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UNDERSTANDING UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS: A Multi-Media Exploration Into *The Giver*

“Every utopia - let's just stick with the literary ones - faces the same problem: What do you do with the people who don't fit in?” -Margaret Atwood

GETTING STARTED

1. Go to Mrs. Reinford's website at mrsreinford.weebly.com
2. Scroll over *Notes, Worksheets, and Powerpoints*
3. Go down and hover over “Lois Lowery's *The Giver*”
4. Then, select “Understanding Utopias and Dystopias”

INTRODUCTION TO UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA7CHllgNW0&list=PLqYhUubYwajddAXG81jUXaRmZC_dpcG_6

Directions: Watch the first video titled “Utopia/Dystopia”. Then, answer the questions below in complete sentences.

1). How did the video make you feel? What thoughts did you have while watching?

2). Using your skill of inferencing and the context clue of the video, define the following IN YOUR OWN WORDS:

Utopia- _____

Dystopia- _____

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WHAT IS A DYSTOPIA IN LITERATURE?

“Taking the kids from our districts, forcing them to kill one another while we watch – this is the Capitol’s way of reminding us how totally we are at their mercy.” –Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*

Directions: Watch the video “Top 10 Dystopian Movie Futures.” In the box below, bullet any key words, phrases, or quotes that grab your attention.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT MOST OF THESE FILMS WERE BOOKS OR PIECES OF WRITING BEFORE BEING MADE INTO A MOVIE! 😊

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heAVOA8jyCw&list=PLTM8BrOg4VGvMh3_XR91E6pRWQpPcrgG0



IMPORTANT TERMS

Directions: Use the Merriam-Webster online dictionary (www.m-w.com) to define the following words. Understanding these words will help you understand the concept of a dystopia in literature.

1). **OPPRESS-** _____

2). **BUREAUCRATIC-** _____

3). **PROPOGANDA-** _____

4). **DEHUMANIZE-** _____

5). **CONFORM-** _____

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6). **TOTALITARIAN-** _____

INTRODUCTION

Directions: Read the PowerPoint titled "What is a Dystopia?" and complete the following notes:

A dystopia is a _____, imagined universe in which oppressive society control and the _____ of a perfect society are maintained through some type of outside means such as:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Corporate control (<i>Wall-E</i>) | 3. Technology (<i>I, Robot, The Matrix</i>) |
| 2. Bureaucratic/government control (<i>The Hunger Games</i>) | 4. Totalitarian/dictatorship (<i>The Giver</i>) |

Dystopias, though _____ and imaginative, use worst case scenarios to make a _____ about current trends, political issues, or _____ in society.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

TYPES OF DYSTOPIAN CONTROL

Most dystopian works of fiction present a world in which oppressive society control and the illusion of a _____ society are maintained through one or more of the following types of control:

1). CORPORATE CONTROL

- One or more _____ corporations control society through products, _____, and/or the media.

2). GOVERNMENT CONTROL

- Society is controlled by a _____ bureaucracy through a tangle of red tape, relentless _____, and incompetent government officials.

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3). **TECHNOLOGICAL CONTROL**

- Society is controlled by technology through _____, robots, and/or other scientific means.

4). **RELIGIOUS CONTROL**

- Society is controlled by a _____ idea that is often enforced by threat of physical _____.

DYSTOPIA IN FILM

Directions: Watch the two sets of video clips from the movies *The Hunger Games* and *Wall-E*. Then, use your notes from the PowerPoint to describe what kind of dystopian society is being used and the examples that led you to that decision.

NOTE: *You may have multiple types and characteristics of dystopias in your response.*

THE HUNGER GAMES

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aq85Yb25Pk>
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1BQPv-iCkU&list=PLTM8BrOg4VGvMh3_XR91E6pRWQpPcrgG0



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WALL-E

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTyyKROkC3E&list=PLTM8BrOg4VGvMh3_XR9IE6pRWQpPcrgG0
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkajW0llqPY&list=PLTM8BrOg4VGvMh3_XR9IE6pRWQpPcrgG0



REFLECT ON YOUR EXPLORATION AND UNDERSTANDING

UTOPIA OR DYSTOPIA: YOU DECIDE!

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w6htg7VDuM&list=PLqYhUubYwajddAXG8IjUXaRmZC_dpcG_6&index=4

Directions: Watch the short film “The Utopia Experience” and follow the directions below:

1. In the grey box, take notes on any observations on a utopia or a dystopia that you see being demonstrated in the video.
2. Then, answer the response question that follows.

