



Knowledge Organiser:

Year 8 Dystopian Fiction



Genre:	
Dystopia	<p>A dystopia is an imagined community or society that is dehumanising and frightening. The word 'dystopia' is well-known as the opposite, or antonym of 'utopia'.</p> <p>Dystopia comes from the Greek dys ('bad') and topos ('bad place'). If 'utopia' represents an ideal or dream society, 'dystopia' is the word used to refer to an imagined nightmare world which is usually the world of the future.</p> <p>The noun 'dystopia' is defined as 'an imaginary place or condition in which everything is as bad as possible'.</p> <p>Dystopias are often thought to be 'cautionary tales' but are also used to explore the ideas of what is to be human.</p>
Conventions of Dystopian fiction	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Propaganda is used to control citizens of the society.2. Information, independent thought and freedom (of speech and mind) are restricted.3. A leader / concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.4. Citizens have a fear of the outside world.5. Citizens live in a dehumanised state.6. Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are punished.7. The society is an illusion of the perfect, utopian world.

Dystopian texts	
The Hunger Games Suzanne Collins	The Hunger Games is a novel about the nation of Panem is divided into 12 districts, ruled from the Capitol. As punishment for a failed revolt, each district is forced to select two tributes, one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18, to fight to the death in the annual Hunger Games until there is only one survivor.
1984 George Orwell	A man loses his identity while living under a repressive regime in Oceania. In George Orwell's novel Nineteen Eighty-Four , Winston Smith is a government employee whose job involves the rewriting of history in a manner that casts his fictional country's leaders in a charitable light. Defying a ban on individuality, Winston dares to express his thoughts in a diary and pursues a relationship with Julia. His trysts with Julia provide his only measure of enjoyment, but lawmakers frown on the relationship - and in this closely monitored society, there is no escape from Big Brother.
A Handmaid's Tale Margaret Atwood	The Handmaid's Tale is the story of life in the dystopia of Gilead, a totalitarian and theocratic society in what was the United States. Gilead is ruled by a fundamentalist regime that treats women as property of the state, and is faced with environmental disasters and a plummeting birth rate. Women have no rights in Gilead.

Key words:		Examples
Utopia	An imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect	The world was a wonderful utopia .
Totalitarian	A society run by a form of government that permits no individual freedoms.	The totalitarian regime meant no-one, apart from the leader, had a say in decisions concerning the people.
Post – apocalyptic world	A fictional exploration of a time when civilization is collapsing or has collapsed	A world existing or occurring after a catastrophically destructive disaster or apocalypse In a postapocalyptic world shows that nature has become just as violent as humanity.
Science fiction	The type of fiction that explores the reaction of human beings to changes in science or technology	Science fiction is a form of fiction that deals principally with the impact of actual or imagined science upon society or individuals.
Propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.	The government's propaganda convinced the citizens they were god-like people.

Leave blank to allow students to glue.



- **Retrieval Practice:** Read over a section of the knowledge organiser, cover it up and then write down everything you can remember. Repeat until you remember everything.
- **Flash Cards:** Using the Knowledge Organisers to help on one side of a piece of paper write a question, on the other side write an answer. Ask someone to test you by asking a question and seeing if you know the answer.
- **Mind Maps:** Turn the information from the knowledge organiser into a mind map. Then reread the mind map and on a piece of paper half the size try and recreate the key phrases of the mind map from memory.
- **Sketch it:** Draw an image to represent each fact; this can be done in isolation or as part of the mind map/flash card.
- **Teach it:** Teach someone the information on your knowledge organiser, let them ask you questions and see if you know the answers.

- **Test:** We will do regular low stakes tests to check your ability to retrieve information from memory.
- **Mark our answers:** Once you have done a low stake test you can mark your work using the knowledge organiser.
- **Improve our work:** Once you have finished a piece of work you may be asked to check your knowledge organiser to see if there is any information on it that you could add into an answer.

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