

Year 8 Semester 1: Dystopian Fiction



Possible Texts Studied	Plot Summary
'The Hunger Games' Written by Suzanne Collins	Panem is split up into 12 districts. Each year, every district is forced to randomly choose two tributes, one girl and one boy, to fight in the annual Hunger Games. A fight to the death on live television. Katniss Everdeen takes her sister's place when she is called to be the tribute of the 74th annual Hunger Games.
'The Lottery' Written by Shirley Jackson.	In "The Lottery," the inhabitants of a New England town gather in the town square to draw lots. Whoever draws a slip of paper with a black dot on it will be killed.
'1984' Written by George Orwell.	Winston Smith is a member of the Outer Party. He works in the Records Department in the Ministry of Truth, rewriting and distorting history. To escape Big Brother's tyranny, at least inside his own mind, Winston begins a diary—an act punishable by death
'Examination Day' Written by Henry Sessler.	Dickie Jordan is an intelligent and curious youth in a dystopian future. It is Dickie's twelfth birthday, which means he is required by law to report to a government testing facility for a mandatory IQ test.
'Harrison Bergeron' Written by Kurt Vonnegut.	It is the year 2081, and all people have been made 'equal' through the use of physical and mental handicaps. The United States Constitution mandates this equality in the 211th, 212th, and 213th Amendments, and the law is enforced by Diana Moon Glampers, the Handicapper General

Characteristics of a Dystopian Society

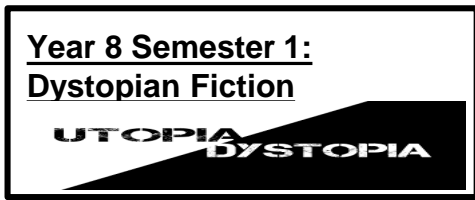
- Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
- Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens have a fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.

What is Dystopian fiction?

A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control.

Dystopian Protagonist

- often feels trapped and is struggling to escape.
- questions the existing social and political systems.
- believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.
- helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective.



What is an Utopia?
A place, state, or condition that is ideally perfect in respect of politics, laws, customs, and conditions.

Narrative Perspective	
1st person	Told from the perspective of the speaker/narrator. Uses the pronouns 'I', 'My', 'we', 'our' etc.
2nd person	Speaks directly to the reader, suggesting that they are somehow involved in the story. Uses the pronouns 'you', 'your', 'our' etc.
3rd person (omniscient, limited or objective)	Told from the perspective of a narrator who can see everything that happens and knows what the characters are feeling and thinking (omniscient). You can also get 3rd person limited (the thoughts and feelings of one character) and 3rd person objective (where only the dialogue and actions of the characters are described).

Language Terminology	
Noun	A word for an object, person, place or thing.
Adjective	A word that modifies (describes) a noun.
Verb	A word that denotes an action or state of being.
Adverb	A word that modifies (describes) a verb.
Metaphor	Describing something by saying it is something else. E.g. That boy is a monster.
Simile	Describing something by comparing it to something else, using the words 'like' or 'as'.
Personification	Making an object or thing perform an action usually associated with humans.
Alliteration	A series of words that begin with the same sound used next to or near each other.

5 part Narrative Structure	
Exposition	Also known as the introduction. This where the story begins, usually with everyone being happy and everything being normal.
Rising Action	This is when things start to happen. Often a problem is introduced that the characters will have to solve.
Climax	This is the most exciting part of the story where everything is chaos.
Falling Action	This is where the characters are fixing the problem they had to deal with, often working together.
Denouement	This is the part of the story where everything returns to normal and happiness is restored (well, sometimes!).