

Y8 DYSTOPIAN FICTION: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Key Words

- **Utopia:** an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect.
- **Dystopia:** the antonym of utopia and is literally translated to mean 'bad place'.
- **Big Brother:** a person or organisation that has total control over people's lives.
- **Narrative Perspectives:**
 - First person narration – stories told from a character's point of view; often using 'I'.
 - Second person narration (very rare!) – stories that address the main character; often using 'you'.
 - Third person narration – stories told by an unseen observer of events; often using 'he' and 'she'.
 - Free indirect discourse – stories told in the third person but that explain characters' thoughts and 'go inside their heads'.
- **Past Tense:** used to describe things that have already happened (e.g. earlier in the day, yesterday, last week, three years ago).
- **Present Tense:** used to describe things that are happening right now, or things that are continuous.
- **Totalitarian:** a form of government that attempts to assert total control over the lives of its citizens through repression. It does not permit individual freedom.
- **Apocalypse:** a Biblical term, meaning the destruction of the entire world.
- **Sensory Imagery:** Writing which uses the senses; sight, sound, smell, Taste and touch
- **Allegory:** a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.

Key Skills

- **Read and understand** 6 extracts from the dystopian fiction genre and annotate them
- **Understand the context** of the genre
- **Identify & discuss** features of the genre through extracts and key vocabulary
- **Identify and analyse** writers' methods to model creative writing
- **Write a narrative description** to explore character, setting, vocabulary, imagery and structure

Help/Support: structuring your story

- Hook the reader with the opening – describe the setting or character.
- If you've described the setting, introduce your character, if you did that in paragraph 1, describe the setting!
- Action – something that happens or goes wrong; think about drama that could interest a reader.
- What happens next? How is the drama resolved? How does the character react?
- The ending

Essential information

<p>1984 by George Orwell (1949) The novella follows the life of Winston Smith, a low ranking member of 'the Party', who is frustrated by the ever watching eyes of the party, and its ominous ruler Big Brother. 'Big Brother' controls every aspect of people's lives. Big Brother; Thought Police; Room 101; establishing tone</p>	<p>NOUGHTS & CROSSES by Malorie Blackman (2001) Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger. Totalitarianism; hot seating; monologue; empathetic writing</p>
<p>BRAVE NEW WORLD by Aldous Huxley (1931) The novel examines a futuristic society, called the World State, that revolves around science and efficiency. In this society, emotions and individuality are conditioned out of children at a young age, and there are no lasting relationships because "every one belongs to every one else". 'Show, don't tell' in writing</p>	<p>THE HANDMAID'S TALE by Margaret Atwood (1985) The book, set in New England in the near future, explores a regime in the former United States that arose as a response to a fertility crisis. Context; writing an opening</p>
<p>THE HUNGER GAMES by Suzanne Collins (2008) The Hunger Games is an annual event in which one boy and one girl aged 12–18 from each of the twelve districts surrounding the Capitol are selected by lottery to compete in a televised battle royale to the death. Narrative perspectives; past and present tense</p>	<p>THE ROAD by Cormac McCarthy (2006) America after a catastrophe. A man and his young son wander through this post-apocalyptic world, trying to keep the dream of civilization alive. They journey toward the sea, surviving as best they can on what they can scavenge. Apocalypse; sensory description; allegory</p>