Themes and Metaphor Worksheet

In speculative fiction, certain characters and concepts are often a stand-in for something else entirely. Think of the way early Star Trek used alien cultures as a way to talk about the inequalities in our own.

Think of two possible(and possibly opposing) metaphors exemplified by each of the following elements:

Aliens / Fantastic Races

1.

2.

Special Powers/Schools

1.

2.

Dystopian Worlds

1.

2.

Mutants

1.

2.

Virtual Realities:

1.

2.

Androids/AIs:

1.

2.

Castles/Dragons:

1.

2.

When people think about you as a writer, what do you want them to understand that you stand for?

What do you want readers to take away from your next project?

Which one of the metaphors that you came up with above appeals to you most? Why?

Why do you need to include speculative fiction elements in this particular story in the first place? What will it allow you to do that you couldn't writing within our world? (If the answer is "nothing" take your story deeper – don't waste elements that can be a shorthand for meaning as mere window dressing)

How can you tie your speculative element into your specific theme and what you want your body of work as a whole to stand for?

What else do you want to explore in your next story?

Does any of this suggest a character that needs to learn this lesson/experience this speculative element? Describe him or her.