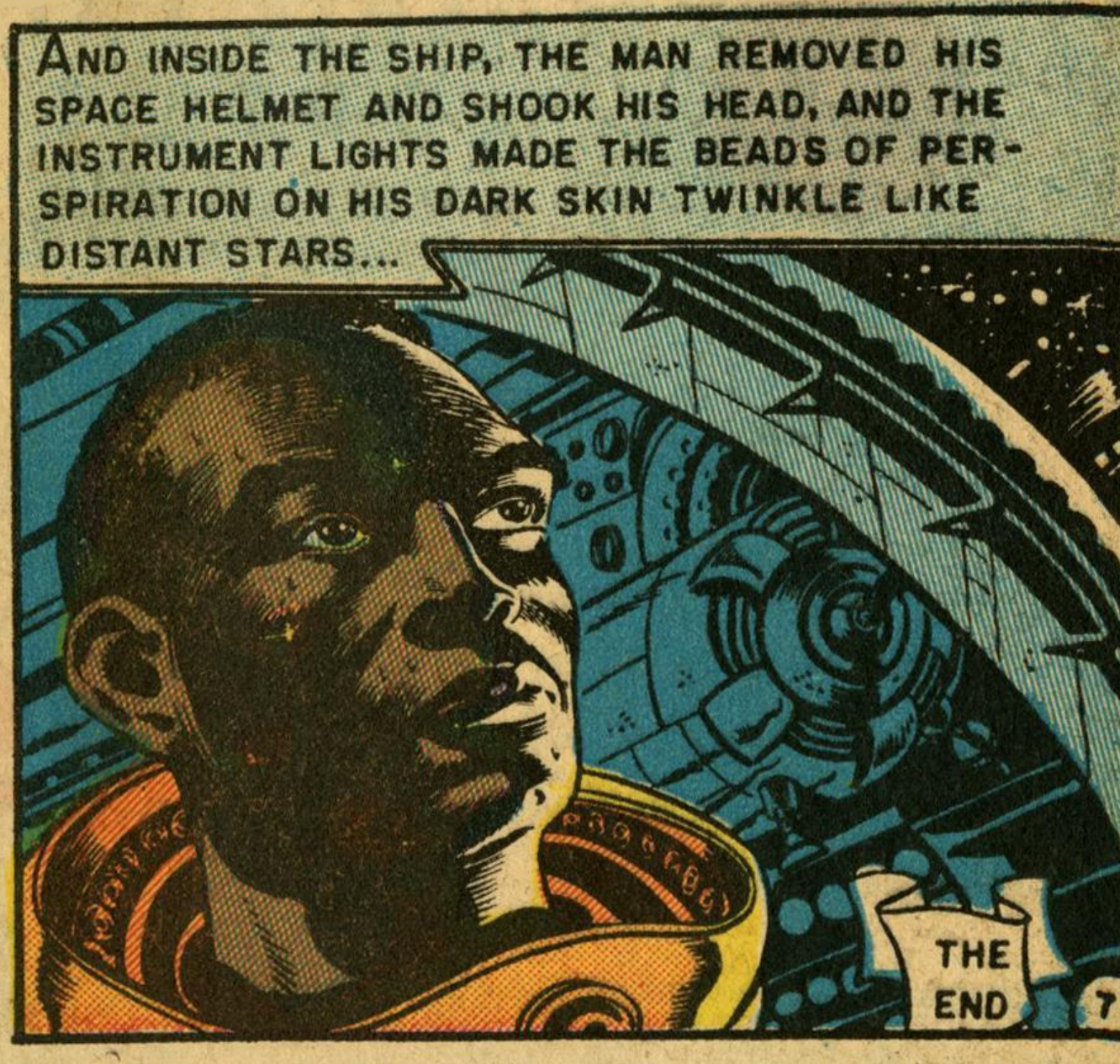


Ethics and Leadership Through Africanfuturism: Pumzi, Viewing and Discussion

JUNE 2022

Ethics and Leadership Track



Al Feldstein (American b. 1925 - 2014) writer, Joe Orlando (American b. 1927 - 1998) artist, *Judgement Day* (excerpt)
Weird Fantasy #18 April, 1953, EC comics

Session Outline

What's on the agenda?

1. We will watch Wanuri Kahiu's film *Pumzi* (2009). We will use it as a case study the ground and orient our discussion of what significance exists between ethics and leadership when weighed against the Four Commons of Contemporary Life – politics, economics, culture, and ecology.
1. *Pumzi* and the discussion of what ethical and leadership responsibilities do we have toward planetary ecology?
1. *Pedagogy* in relation to: What are some resources for Africanfuturism texts if those in the session would like to use them in their own teaching?
1. *Pedagogy*: how to structure Africanfuturism texts for discussion and active participation from students?

Lodestars: i) Opening Remarks ii) About the Author iii) About the Text.



Opening Remarks
and Orientation

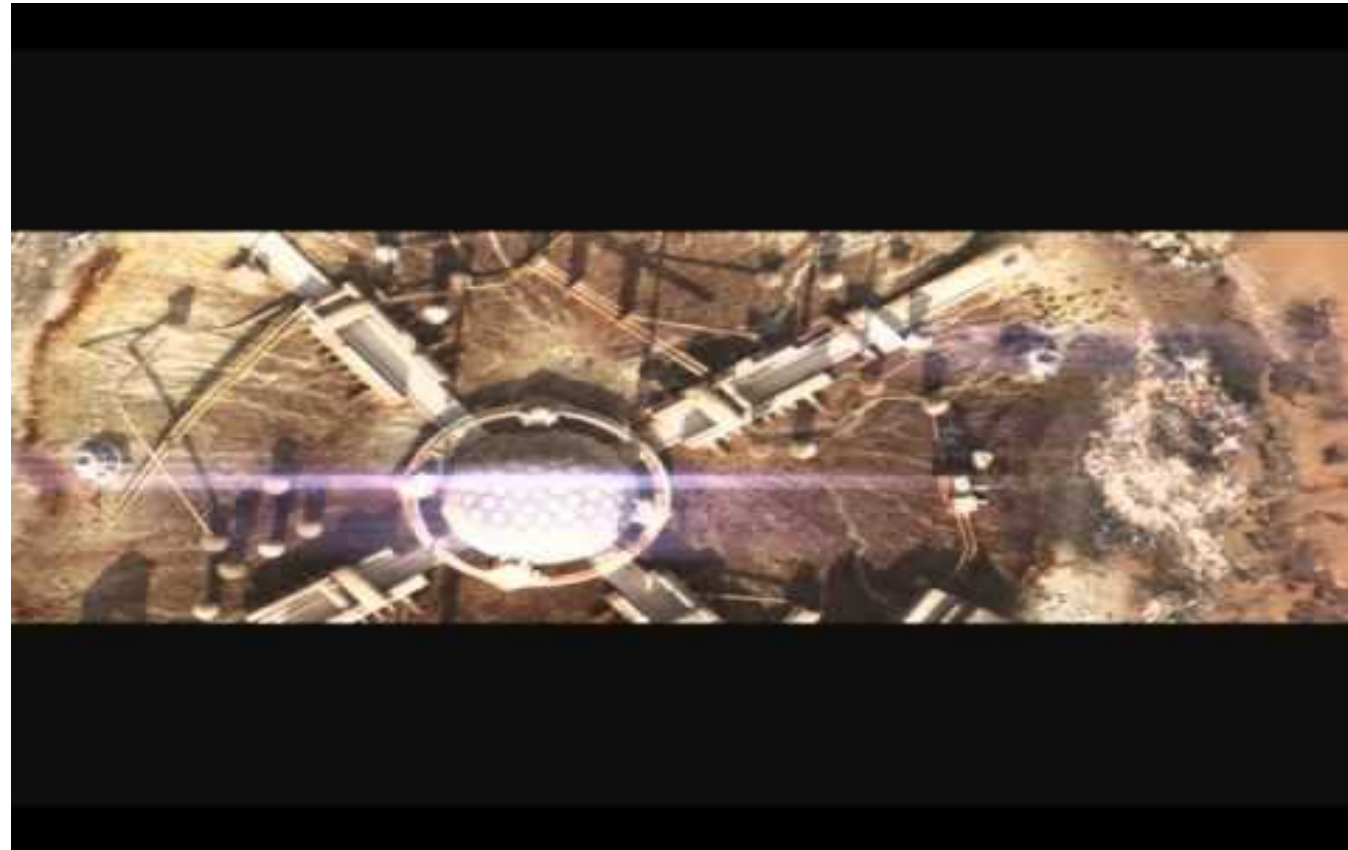


About the
Author: Wanuri
Kahiu



About the Text;
Pumzi (2009)

Pumzi (2009) by Wanuri Kahiu



Key Terms



Afro- vs
Africanfuturism

The diagram consists of a dark red horizontal bar with rounded ends. Six light red circular dots are positioned along the top edge of the bar. Below each dot, a key term is written in white text. The terms are: 'Afro- vs Africanfuturism', 'Ethics', 'Ecology', 'Nature', 'Environmental Ethics', and 'Ethics and Leadership Track'.

Ethics

Ecology

Nature

Environmental
Ethics



Janelle Monae, *The Archandroid* (2010),
Afrofuturist concept album.



Brain Stelfreeze art for Ta-Nehisi Coates'
*Black Panther: The Intergalactic Empire
of Wakanda* (2018-present)
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Sun Ra, *Space is the Place* (1972), Afrofuturist
film.

Afro-vs Africanfuturism

Afrofuturism: Originally coined by Mark Derry in his 1993 essay “Black to the Future”, Afrofuturism can be defined as an ethic that centers on the black experience as one anchored on both a re-discovery of the black past and focus on the black future. Despite it’s pretty unique name, the movement isn’t merely science fiction + black bodies, but an aesthetic, practice, movement, philosophy, and theoretical framework grounded in black imagination and creativity.



From Hugo Canuto's *Contos dos Orixás*, or *Tales of the Orishas* (2022)

Afro-vs Africanfuturism

Africanfuturism: According to Nigerian-American writer Nnedi Okorafor, Africanfuturism is similar to “Afrofuturism” in the way that blacks on the continent and in the Black Diaspora are all connected by blood, spirit, history and future. The difference is that Africanfuturism is specifically and more directly rooted in African culture, history, mythology and point-of-view as it then branches into the Black Diaspora, and it does not privilege or centre the West.

Ethics

- Ethics, also known as **moral philosophy**, is actually a branch of philosophy that engages with the systematisation, creation, application, and critique of concepts and practices of right and wrong behavior.
- Ultimately, ethics, understood in this way, is a philosophy of **valuation**. The philosophy of value is, more broadly, understood as axiology.

Ecology vs Nature

Ecology:

- The word ecology is derived from the Greek word 'Oikos' meaning habitation, and 'logos' meaning discourse or study. It necessarily implies a study of the habitations of organisms.

Nature:

- Nature, in the broadest sense, is the physical world or universe. "Nature" can refer to the phenomena of the physical world, and also to life in general. The study of nature is a large, if not the only, part of science. Although humans are part of nature, human activity is often understood as a separate category from other natural phenomena

Environmental Ethics

- If “ethics concerns how one ought to live one’s life”, then “the aim of an **ethics of ecology** is to help us avoid disturbing the ecological integrity, **stability** and beauty of nature”
- Implicit in this definition is a sense of **morality, obligation, discipline, negotiation, awareness, and infrastructure** to maintain the **ecological relations** between organisms in as **sustainable and balanced** a way possible.

Film Analysis

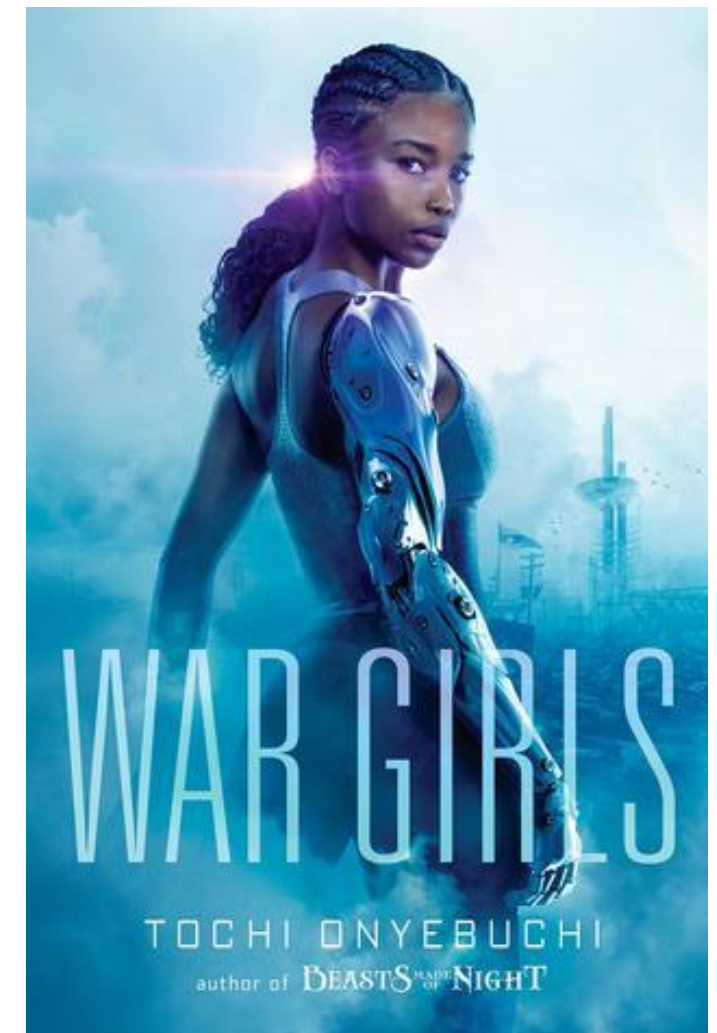
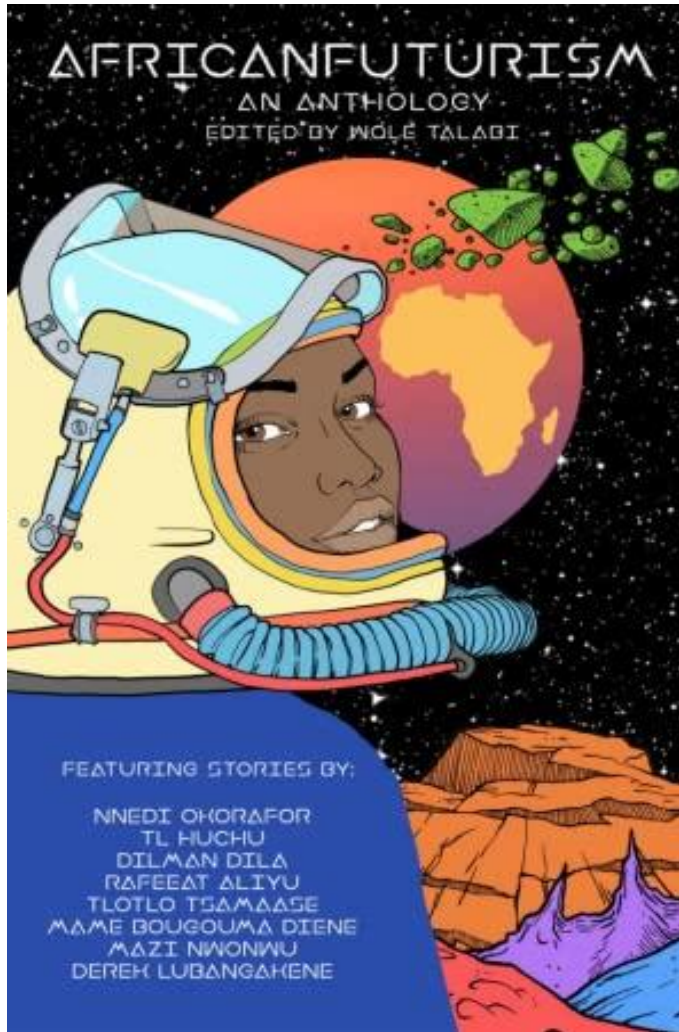
Pumzi, Ethics, and the Environment



**The Necessity to Reconnect with Nature. Still from Wanuri Kahiu's
Pumzi (2009)**

Resources

Afrofuturism and Pedagogy



Afrofuturist Texts

- Tochi Onyebuchi's 2019 *War Girls*
- *Africanfuturism-An Anthology* edited by Wole Talabi (2020)
- Nnedi Okorafor's 2022 *Noor*



Before Yesterday We Could Fly: An Afrofuturist Period Room,
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

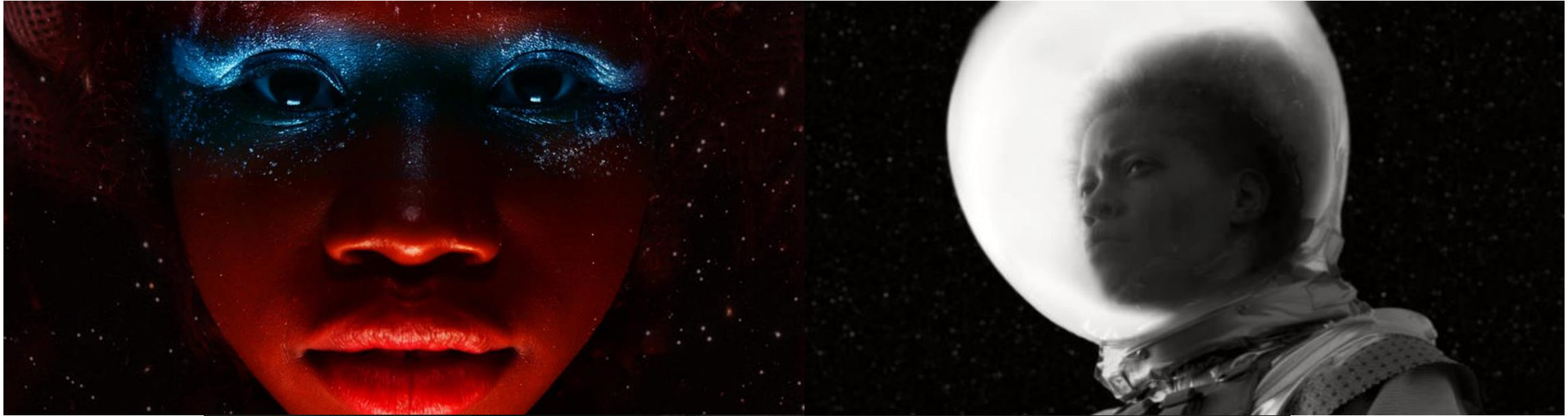
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Multimodal Texts

Before Yesterday We Could Fly: An Afrofuturist Period Room is a period room installation curated by Hannah Beachle and consulting curator Michelle Commander. Powered by Afrofuturism—a transdisciplinary creative mode that centers Black imagination, excellence, and self-determination—this construction is only one proposition for what might have been, had Seneca Village been allowed to thrive into the present and beyond.

Multimodal Texts

Afropunk: Afropunk is a celebration of the alternative arts scene that has blossomed from the underground culture of the African diaspora. The combination of art, music and fashion at Afropunk is rich in African culture yet simultaneously interwoven with the contemporary Afropean and Afro-American experience; this melting pot of influences resulted in a festival that celebrates undeniably stunning visuals and stylistically diverse musical content. Afropunk festival centres on the sensational music and striking aesthetics of black culture, yet at its core is an ethos of diversity and inclusivity. (Nekesa, 2016)



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Film

- "Souls" (2019) by Malakai:
<https://web.facebook.com/watch/?v=546261969405472>
- "Afronauts" (2014) by Nuotama Bodomo (a personal favorite of mine)
[:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lb3pu5jXWHU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lb3pu5jXWHU)
- Terence Nance and written by Eugene Ramos' "They Charge for the Sun" (2016)



Thank You