

Year 9 – Dystopian Fiction – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

This unit teaches students not only conventions and typical tropes of dystopian fiction, but also focuses on creating it too. The lessons explore grammar skills with sentence variation and punctuation for effect combined with more nuanced techniques such as pathetic fallacy for characterisation and time manipulation. Students should be able to confidently produce dystopian writing with an emphasis on being able to transfer these writing skills to other genres in the future.

Revising terminology :

- Disturbing: upsetting and unsettling
- Prophetic: tells the future
- Disconcerting: worrying / alarming
- Immoral: ethically wrong
- Aberrant: unusual occurrences
- Intrepid: fear and nervousness
- Unscrupulous

Possible new terminology: :

- Foreshadow
- Convey
- Capitalising
- Dystopian protagonist
- Different voices
- Dual narrative
- Flashback for effect
- Mood juxtaposition

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- Consider watching clips of movies (like we did in class) to consider different types of dystopias.
- Consider the following questions:
 - *What is the future world?*
 - *How did it come to this?*
 - *How are people reacting?*
- Read novels and watch dystopian movies as much as possible.
- Read and identify dystopias in technology, newspapers and TV programmes you watch.
- Be willing to discuss future fears the young person has.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What are the different things the protagonist could do?
- Why might a writer decide to include this future?
- What examples have you come across of dystopian subjects in a novel?

Challenging activities to complete:

- How could this event/ news article end up as a dystopia?
- How could the government prevent this dystopia?
- Why would the citizens accept this ?

Suggested further reading:

The Host by Stephenie Meyer

Alien souls have inhabited nearly every human body. Those who are left live in hiding in a secret underground bunker.

The Dark Intercept by Julia Keller

The New Earth founder's daughter, Violet Crowley, never questioned the crime prevention device that the State used to keep her safe. Until now.

Metaltown by Kristen Simmons

Metaltown takes place in an industrial city with brutal work conditions. The story follows young factory workers Ty and Colin, as well as Lena, the factory owner's daughter.