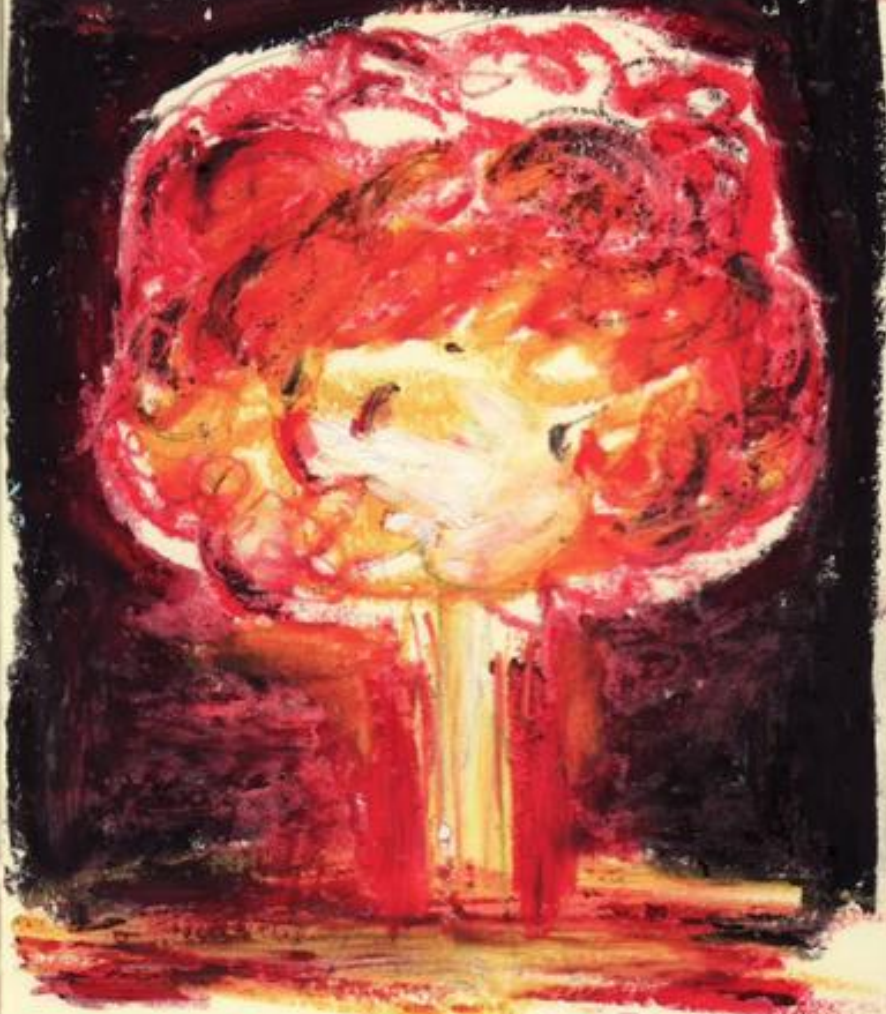




UTOPIA



DYSTOPIA

dylan, 10

An Introduction




- ▶ In partners: discuss the following questions and take notes of your discussion to aid your memory.
 1. Stay on topic
 2. Listen to each other
 3. Attack the argument, not the person
 4. Talk at an appropriate volume
 5. Express your ideas clearly and concisely
- ▶ We will come back as a class and discuss further.

- ▶ What are the problems facing society today?
- ▶ Is it society's aim to eliminate these evils? Is it possible to eliminate them?
- ▶ Is a utopia ever achievable? If not, why not?
- ▶ Is a Dystopian society possible? Where can we find historical or contemporary examples? Where can we find examples in literature and popular culture like TV and cinema?

Compare and Contrast Utopia and Dystopia

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g58i-H85xn0>



What Makes Dystopia Dystopian?

HONORS: YOU WILL NEED THESE NOTES FOR AN ASSIGNMENT YOU'LL
COMPLETE LATER!

At first glance...



- ▶ “The answer seems simple; a terrible world, often with electronic surveillance.
- ▶ However, it is not so simple. There is much more to a dystopian story than just that: not every dystopian piece of writing needs to have electronic surveillance as a theme and a terrible world is a broad term. “
- ▶ Let’s explore some dystopian qualities

The dystopian protagonist



- ▶ Often feels trapped and is struggling to escape
- ▶ Questions the existing social and political systems; very intuitive- a rebel.
- ▶ Believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.
- ▶ Doesn't fit in, or is an outsider to the norm.
- ▶ Helps the audience recognize the native aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective.

Common dystopian themes

- ▶ Censorship
- ▶ Knowledge vs. ignorance
- ▶ Mass media
- ▶ Conformity vs. individuality
- ▶ The search for identity
- ▶ Distraction vs happiness
- ▶ Action vs inaction
- ▶ The power of science
- ▶ The role of technology
- ▶ Social statuses
- ▶ Law and justice

A photograph of a dilapidated, overgrown alleyway between old buildings. The walls are white and peeling, with vines and plants growing on them. The ground is covered in debris, including wood, metal, and a white bucket. A person is visible in the background, sitting on a wooden structure. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source from the right creating a strong shadow.

Dystopian Society Characteristics

- ▶ This is kind of the poster-child for dystopia- a society (whether earthly or other-worldly) in which society is in an all controlling, totalitarian, communist, collectivist, or oppressive state.
- ▶ If a controlling body is trying to keep people safe by keeping them from knowledge, skills, family, advancement- then you've got a over controlling society

Controlling Society



Types of Control

- ▶ Corporate Control: One or more large corporations control society through products, advertising, and/or the media
- Bureaucratic control: society is controlled by a mindless bureaucracy through a tangle of red tape, relentless regulations, and incompetent government officials.
- ▶ Technological control: society is controlled by technology-through computers, robots, and/or scientific means
- ▶ Philosophical/religious control: society is controlled by ideology that is often enforced through a dictatorship or theocratic government
- ▶ Unknown Force: society is dominated by fear of the unknown and/or by an outside force that they do not understand or have enough knowledge about, such as an alien race or cosmic beings.

World Destruction

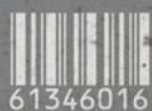
- ▶ Most dystopian fiction starts with a disaster of some sort that catapults the society into a dystopia. However, is this necessary?
- ▶ other dystopian fiction involves gradual social shifts in a particular direction and normally in one that is thought of to be positive initially.
- ▶ Requires world disaster? NO. But can include.



BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU



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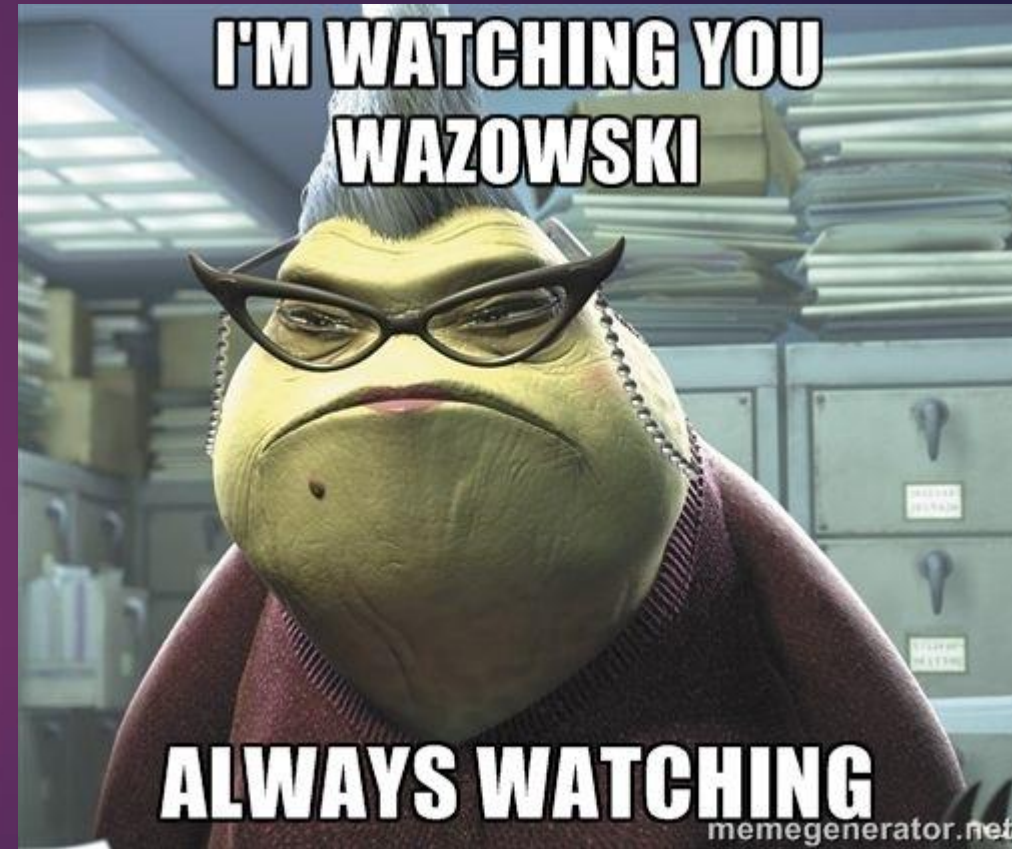
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The Use of Propaganda

- ▶ According to Dictionary.com, propaganda is defined as “information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, nation, etc.”
- ▶ It's important to note that propaganda can be both helpful and harmful
- ▶ Propaganda seems to play a large role in dystopian fiction, as it promotes specific societal standards, plays on social tensions, and relays messages

Surveillance

- ▶ Where Propaganda influences your beliefs, surveillance influences your actions in a dystopian society.
- ▶ The government or oppressive force is always making sure that it's subjects or people know their actions are being watched, categorized, etc.
- ▶ This can be through electronics, cameras, and/or military force



Illusion

- ▶ Oftentimes a dystopia starts off looking and sounding like a Utopia. Everything is going well, everyone gets along, everyone has what they need.
- ▶ But...
- ▶ That's just it, it's an illusion. This Utopia is created by CONTROL or an Oppressive state.
- ▶ People believe they're in a perfect world, but its only because of domination by the government.

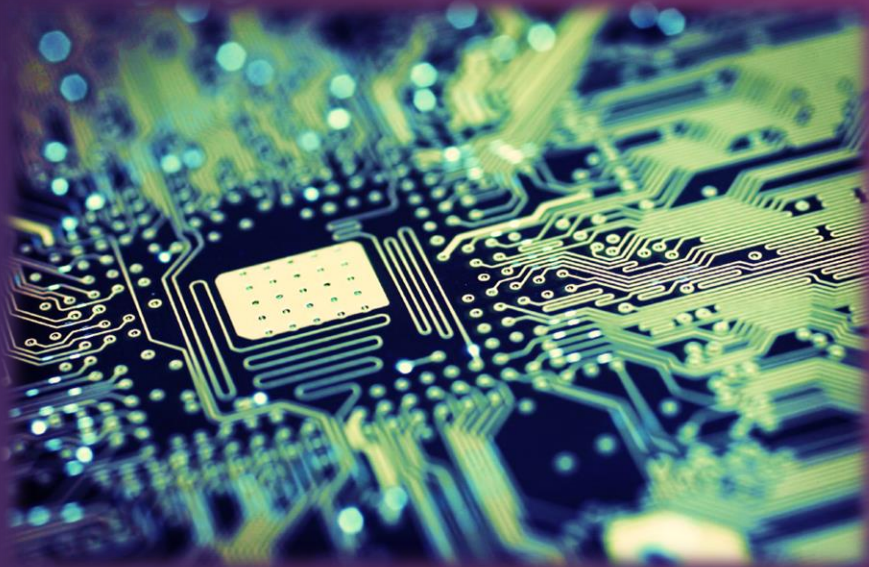


Nature (Mastery or Fear)

- ▶ Some Dystopian novels contain the idea that humans have mastered nature to the point that nature becomes barren or turns against humankind
- ▶ Humans have figured out too much about nature, and therefore have abused it to the point of no return
- ▶ The earth may be fighting back (creating new diseases) or may be slowly dying.
- ▶ It can also appear as a distrust of nature, as it has become so foreign and terrible.
- ▶ Because of its abandoned nature/ need to



Technological advances



- ▶ Technologies that enslave humans (robot control, or simply being “absorbed” in the technology).
- ▶ Keep in mind, that this also falls under sci-fi, so you’ll have to provide ample evidence to prove that technology is creating an “oppressive” state.

Factions/dehumanized state

- ▶ Faction= The mandatory division of people into castes, or groups with specialized function
- ▶ Often this is done for the “sake of humanity” whether to restore peace from an apocalyptic setting, or to simply survive.
- ▶ In any case, humans no longer can think and act like humans, but follow strict guidelines for behavior



The Loss of Time

- ▶ Oftentimes Dystopias include a collective loss of memory and history
- ▶ This makes mankind easier to manipulate psychologically and ultimately leads to dehumanization.
- ▶ The loss could be from force, forgetfulness, war, or being on another planet



Restrictions

- ▶ Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- ▶ This is to ensure the safety of society and the continuance of society.



The value of individual



- ▶ If the story questions the value of the individual vs the society, it is usually a dystopian novel.
- ▶ It is all about the continuation of the society: humanity was almost destroyed, we must save it, and following the rules and focusing on **US** will save everyone.

Religion/Leader

- ▶ A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- ▶ Outside beliefs, ideas, or political alliance are usually handled by execution.
- ▶ “obey or be destroyed”

