词汇：apocalyptic fiction 末日题材虚构作品

If you could travel back in time, which period of history would you visit? It's a great question to ask your friends, and **time travel** is the subject of many **science fiction films**. Of course, sci-fi is familiar to most of us, but what is cli-fi? The simple answer is **climate fiction** – a **genre** which focuses on the subject of climate change.

Many of the cli-fi examples we watch tend to be **disaster films**. It could be **solar flares**, **ice ages devastating** the planet, extreme flooding **swamping** the Earth with water, or super-storms that **threaten** life as we know it. While films and novels of this genre are often subject to the typical **tropes** of a **hero** or **heroine** battling to save the day, what sets it apart from most sci-fi films is that the **plots** will often draw on **plausible** outcomes in the present or near future.

Climate change and the potential threats have long been established. Some believe that the issue of climate change has even led to more fans watching films to learn more about what's happening to the world – seeing it as a form of **edutainment**. A study conducted by the Yale programme on Climate Change Communication tested the effects that two climate fiction novels can have on its readers and found "significant positive effects" in terms of their attitudes and beliefs towards the climate crisis – for example, understanding global warming will harm them and future generations.

Most climate films are not only **blockbuster action films**, but also prey on our fear of what some see as the **impending** doom of a climate **catastrophe**. This sounds bad, but according to a study conducted on 310 adults in the US, watching scary films can help us feel more prepared, resilient and less alone in situations such as the pandemic. So, it looks like cli-fi is here to stay – and there seem to be some benefits. Whether it's there to educate, entertain or prepare you for a climate crisis, it might have a role to play.

词汇表

time travel	时间旅行
science fiction film	科幻电影
climate fiction	气候变化类虚构作品，简称"**cli-fi**"
genre	（艺术）类型
disaster film	灾难片
solar flare	太阳耀斑
ice age	冰河时代
devastate	毁灭，摧毁
swamp	淹没
threaten	威胁到，危及
trope	（艺术作品中的）典型形象、主题
hero	（男）主角，（男）主人公
heroine	女主角，女主人公
plot	故事情节
plausible	可信的，有道理的
edutainment	寓教于乐，"**educational entertainment**"的缩写
blockbuster	（尤指商业）大片
action film	动作片
impending	（坏事）迫在眉睫的
catastrophe	灾难

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is cli-fi?

2. What are the typical tropes of climate fiction?

3. True or false? *The Yale study found that there was no change in people's attitudes after reading climate fiction.*

4. What are the benefits of watching scary films, according to a study?

5. What are some of the benefits of climate fiction?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. The fire has _____ the building.

hero	genre	devastate	devastated

2. I prefer watching indie films to _____.

catastrophe	genre	blockbusters	devastated

3. He says that climate fiction is his favourite _____ of film.

genre	devastate	hero	plausible

4. The storm is going to _____ all of the wildlife in the area.

hero	blockbuster	plausible	threaten

5. I don't think it will happen – it doesn't seem very _____.

plausible	genre	catastrophe	hero

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is cli-fi?

Cli-fi is short for 'climate fiction' – a genre which focuses on the subject of climate change.

2. What are the typical tropes of climate fiction?

Films and novels of this genre are often subject to the typical tropes of a hero or heroine battling to save the day.

3. True or false? *The Yale study found that there was no change in people's attitudes after reading climate fiction.*

False. It found "significant positive effects" in terms of their attitudes and beliefs towards the climate crisis.

4. What are the benefits of watching scary films, according to a study?

Watching scary films can help us feel more prepared, resilient and less alone in situations such as the pandemic.

5. What are some of the benefits of climate fiction?

It can educate, entertain or prepare you for a climate crisis.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. The fire has **devastated** the building.

2. I prefer watching indie films to **blockbusters**.

3. He says that climate fiction is his favourite **genre** of film.

4. The storm is going to **threaten** all of the wildlife in the area.

5. I don't think it will happen – it doesn't seem very **plausible**.