

What Makes Dystopia
Dystopian?

Today's

Goals:

1. Take note of the elements within a dystopia including common themes in a dystopia
2. To meet and discuss upcoming lit circle reading & Roles.

Focus Questions:

- What makes a Dystopia, Dystopian?
- What are some of the common themes in a dystopian novel?
- When do I need my Lit circle book by?
- When is our first Lit. Circle?
- How many pages will I have to read?

Goal #1: Notes- Write what you need

This PPT. will be on my website for you to reference. If you are not taking notes now, then you are actively listening and not disrupting the learning environment.

As we go through, think of anthem, and how these elements relate.

At first glance...

- What is a dystopia?
- “The answer seems simple; a terrible world, often with electronic surveillance, [death and destruction].
- 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

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.

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 over media to masses of people.

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 be in a society, people fear the outside world.

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 behaviors.

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”

Homework:

- On a separate sheet of paper from your notes, examine how Anthem is a “typical” dystopian novel.
- Use these notes to guide your exploration.
- You should write at least a paragraph.
- Hint: Use **RACE**:
 - Restate the question,
 - Answer the question,
 - Cite your evidence from the text,
 - Explain your answer.

Goal #2: Lit circles

Next Tuesday is your first Lit. Circle

- In order to be prepared for this lit circle you need a couple of things:
- 1. Your book
 - get it by Thursday, because you will need to read by next Tuesday!
- 2. Who is in your group?
 - Look around you, you're in your groups!
- 3. What pages you're reading
 - That's what we're going to talk about
- 4. What role you're completing
 - That's what we're going to talk about

Lit Circle Pre-Meeting

- Mini meeting today!

Rough overview:

- There are 8 total meetings, but we will use the last literature circle day to practice and finalize our presentations, so **there are 7 meetings you need to read for.**
- There is a break on Nov. 22nd. so consider adding more pages between the 5th and 6th meeting to balance out reading times.
- With group members, you will review the book and find **appropriate places to stop** (not in the middle of an important scene) for each meeting.
- **You must read those assigned pages as if the teacher assigned them to you** (no sparknotes, cliffnotes, etc. except to advance your understanding of the material).

Roles:

- the roles will **change each time in rotation (alphabetically)**,
- You will be each role at **least once**.
- **complete Role guiding worksheet** *before* the meeting.
- If absent the day of the Literature Circle, **contact peers** (and/or teacher) and provide them with completed role sheet (if possible).
- **YOU ARE still responsible for completing your assigned role's worksheet** for a meeting even when you're absent, and that you **should turn it in the day I return**.
- As these meetings are not everyday, you have advance notice of their due dates. Should multiple absences occur, please meet with the teacher and/or your group to catch up in a timely manner. That way you can enjoy and add to the discussion of your book!

Role Rotation

- Whatever you put for Nov. 6th meeting, move everyone down by one for nov. 9th meeting.
- So, if you are the Artful Annotator (A) for meeting 1, then meeting 2 you will be B, Bridge Builder, and so on and so forth.
- That way you don't forget/get confused which role you're supposed to be.

Apologies:

- I do not have the role sheets today for the first meeting next week.
- I am trying to get them color-coded and I'm having trouble finding colored paper.
- I will get the worksheets to you by Thursday.

Homework: Turn in ch 11-12

- On a separate sheet of paper from your notes, examine how Anthem is a “typical” dystopian novel.
- Use these notes to guide your exploration.
- You should write at least a paragraph.
- Hint: Use **RACE**:
 - Restate the question,
 - Answer the question,
 - Cite your evidence from the text,
 - Explain your answer.

Turn in Chapter 11 & 12

any Anthem ?'s you've not turned in?

Turn in tomorrow or 0!!!!!!!