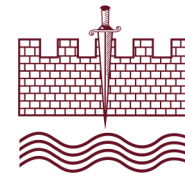


Half term 3

Dystopia

Key Stage 3: Year 9

Knowledge Organiser



WHAT IS DYSTOPIA?

In a Dystopian story, society itself is typically the antagonist as society is actively working against the protagonist's aims and desires. The worlds depicted are often controlled by a totalitarian or authoritarian government. Dystopian fiction often explores issues such as the loss of civil liberties; living under constant surveillance; laws controlling a people's freedoms and choices; and denial of the right to an education. Dystopias are often thought to be 'cautionary tales' but are also used to explore the ideas of what is to be human.

KEY WRITERS AND TEXTS:

- Nineteen Eighty-Four—George Orwell
- The Declaration—Gemma Malley
- The Hunger Games—Suzanne Collins
- Divergent—Veronica Roth
- The Bees—Laline Paull
- Eve of Man—Giovanna and Tom Fletcher
- The Giver—Lois Lowry

EXAM SKILLS:

- AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts using textual references. Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas.
- AO2: Use PEEL to analyse how the writers use language and structure techniques to achieve effects and influence readers
- AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written
- AO5: Respond creatively, effectively and imaginatively. Adapt tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences.

"May the odds be ever in your favour" - The Hunger Games

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

1. Identify techniques and analyse language, form and structure.
2. Understand and comment on the writer's intentions.
3. Understand and evaluate the reader's response.
4. Understand and evaluate the effects and significance of context (audience, social, historical, cultural).
5. Understand, identify and apply conventions of genre.
6. Be able to explore a text independently and interpret and evaluate the ideas.
7. Use precise evidence to support ideas.
8. Analyse multiple meanings/interpretations where possible.

KEY TERMS:

Totalitarian—a form of government that attempts to assert total control over the lives of its citizens. It is characterized by strong central rule that attempts to control and direct all aspects of individual life

Authoritarian—demanding that people obey completely and refusing to allow them freedom to act as they wish

CONVENTIONS OF A DYSTOPIAN STORY:

Propaganda is used to control information & independent thought/freedom are restricted

Citizens have a fear of the outside world & live in a dehumanized state

The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world

A DYSTOPIAN PROTAGONIST:

Often feels trapped and is struggling to escape, questions the existing social and political systems, attempts to rebel, believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives

TYPICAL SETTINGS OF A DYSTOPIA:

Futuristic, industrial cities • Destroyed natural habitat with little connection to nature • High levels of surveillance • Environments and weather that creates a strong sense of oppression or constraint