DYSTOPIA

The pervasive, enduring, and widespread acknowledgment that man's most steadfast potential is the ability to completely screw everything up.
Essential Questions

• What does a dystopian society look like, and how do I identify one?
• How does a dystopian society come into existence?
• What lessons can I learn from a dystopian world, and how do I apply that to my life/society?
What is a dystopia?

- A hypothetical or imaginary society characterized commonly by environmental, political, or social issues which are often used to raise real-world issues regarding society, the environment, politics, religion, psychology, spirituality, or technology.

- People who live in dystopias commonly lead dehumanized and fearful lives characterized by human misery including squalor, oppression, disease, and overcrowding.

- Often set in the future with a totalitarian governmental structure.

- OPPOSITE of Dystopia: Utopia.
Examples of Dystopian Literature

• 1984
• The Lord of the Flies
• Fahrenheit 451
• The Hunger Games
• Divergent
Common Elements of Dystopian Literature

• “The Fatal Flaw”
• “The Curious Individual”
• “The Backstory”
• “The Tragic End”
“The Fatal Flaw”

• The point of a dystopia is to magnify a current flaw in society. Generally, stories will stick to one main problem with the current system and emphasize its effects.
“The Curious Individual”

• An insider who isn’t quite like everyone else. This person tends to question authority—generally the protagonist
“The Backstory”

- Details on how society got to be the way it is - describes how things got to be so bad
“The Tragic End”

• Generally, dystopias have unhappy or unresolved endings to get across the point that if society is allowed to continue this way, we’re all doomed
Dystopian Movies

• V for Vendetta
• Equilibrium
• Minority Report
• Hunger Games
• Children of Men
• Total Recall
• District 9
V for Vendetta

- First Clip
- Second Clip
Dystopia Examples in Fiction
Malala Article

• Take time to read the article about Malala and pick out the four elements of dystopias within her story
Elements in Malala’s Story

- **Fatal Flaw** - Fundamentalism - strict adherence to a theological belief
- **Curious Individual** - Malala, 14 year old Pakistani girl
- **Backstory** - The Taliban took over the valley where Malala lived and imposed their rules on the people
- **Tragic End** - Malala is an internet activist who agitated for women’s access to education; however, a 14 year old girl was still shot in the head for the fanatical beliefs of one group of people
Sources:


