

Year 9 – OUR WORLD – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS AT THE UPSIDE DOWN: HOW IS DYSTOPIAN FICTION A REFLECTION OF OUR NIGHTMARISH WORLD?

What is the purpose of this topic?

I will explore how dystopian literature uses key conventions to explore the loss of humanity through intolerance, exploitation and oppression – all of which mirror or world today.

I will study the contemporary dystopian novel: **American Way by Omar El Akkad**. I will focus on the language and themes used and explore how the novel is a warning against a divided, self-destructive world, intent to cause, or ignorant towards the inevitable consequences of climate change.

I will be inspired by literary conventions and language to create my own dystopian tale.

Questions to ask yourself:

- What does it mean to be human?
- Have I seen any real-world examples of intolerance, exploitation or oppression?
- Have I seen any real-world examples of social division?
- What is climate change?
- What are different ideas and perspectives on climate change?
- What are my thoughts, feelings and perspective when reading *American War*?

English Subject Terminology

No.	Term	Definition
1	Antagonist	A person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; and adversary.
2	Character	A person, animal, being or creature in a story.
3	Connotation	The idea, feeling or abstract meaning that a word invokes/creates for the reader.
4	Denotation	The literal meaning of a word that is found in a dictionary.
5	Dystopia	An imagined or fictional society that is characterised by oppressive social control, dehumanisation, and a lack of individual freedom.
6	Flashback	A scene in a text that is set in a time earlier than the main story.
7	Flashforward	A scene in a text that is set in a time later than the main story.
8	Foreshadow	When the writers gives the reader hints of clues about what will happen later in the story.
9	Metaphor	When someone or something is described as something else. E.G. Life is a rollercoaster.
10	Non-linear Narrative	Where events in the story do not follow a chronological order.
11	Prologue	A brief introduction at the beginning of a story that provides important background information.
12	Protagonist	The main character who drives the story forward.
13	Return to the scene	Returning to the main story after a flashback.
14	Semantic Field	A set of words that are grouped together by meaning.
15	Setting	The time and place in which the story takes place in a piece of literature. Setting can establish the mood or atmosphere of a scene or story.

BIG IDEAS

No.	Term	Definition
1	Consequence	A typically unwelcome or unpleasant result or effect.
2	Dehumanisation	The process of depriving a person or group of positive human qualities.
3	Discrimination	The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, age, sex or ability.
4	Displacement	The forced movement of individuals or groups from their homes due to conflict, persecution or natural disasters.
5	Equality	The state of being equal, especially in status, rights or opportunities.
6	Exploitation	The action of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work.
7	Hierarchy	A system or structure in which individuals are organised into different levels based on their status, authority or importance.
8	Humanity	Human beings; the quality of being humane and benevolent.
9	Inequality	The unfair situation in society when some people have more opportunities, benefits and rights.
10	Intolerance	The unwillingness to accept views, beliefs or behaviour that differ from one's own.
11	Loss	Losing someone or something.
12	Oppression	Prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority.
13	Power	The ability or capacity to do something or act in a particular way; the ability to influence the behaviour of others or events.
14	Prejudice	A preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.
15	Social Division	Divisions in society associated with social groupings, often causing conflict, inequality and disadvantage.