

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.
- **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.

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 setting-use your senses
- Show us something about your character
- Introduce an inciting event- something that will change the story
- Think about how to end your opening- hint at what is to come
- Include dystopian setting

Essential information

Features of dystopian fiction

- Environmental destruction
- Aftermath of war
- Technological control
- Government control
- Social and economic class divides
- Loss of individuality
- Break down of society

Narrative hooks

Narrative hooks grab the reader's attention: there are various ways to do it:

- **A shocking or surprising statement:**
- **A strong sense of character or place:**
- **A statement which raises questions:**
- **Straight into the action:**

Types of sentences

- Action sentence to put my character in peril(danger)
- A sensory sentence to show what my character sees and hears
- A feeling sentence to show the physical effect
- A thought sentence to show what they are thinking

Dystopian Vocabulary

1. Desolate: Empty, barren; exhibiting no signs of life or activity.
2. Gloomy: dismal, depressing; lacking any cheer
3. Corroded: Eaten away, worn thin; decayed, deteriorated.
4. Barren: Unproductive, empty; Lacking in vegetation or life.
5. Dire: Vital, critical; posing a sense of danger.
6. Grim: Stark, dour; of sinister character.
7. Tainted: Contaminated, corrupted; having a feeling of impurity or danger.
8. Drab: Plain, uninteresting; lacking colour or life.
9. Oppressive: Overwhelmed, suppressed; causing discomfort or hardship.
10. Bleak: Lacking hope, desolation; a gloomy atmosphere.

Sentence models - Character

- Who? + appositive (more detail) +what?
- Who? + 3x [pronoun +what?]
- Character inside/outside
- Character + feeling expressed through desire + thought
- Who? + short physical effect + what?
- Feeling + 3 physical effects (one word sentence)