


<u>Texts:</u>	<u>Summary:</u>
1984 – George Orwell	Winston Smith is frustrated with his life, constantly watched by The Party.
The Chrysalids – John Wyndham	Young David grows up to discover he may be everything he has been taught to fear.
Brave New World – Aldous Huxley	What would the world be like if everyone was designed for a purpose from birth?
The Maze Runner – James Dashner	Children are trapped in an ominous maze and forced to solve puzzles.
The Giver – Lois Lowry	No crime; no sadness; but is everything as nice as it seems?
Children of Men – Phyllis White	Unless scientists can discover a cure for mass infertility, the human race will soon go extinct.
The Handmaid's Tale – Angela Carter	Women are divided and controlled by men, with limits on everything they can do.
Divergent – Veronica Roth	People are categorised by their personalities.
Mockingjay – Suzanne Collins	Rebellion against the ruling Capitol!
Harrison Bergeron – Kurt Vonnegut	All humans are made equal – all strength, intelligence and beauty has been stripped away.
There Will Come Soft Rains – Ray Bradbury	After a nuclear bomb falls on a city, only one house is left standing.

<u>Key context</u>
<p><u>Late 19th century and early 20th:</u> Science took huge leaps forward in this period. Einstein's theory of relativity, for example, was described in a paper published in 1905. The period was also characterised by an increasing nationalism in European and American politics.</p> <p><u>1939-1945:</u> World War II. The Tehran Conference, 1943, implied a splitting of the world into 3 'blocs'.</p>

Dystopia Knowledge Organiser

Fearnhill English Dept



<u>Key words:</u>	<u>Definition:</u>
Dystopia	An imagined state or society in which there is great suffering or injustice, typically one that is totalitarian or post-apocalyptic.
Propaganda	Information, often one-sided or misleading, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
Focal point	The centre of interest or activity.
Dilapidated	In a state of disrepair or ruin as a result of age or neglect.
Meticulously	Showing great attention to detail; very carefully and precisely.
Protagonist	The leading/main character – NOT the hero.
Antagonist	A person who actively opposes, clashes with or is hostile to someone.

<u>Themes and symbols:</u>	
<p><u>Inequality of power:</u> Dystopias often pit one group of people with excessive power against another group with little to no power.</p>	<p><u>Desire for freedom:</u> Dystopias often feature characters who desire to break free from some form of oppression.</p>
<p><u>Damaged, broken down settings:</u> Dystopian worlds are often dilapidated or broken in some way – though often the rich and powerful still manage to live in luxury.</p>	<p><u>Rebellion:</u> Often, the protagonist will actively fight against those in power, and try to change the social norms of their world.</p>
<p><u>Futuristic technology:</u> Dystopias often consider what the world of the future might be like. Sometimes technology is used to create the imbalance of power or the social problem.</p>	<p><u>Social problems:</u> Dystopian authors often look at small problems in our real-world society, and imagine what would happen if they got bigger or much worse.</p>