“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

INTRODUCTION TO UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS

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?

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

Utopia-_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Dystopia-_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

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”
WHAT IS A UTOPIA?

Directions: Read the PowerPoint titled “Utopia: Developing a Perfect Society” and complete the following:

A utopia is a _______________, _______________, or _______________ that is ideally perfect in respect to _______________, _______________, _______________, and _______________.

- The term utopia has been used to define ________________ (REAL life) that attempt to create an ideal society, AND ________________ portrayed in literature.

The film Pleasantville is an example of a fictional utopian town. As you watch the movie’s trailer, bullet all of the examples of a utopia that you observe based upon your knowledge at this point.

WHAT IS YOUR UTOPIA?

Directions: Watch the video titled “Utopia: The Perfect World” and pay attention to people’s ideas about what a utopia is considered to them. Then, write one paragraph where you imagine the perfect utopian world.

What it look like? What would be people be like? The government? Laws? Anything goes!

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UTOPIA IN LITERATURE

Directions: Read the African American folk tale, “Diddy-Wah-Diddy” below. Then, brainstorm in the box below what made this an idyllic place.

**Diddy-Wah-Diddy**
An African-American Folk Tale

DIDDY – WAH – DIDDY is a wonderful place to go. Its geography is that it is “way off somewhere.” It is reached by a road that curves so much that a mule pulling a wagon-load of feed can eat off the back of the wagon as he goes. It is a place of no-work and no-worry for people and beasts. It is a very restful place where even the curbstones are good sitting-chairs. The food is even already cooked. If travelers get hungry, all they need to do is sit down on the curbstone and wait. Soon they will hear something hollering, “Eat me! Eat me! Eat me!” and a big baked chicken will come along with a knife and fork stuck in it. You can eat all you want. By the time you feel full of chicken, a big deep sweet potato pie will push and shove to get in front of you. A knife and fork will be stuck up in the middle so you can cut a piece off and eat to your heart's delight. Nobody can ever eat it all up. No matter how much you eat, it just grows that much faster. They say, “Everyone would live in Diddy-Wah-Diddy if it wasn’t so hard to find and so hard to get to even after you know the way.” Everything is on a large scale there. Even the dogs can stand flat-footed and lick crumbs off heaven's tables. The biggest man there is known as Moon-Regulator because he reaches up and starts and stops it at his convenience. That is why there are some dark nights when the moon does not shine at all. He did not feel like putting it out into the sky that night. Most folks believe this place exists. It sure is good to think about, anyway.

**What makes Diddy-Wah-Diddy idyllic? Is it a utopia? Whose is it?**
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=heAVOA8iyCw&list=PLTM8BrOg4VGvMh3_XR91E6pRWQpCrG0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heAVOA8iyCw&list=PLTM8BrOg4VGvMh3_XR91E6pRWQpCrG0)

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

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. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________
4. ____________________________
5. ____________________________
6. ____________________________
7. ____________________________
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.
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_XR91E6pRWQpPcrG0
WALL-E

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTyyKROkC3E&list=PLTM8BrOg4VGvMh3_XR9IE6pRWQpCrgG0
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkaJWOllqPY&list=PLTM8BrOg4VGvMh3_XR9IE6pRWQpCrgG0

REFLECT ON YOUR EXPLORATION AND UNDERSTANDING

UTOPIA OR DYSTOPIA: YOU DECIDE!
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w6htg7VDuM&list=PLqYhUubYwajddAXG8jUXaRmZC_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.
REFLECT ON YOUR EXPLORATION AND UNDERSTANDING

Is the “The Utopia Experiment” an example of a utopia or dystopia for founder Dr. Dylan Evans? What about for the volunteers of the project? Provide facts, details, and examples from the video and from your research into utopias and dystopias to support your decision.

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