



With Your Powers Combined!

COHESIVE STORYTELLING THROUGH
CHARACTER, WORLD, AND PLOT

Introduction



Roadmap



- What is Cohesive Storytelling?
- How World Affects Characters
- Decide on an Overarching Culture/World
- How Your World Made Your Characters
- Worldbuilding 101 on The Write Conversation



What is Cohesive Storytelling?

A House



- Interior Design (**Character**)
- Landscaping (**World**)
- Structure (**Plot**)

CHARACTER



STORY



PLOT



WORLD

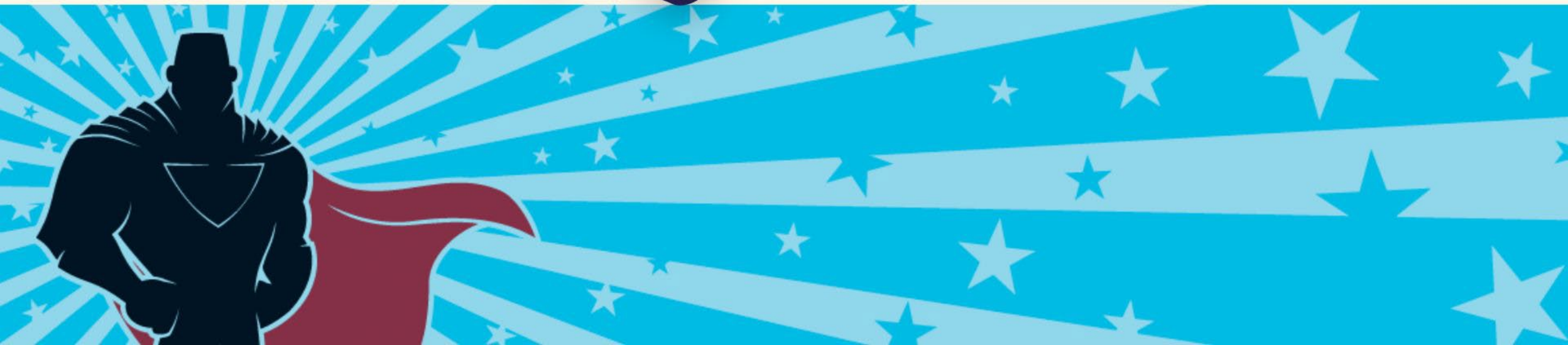
The Most Important Question



WHY?

PART TWO

World





Building an imaginary world where your stories take place can be one of the most complicated elements of writing speculative fiction.



**The world you build should have a
MASSIVE INFLUENCE
on the characters who inhabit your stories.**



The Two Rivers from The Wheel of Time Series



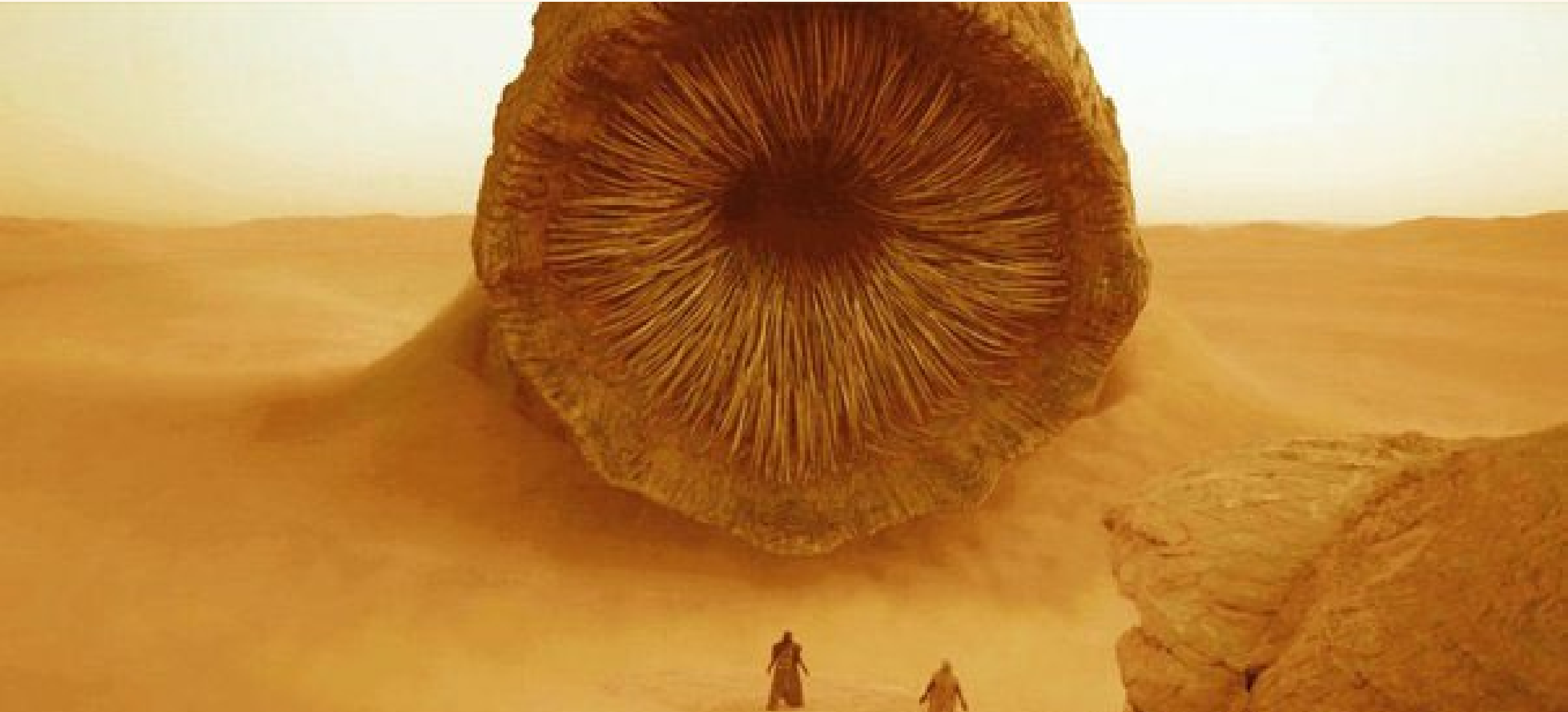
WORLD

Ketterdam from *Six of Crows* (Grishaverse)



WORLD

Arrakis (aka Dune) from Dune



WORLD

The “Two Rivers Folk”:

- Stubborn
- Hearty
- Loyal
- Somewhat innocent
- Isolated
- Agricultural
- Hard-working
- Honorable





The “Barrel” of Ketterdam

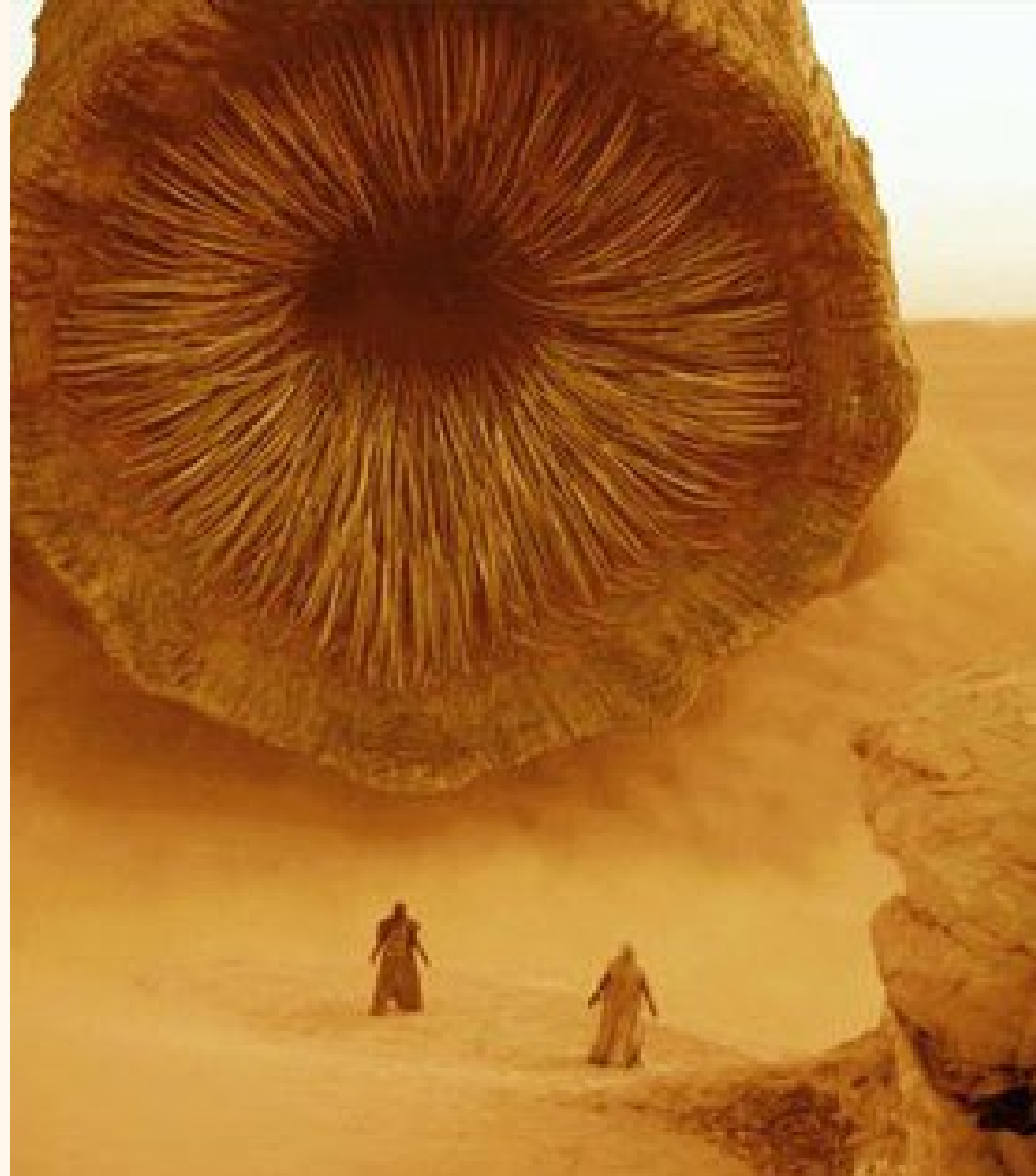
- Slaves of some variety
- Orphans
- Gangsters
- Thieves
- Scrappy fighters
- Dangerous
- Pragmatic
- Disillusioned





Arrakis (Desert Planet)

- Resourceful
- Fierce
- Warriors
- Independent
- Can endure discomfort
- Brave
- Philosophical



Decide on an Overarching Culture



- This will determine how much research you need to do.
- If using a culture NOT your own, get sensitivity readers.
- If using a culture NOT your own as a foundation, **STILL** get sensitivity readers.

What Do You Need To Know?



Countries. Languages. Current Histories. Ancient Histories.
Social Climate. Religions. Politics. Government. Geography.
Agriculture. Interpersonal Relations. Diplomacy. Military Status.
Current Wars. Past Wars. Probable Wars.
Food. Entertainment. Career Paths. Economy. Technology.

It's okay. Breathe! Start small!

Start with the Basics



- Is your world *like* Earth? (Atmosphere, Oceans, Land, etc)
- Is your world populated with only humans?
- Does your world have the same technology we do or is it more futuristic? Something from the past?
- Is the general mood/outlook of your world's inhabitants Happy? Sad? Fearful? Angry?
- What does your world FEEL like? Gritty? Clean? Orderly? Chaotic? Morose? Frightening?

Once you have the basics of your world solidified,
you can move on to the next step:
Understanding how your **WORLD**
shaped your **CHARACTERS**.



How Your World Made Your Characters



- How did your PROTAGONIST grow up?
- Where did your PROTAGONIST grow up?
- What effect did this have on his or her life?

How Your World Made Your Characters



- Where is your **PROTAGONIST** before the story begins?
- How did their childhood (good, bad, or indifferent) shape their adulthood?

How Your World Made Your Characters



- Where is your **PROTAGONIST** at the start of the story?
- Where are they going? What is their **GOAL**?
- Is that what they **WANT**? Or what they **NEED**?

WORLD

Rand al Thor

He's tough. He's kind. He's witty. He's independent and doesn't like being told what to do. He's stubborn.

He's resourceful and strong. He's quick on his feet and a fast learner.





Kaz Brekker

One of the greatest anti-heroes ever written. Cynical and cruel. Yet obviously longs for love and connection. Pragmatic. And a bit of a sociopath with the high probability of an emotional disorder. Traumatized. Harsh. Unwilling to give up or show mercy to anyone.

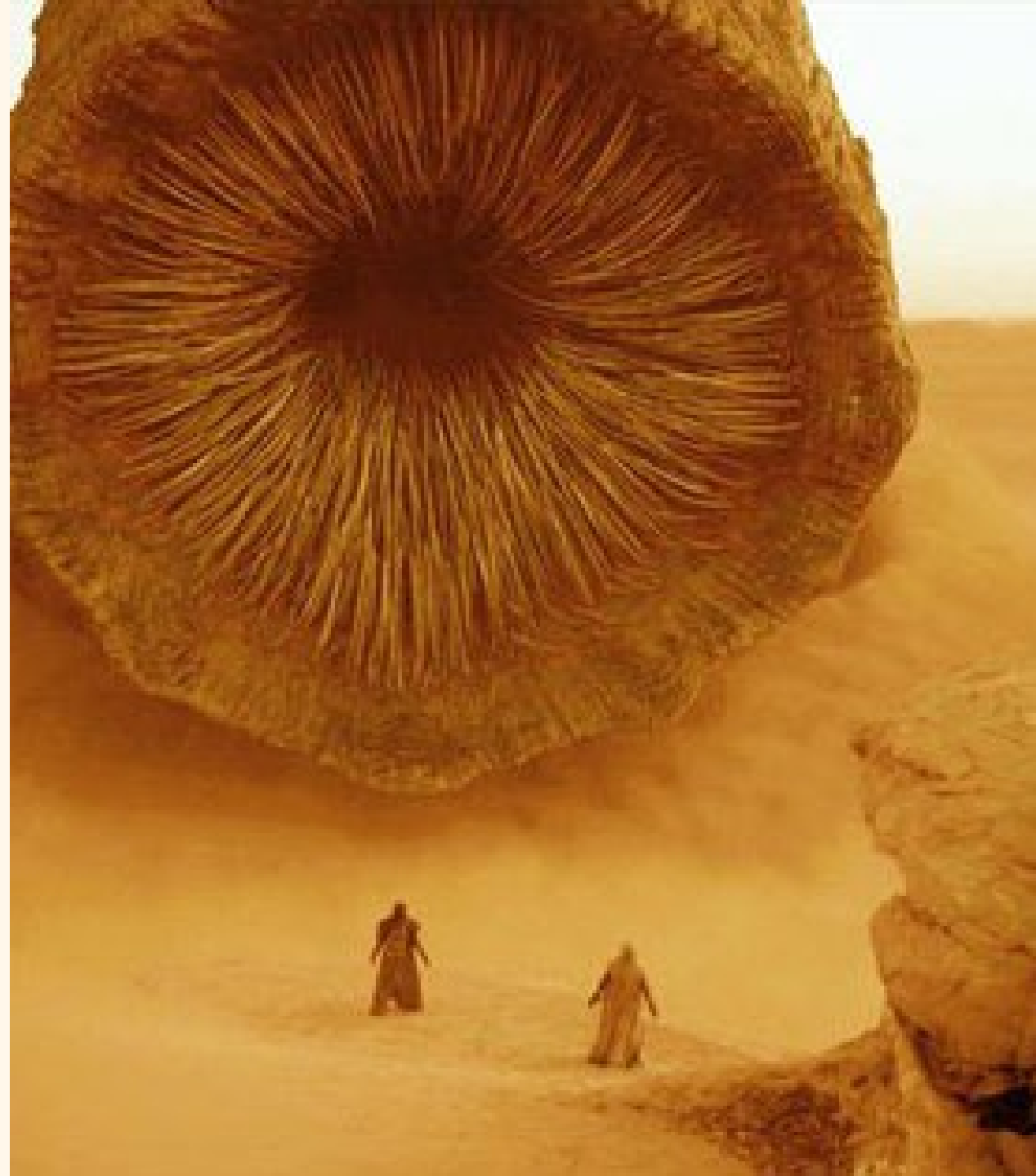


WORLD

Stilgar

A mighty warrior who is also wise. He is bold and strong. He is used to the harsh conditions of Arrakis.

As the leader of the Fremen, he is unyielding, traditional, and fierce.



Your **WORLD** shapes
your **CHARACTERS.**



How Your World Made Your Characters



- How do your characters **INTERACT** with your world?
 - Do they only drink tea because there's no coffee?
 - Can they only see certain colors because of the way their eyes developed?
 - Do they have **SUPERHUMAN** strength because they were born under a red sun and now live under a yellow one? ;-)

The Most Important Question



WHY?



WORLDBUILDING 101

on The Write Conversation

- 1. Existing History**
- 2. People and Social Circles**
- 3. Language and Communication**
- 4. Climate and Geography**
- 5. Agriculture (Textiles and Food)**



WORLDBUILDING 101

on The Write Conversation

6. Religion

7. Technology or Magic

8. Government and Economic Systems

9. Cultural Specifics

10. Don't Break Your Rules!

(More Info in the Worldbuilding Workshop!)

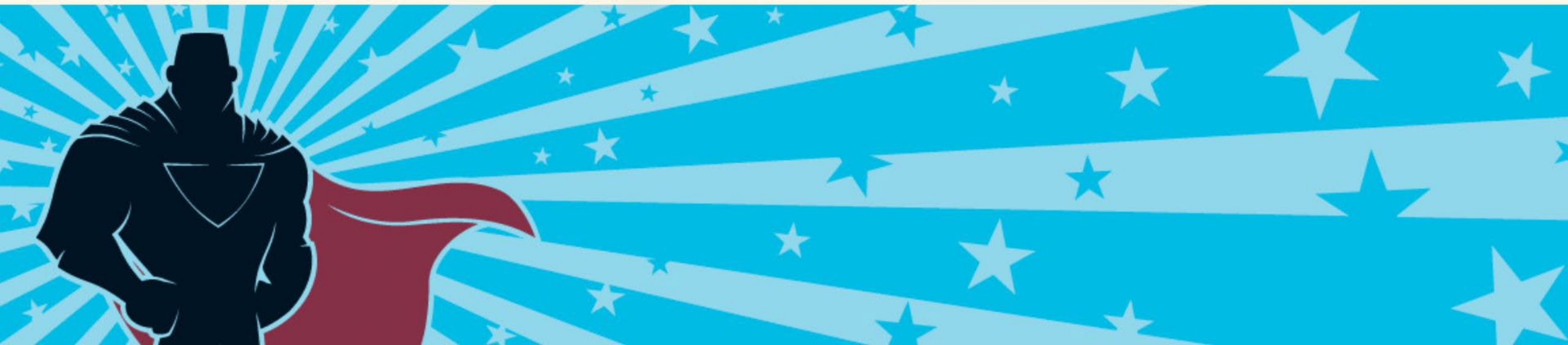
Brainstorming Questions



- How can your **WORLD** play a role in your **CHARACTER'S** identity?
- How can your **WORLD** play a role in your **CHARACTER** strategy?

PART THREE

Plot





Questions?

Thank you!

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