
1. **Dystopia:** A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Where do you recognize these characteristics in the novel?

Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system. What criticism does the author (Atwood, Bradbury, Huxley, Orwell, Zamyatin) make about his or her present-day society (1980s, 1950s, 1930s, 1950s, 1920s respectively) in this novel?

2. **Characteristics of a Dystopian Society:**
   - Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
   - Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
   - Citizens of the society worship a figurehead or concept.
   - Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
   - Citizens live in fear of the outside world.
   - Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
   - The natural world is banished and distrusted.
   - Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
   - Society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.
3. The Dystopian Protagonist:

- Often feels trapped and is struggling to exist.
- Questions the existing social and political systems.
- Believes/feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.
- Helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective.

During the course, we will explore these characteristics in detail and consider what motivated the authors to write these particular pieces of literature. Our required texts for the course will include:

![Book Images]


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