

Lupine defined

The Whorl list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 10 Jun 2001

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William Ansley — 10 Jun 2001, 23:09

Pardon my ignorance, but what is "Lupine"? I just picked up a copy of There Are Doors at the used paperback store the other day, and it is described as "loop-the-Lupine". I've heard you guys talk about Lupine on the list before. Thanks,

-Steve

No need to apologize. If you don't ask you can't learn. (However, if you do ask and I answer, you risk an overdose of pedantry.)

I was originally going to send a private reply to your message, but then I thought there might be others reading this discussion list that had been wondering the same thing but were afraid to ask.

Lupine means wolf-like, it is an adjective derived from the Latin word for wolf lupus (similar adjectival forms are ursine: bear-like, vulpine: fox-like and murine: mouse-like; the latter is used almost exclusively in scientific literature).

It is a scholarly pun on Gene Wolfe's surname. (It may have been coined by John Clute; does anyone know?) On this discussion list it is used to mean writing in the style or manner of Gene Wolfe, especially something written in a particularly convoluted, elliptical, ambiguous way.

It is used in combined forms such as "loop-the-Lupine" which you mention (I imagine this means "even more convoluted than Wolfe's writing usually is") and Dan'I Danehy-Oakes excellent recent coinage Lupiverse, meaning the universe of discourse of a particular work by Gene Wolfe.

William Ansley

*This is WHORL, for discussion of Gene Wolfe's Book of the Long Sun.

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 11 Jun 2001, 08:50 · follows William Ansley

William Ansley referred to

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes excellent recent coinage Lupiverse,

Thank you!

meaning the universe of discourse of a particular work by Gene Wolfe.

Well, actually, what I had in mind was the major universe of discourse in which the BOOKS OF THE [FOO] SUN take place, but if the term is more useful the other way, who am I to stand in the way of linguistic evolution?

--Dan'I

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