

DYSTOPIAN FICTION KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

A. Rationale

The aim of this unit is to explore the concept of fiction as holding some important truths for our current world: to understand its ability to use a very obvious un-truth as a warning, or **moralistic** lesson to encourage us to **empathise** and incite positive change. We will study dystopian fiction's links with the modern world to explore the possible consequences of certain societal behaviours and consider **attitudes** and **perspectives** outside of the **cultural norm**. We will develop our understanding of social, political, moral and cultural ideas in order to develop our **own voice** on complex issues that face our society through debate, and both persuasive and narrative writing.

B. English subject terminology			C. Key Vocabulary		
1	Dystopian fiction	A genre of writing that explores characteristics of our own society through a disturbing imaginary world, which encourages the reader to ask questions of our world.	1	Dystopia	An imagined place or world in which everything is unpleasant or bad.
2	Protagonist	The main character/hero.	2	Utopia	An imagined place or world in which everything is perfect.
3	Antagonist	The person who opposes the protagonist.	3	Dictator	A ruler with total power over a country.
4	Setting	The time and place in which the story occurs. Setting can establish the mood or atmosphere.	4	Uncanny	Things that are frightening because they are different from what we remember or know, in some way.
5	Mood	The feelings or emotions of a character, reader or audience.	5	Critical theory	Reflective assessment and critique of society to reveal and challenge power structures.
6	Atmosphere	The feeling or emotions evoked by the setting and surroundings.	6	Totalitarian	A system of government that has total control, is led by a dictator and requires complete obedience.
7	Theme	Ideas, concepts and messages throughout a text.	7	Repress	To restrain, limit or subdue something.
8	Juxtaposition	Contrasting elements placed side by side to highlight the difference between them.	8	Oppress	To continually repress somebody who has less power, often to reduce freedom of thought or action.
9	Personification	Giving human characteristics to an object, e.g. the clock smiled down at me: it was 10 past 3.	9	Tyranny	A cruel, unreasonable and oppressive government.
10	Pathetic fallacy	Giving human characteristics to nature, e.g. the wind whispered through the trees.	10	Dehumanise	To deprive someone of positive human qualities.
11	Prepositions	Place and time words used to guide a reader, e.g. tomorrow; yesterday; above; underneath.	11	Rebellion	The action or process of resisting authority, control or expectations.
12	Semantic field	A group of words linked by their meanings, e.g. the semantic field of colour includes: shade, tone, blue, navy.	12	Propaganda	Biased or misleading information to promote a political cause or point of view
13	Light imagery	Light and darkness to help establish atmosphere.	13	Surveillance	Close observation, usually through technology, e.g. CCTV.
14	Flashback (analepsis)	A narrative structure taking the reader back to a time earlier than the main story.	14	Social division	A community that is divided by something, e.g. class, gender, race.
15	Dialogue	Speech between two characters. “ “	15	Exploitation	Treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work.
16	Connotation	Associations linked to words and phrases.	16	Individuality	The characteristic of someone that makes them stand out against others.
17	Symbol	An object, picture, word or logo that represents something else, e.g. heart = love.	D. Other useful English subject terminology		
18	Foreshadowing	When a writer hints at what is to come later.	1	Noun	A place, thing or person.
19	Foreboding	A feeling that something bad will happen.	2	Adjective	A word to describe a noun, e.g. red, beautiful, old.
20	Characterisation	The techniques an author uses to build up and describe a character.	3	Verb	An action, e.g. kick, jump, adore, think.
21	Paradox	A seemingly absurd or contradictory statement.	4	Adverb	A word that describes a verb or adjective, often ending in 'ly', e.g. carefully, amazingly.
22	Allegory	A story that symbolises a larger point about society or human nature.	5	Simile	A comparison using "like" or "as".
23	Ethos, logos, pathos	Rhetorical techniques that appeal to the reader's trust, logic and emotions.	6	Metaphor	A comparison that suggests something is something else, but isn't meant literally.
24	Marxism	The belief that struggle between social classes is a major force in history, and there should eventually be a society in which there are no classes.	7	Synonym	Words that mean the same or similar. (Choose your words carefully! E.g. 'rabble' and 'gathering' both mean a crowd of people, but rabble has more negative connotations than crowd.)
25	Structure	How something is built. In English, the organisation of ideas in a text.	8	First person narration	Using "I", "me", "we", "us" to tell the story from the narrator's perspective.
26	Moralist viewpoint	Looking at a text and judging if the events are ethically right or wrong.	9	Third person narration	When the author narrates a story about the characters using "he", "she", and "they".
27	Perspective	A viewpoint, attitude, opinion, feeling towards a topic.	10	Anecdote	A short story. When used in persuasive writing, provokes an emotive response from a reader.
			11	Sensory language	Describing the 5 senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to create vivid imagery for the reader.
			12	Sentence type	Declarative = a statement. Interrogative = a question. Exclamation = an exclamation. Imperative = a command.