



MOVIES THAT WENT DUNE CYCLING

Frank Herbert's *Dune* is one of the most influential novels of all time. Published in 1965, the science-fiction epic tells the story of a **feudal** universe and a young man named Paul Atreides at the center of the conflict. House Atreides is assigned stewardship of a planet called Arrakis, to mine the most precious material in the known world: a powerful drug called spice melange. Paul, gifted and **prodigious**, must get to know his new home world through tragic and fateful circumstances, as **political turmoil** and ecological warfare swirl about him.

Dune is a dense story full of intense human conflict, and it's own fictional style, therefore it has influenced culture in a major way since its release. It'd be nearly impossible to list every single *Dune* **reference** in pop culture, but here are some iconic movies that have been inspired by the Herbert's world.

3. NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND

Hayao Miyazaki's 1982 animated film, based on a manga of the same name, follows a young princess named Nausicaä **embroided** in a struggle with a kingdom called Tolmekia that uses an ancient weapon to destroy a jungle of mutant insects. She becomes a savior of this devastated world, not unlike Paul Atreides on Arrakis. *Dune* was an influence on both the manga and Miyazaki's film, and the advertising for the latter leaned into the connection, featuring monsters that look like the giant sand worms on Arrakis.

2. PHANTASM

The 1979 fantasy horror film makes a few references to *Dune*, including a bar literally named *Dune* and a part where the protagonist Mike puts his hand into a black box that inflicts pain as part of a test, which mimics the Gom Jabbar **sequence** in the opening of *Dune*.

4. BEETLEJUICE

Speaking of sand worms and Arrakis, the 1988 Tim Burton horror comedy *Beetlejuice* also features giant sand creatures erupting from the depths of a desolate sand planet. This strange, time-bending location exists outside the home of the Maitlands after they tragically die, trapping them forever in their **abode**. It's a clear visual reference to *Dune*.

1. STAR WARS

Let's start with the most obvious. Herbert's DNA is all over *Star Wars*, from the desert planet Tatooine that shares much with Arrakis, to "spice" as a valuable drug, to the Force's similarities to the Voice. It's very clear that George Lucas borrowed heavily from *Dune* when crafting the galaxy far, far away, although he **imbued** his universe with more a serialized fantasy element than Herbert's harder sci-fi.

5. READY PLAYER ONE

Surprising absolutely no one, there is a nod to *Dune* in Steven Spielberg's reference-heavy 2018 film *Ready Player One* (based on the novel of the same name by Ernest Cline). The planet Arrakis is mentioned as a virtual destination that exists in OASIS.

