SCIENCE FICTION

FICTION

/'fɪkʃ(ə)n/

noun

1. literature in the form of prose, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people.
2. something that is invented or untrue.



SCIENCE FICTION

SCIENCE

/ˈsaɪəns/

noun

- ▶ the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment.



SCIENCE FICTION

SCIENCE FICTION

/ˈsaɪəns ˈfɪkʃ(ə)n/

- ▶ fiction based on imagined future scientific or technological advances and major social or environmental changes, frequently portraying space or time travel and life on other planets.



SCIENCE FICTION

- ▶ “What If” scenarios
- ▶ How would society be different?
- ▶ What affect would that have on people in society?
- ▶ Comment on our own society



I, ROBOT

- ▶ 2004 film starring Will Smith
- ▶ Loosely based on science fiction novels by Isaac Asimov
- ▶ Robots are controlled by the "Three Laws of Robotics"





THREE LAWS OF ROBOTICS

1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws.



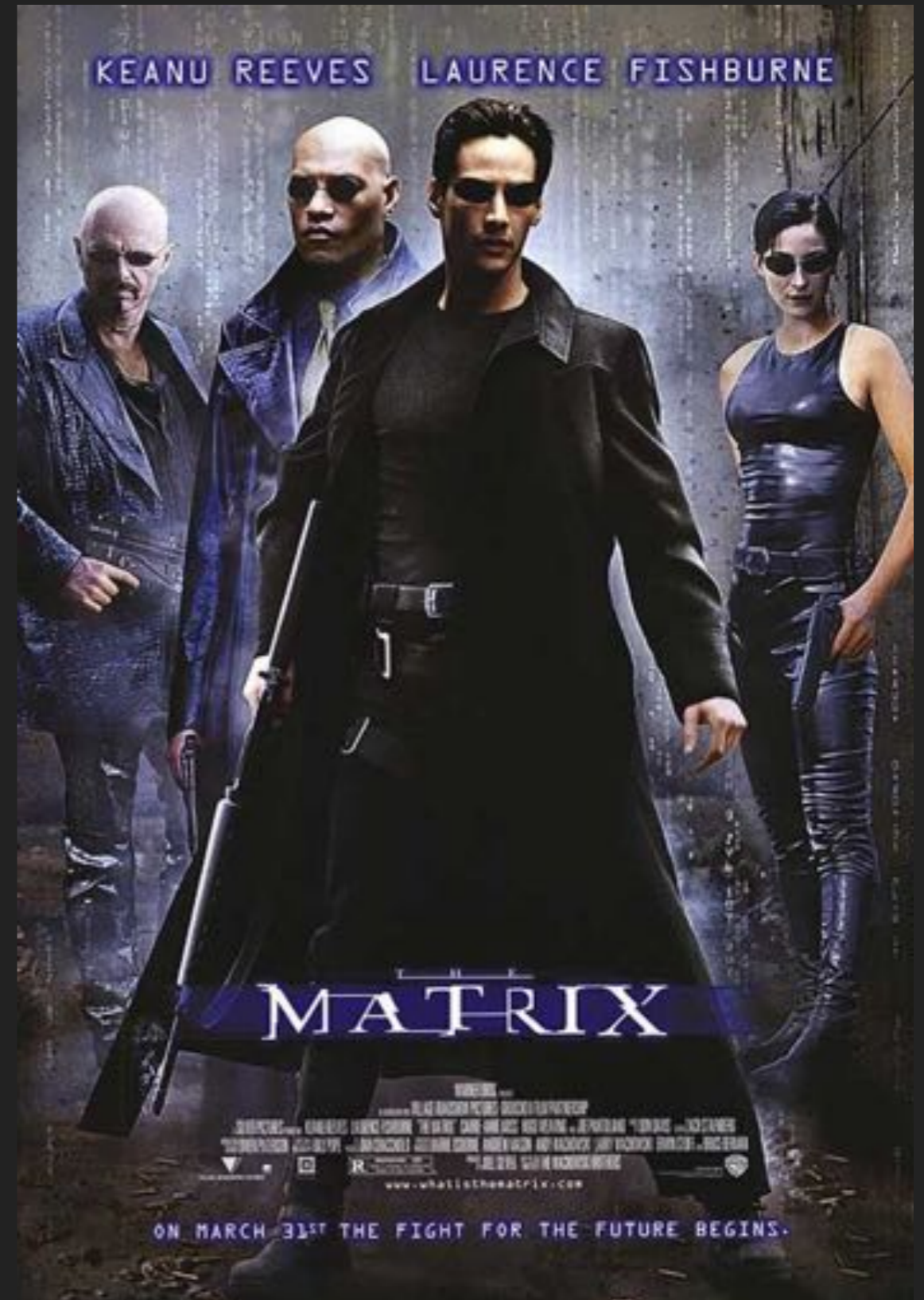
THREE LAWS OF ROBOTICS

0. **A robot may not harm humanity, or, by inaction, allow humanity to come to harm.**
1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm, **unless this would violate the Zeroth Law.**
2. A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the Zeroth or First Laws.
3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the Zeroth, First or Second Laws.



THE MATRIX

- ▶ 1999 film starring Keanu Reeves
- ▶ There are no "Laws of Robotics"
- ▶ All-out war between humans and machines
- ▶ Machines in charge with humans controlled by the *Matrix*, a computer simulation





THE MATRIX

SIMULATION

/ˌsɪmjʊˈleɪʃən/

noun

1. the act or an instance of simulating, pretending to be something else
2. the assumption of a false appearance or form
3. a representation of a problem, situation, etc, in mathematical terms, especially using a computer



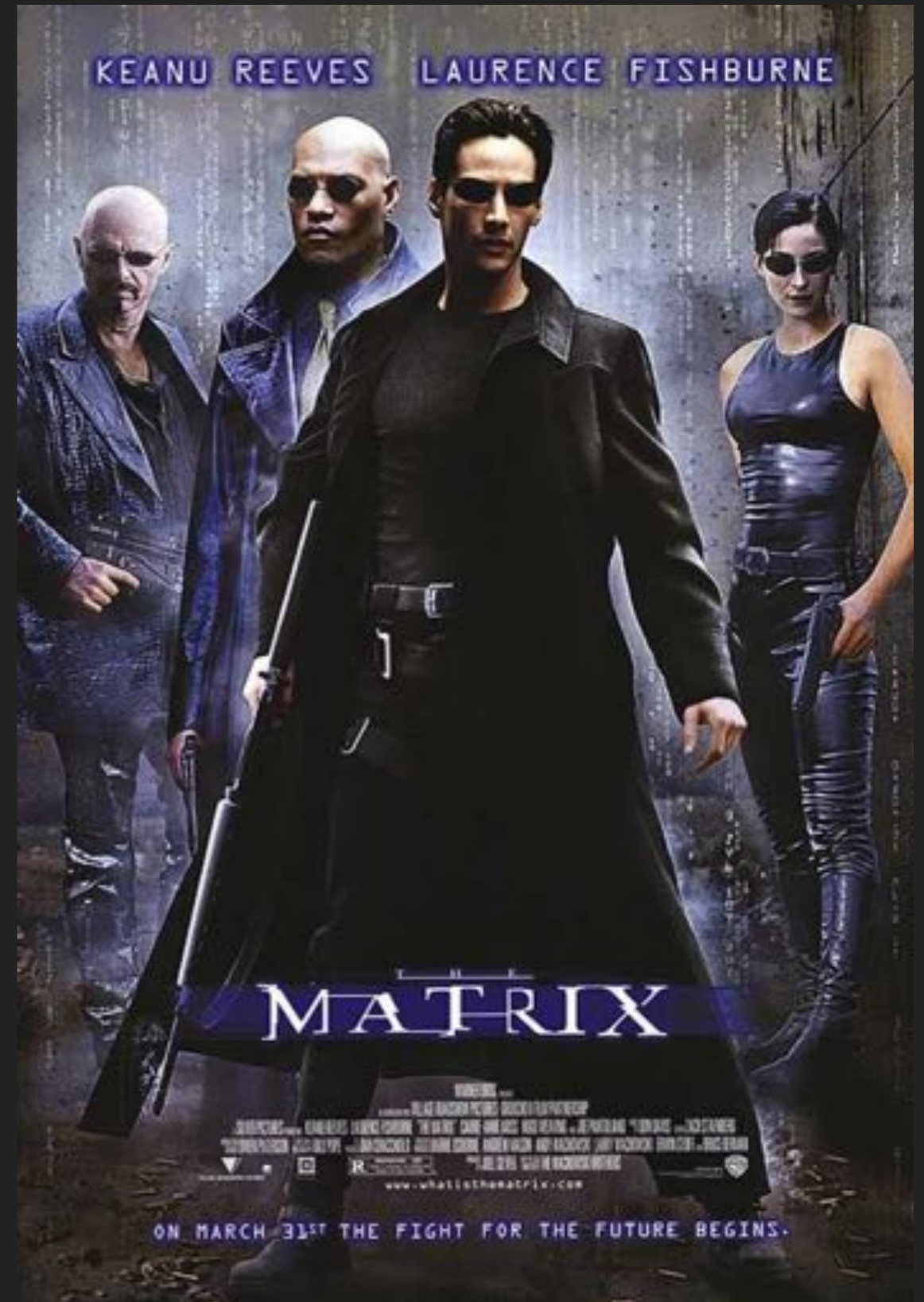
QUESTIONS: ROBOTS

1. How will our society change when we can make real artificial intelligence and life-like androids?
2. Which type of robot problems do you think are most likely in the future: runaway criminals like in *Blade Runner*, dangerous malfunctions like in *I, Robot*, or machines taking over the world, like in *The Matrix*?
3. Is artificial life and artificial intelligence worth saving? Is a robot life worth as much as a person? As much as a dog? As much as a washing machine?



THE MATRIX

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- ▶ **Freedom: Real or illusion?**





EQUILIBRIUM

- ▶ 2002 film starring Christian Bale
- ▶ After devastation of World War III
- ▶ Emotion illegal, to try and stop war
- ▶ Drugs remove emotion
- ▶ Offenders are executed without trial
- ▶ **Freedom and control**





MINORITY REPORT

- ▶ 2002 film starring Tom Cruise
- ▶ Loosely based on a short story by Philip K Dick
- ▶ Crimes in the future can be predicted before they happen
- ▶ Criminals are arrested and imprisoned before they commit any crime
- ▶ **Free will vs. Determinism**





MINORITY REPORT

FREE WILL

the power of acting without the constraint of necessity or fate; the ability to act at one's own discretion.

DETERMINISM

the doctrine that all events, including human action, are ultimately determined by causes regarded as external to the will. Some philosophers have taken determinism to imply that individual human beings have no free will and cannot be held morally responsible for their actions.



THE HUNGER GAMES

- ▶ Series of books (2008–2010) written by Suzanne Collins, later made into films (2012–2015)
- ▶ Powerful Capitol keeps rebellious districts under control through poverty and the *Hunger Games*
- ▶ Children from the districts are forced to fight to the death, live on TV
- ▶ **Power and corruption**





THE HUNGER GAMES

CORRUPT

/kə'ɹʌpt/

adjective

1. lacking in integrity; open to or involving bribery or other dishonest practices
2. morally depraved
3. putrid or rotten
4. contaminated; unclean



DIVERGENT

- ▶ Series of books (2011–2013) written by Veronica Roth, also later made into films (2014–2017)
- ▶ A city-state when people are split into *factions* for life and work
- ▶ Exaggeration of class system
- ▶ Divergents don't fit into the faction system and are feared
- ▶ **Prejudice, inequality and control**





DIVERGENT

DIVERGE

/daɪˈvɜːdʒ/

verb

1. to separate or cause to separate and go in different directions from a point
2. to be at variance; differ: our opinions diverge
3. to deviate from a prescribed course



DIVERGENT

PREJUDICE

/ˈpreɪdʒʊdɪs/

noun

1. an opinion formed beforehand, especially an unfavourable one based on inadequate facts
2. the act or condition of holding such opinions
3. intolerance of or dislike for people of a specific race, religion, etc.



QUESTIONS: DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

DYSTOPIA

/dis'tɒpiə/

noun

1. a society characterised by human misery, as squalor, oppression, disease, and overcrowding.
2. an imaginary place where everything is as bad as it can be.



QUESTIONS: DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

RECAP

- ▶ ***The Matrix***: humans controlled by machines; illusion of freedom
- ▶ ***Equilibrium***: emotions illegal; freedom and control
- ▶ ***Minority Report***: predicted crimes; free will vs. determinism
- ▶ ***The Hunger Games***: forced violent games; power and corruption
- ▶ ***Divergent***: separated into factions; prejudice, inequality and control

QUESTIONS

1. Which of these broken societies is most scary to you?
2. Can you see any reflections of our own society?



STAR WARS

- ▶ 1977 George Lucas film
- ▶ **"Space opera"** – a dramatic story set in a science-fiction universe
- ▶ Battle between **good** and **evil**
- ▶ **Redemption**





STAR WARS

REDEEM

/rɪˈdiːm/

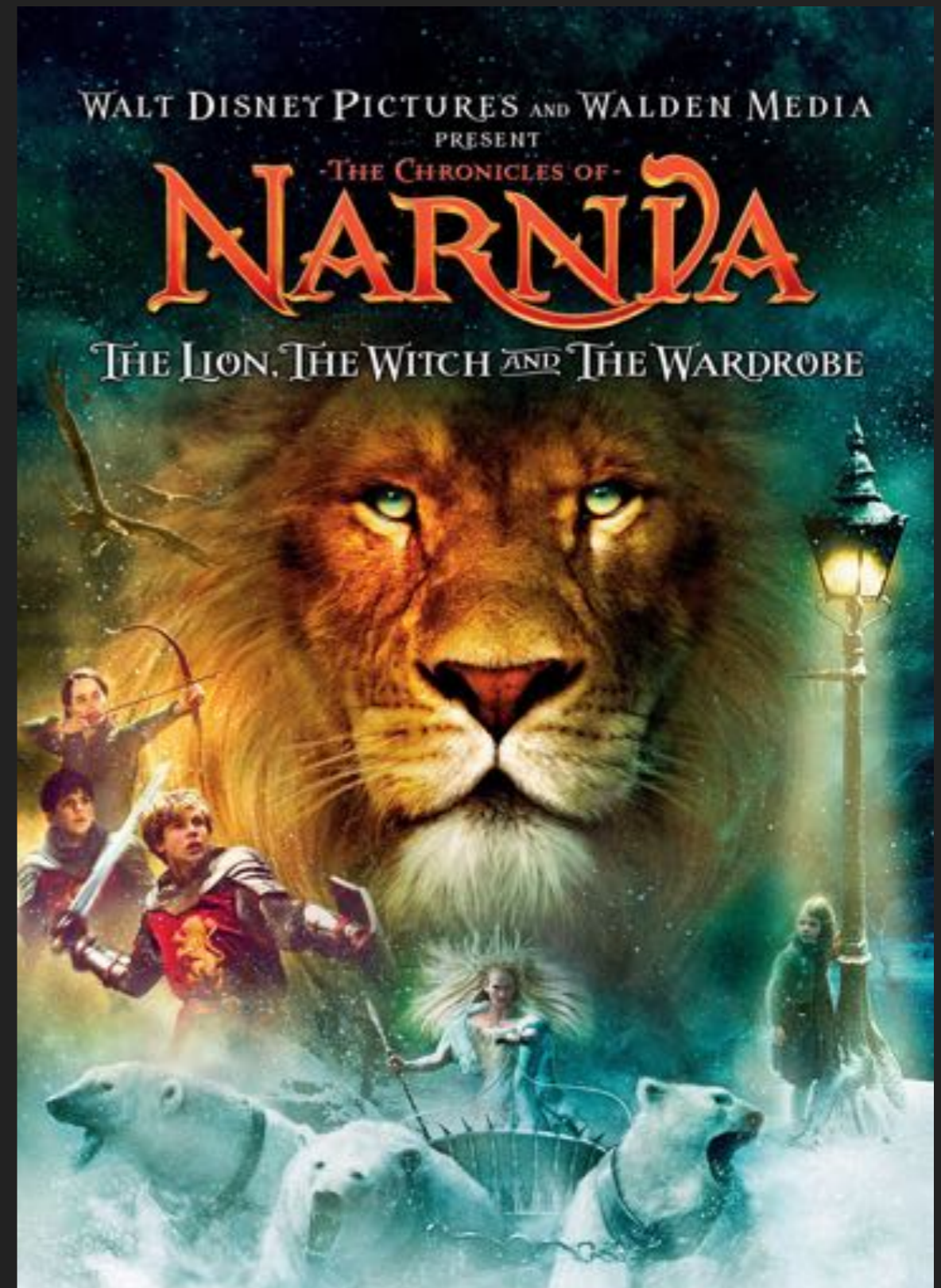
verb

1. to recover possession or ownership of by payment of a price or service; regain
2. to convert (bonds, shares, etc) into cash
3. to pay off (a promissory note, loan, etc)



THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

- ▶ 1950 C S Lewis book, much later (2005) made into a film
- ▶ **Fantasy** – uses magic and the supernatural instead of science
- ▶ Allegory for the Christian story
- ▶ **Sacrifice**





THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

ALLEGORY

/ˈælɪɡəri/

noun

1. a poem, play, picture, etc, in which the apparent meaning of the characters and events is used to symbolise a deeper moral or spiritual meaning
2. the technique or genre that this represents
3. use of such symbolism to illustrate truth or a moral



HARRY POTTER

- ▶ Series of books (1997-2007) written by J K Rowling, later made into films (2001-2011)
- ▶ Fantasy about a boy who discovers he's a wizard
- ▶ Battle between **good** and **evil**
- ▶ The power of **love**
- ▶ **Choices**





QUESTIONS: GOOD AND EVIL

1. Is anyone so bad that they can't be saved?
2. What does it mean to fight against evil in the real world?
3. Why do people need someone to save them?
Can they not save themselves?
4. How aware are you of the choices in your own life, and how these affect your future and the people around you?



**IT IS OUR CHOICES THAT SHOW
WHAT WE TRULY ARE, FAR
MORE THAN OUR ABILITIES.**

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets



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OF ELECTRIC SHEEP?**