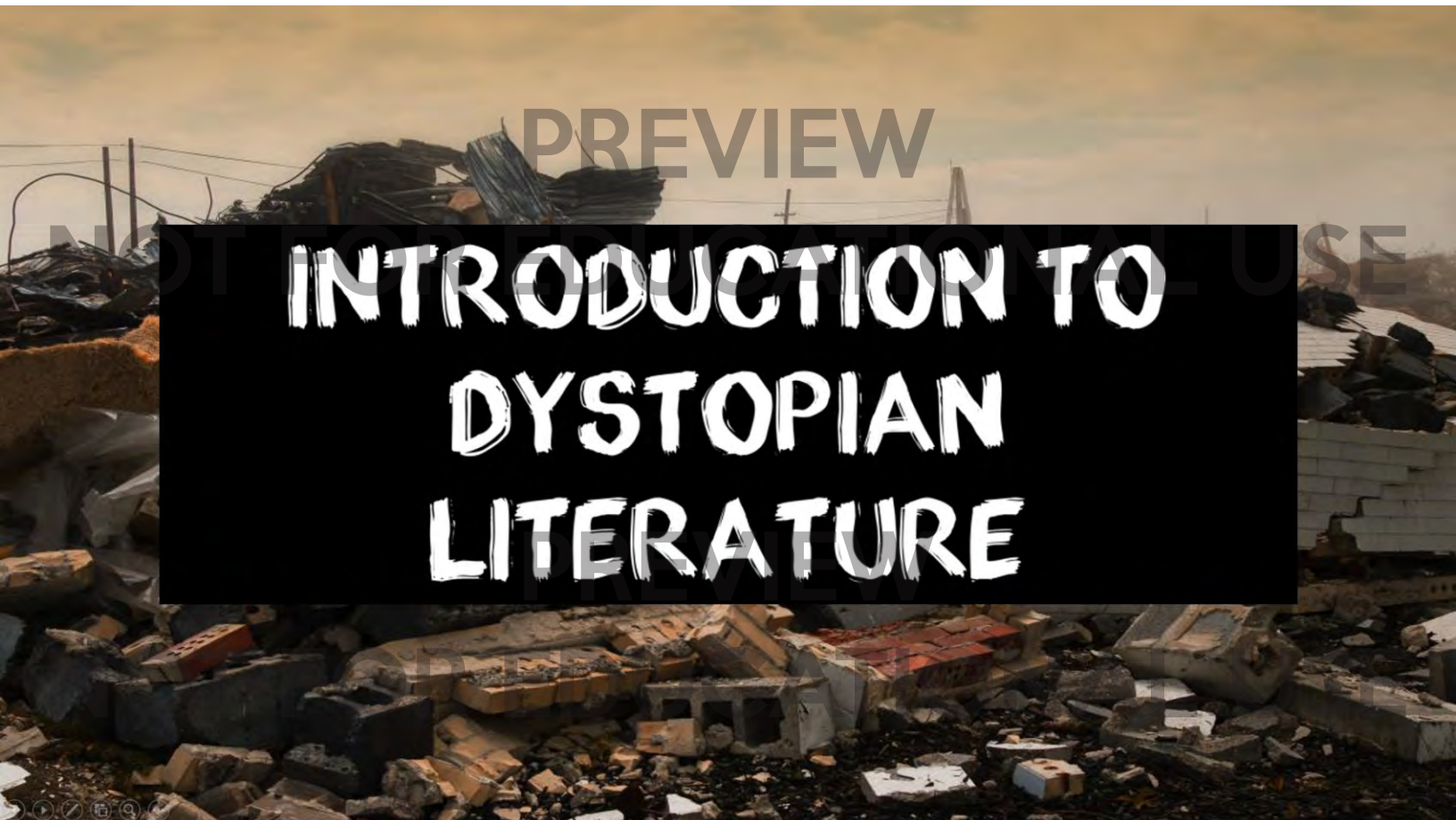


PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

# INTRODUCTION TO DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

## DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

- A genre of literature, set in an imagined society (usually the future) which is meant to be disturbing and unsettling
- Characterized by oppressive and dehumanizing conditions
- Displays the suspected, plausible dangers of political and social effects on the world

PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

## ELEMENTS

- Includes a didactic message; teaches readers a moral lesson
- Suffering of society is taking place
- Shows great injustice in the world
- Explores social and political structures
- Illustrates a dehumanized society

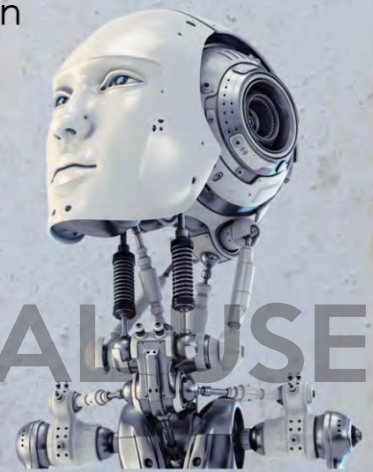


PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

## COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

- Uniformity/conformity
- Free thought is restricted
- Citizens are under surveillance
- Fear of change
- Poverty
- Oppression
- Extreme government control, such as authoritarianism, dictatorship, or totalitarianism
- Corruption/greed
- Society is an allusion of a utopia
- Protagonist questions the current system
- Environmental destruction
- Advanced technology
- Survival
- Overcrowding
- People are desensitized
- Propaganda
- Inequality



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

## POPULAR TITLES

- George Orwell *1984*
- Aldous Huxley *Brave New World*
- Margaret Atwood *The Handmaid's Tale*
- Ray Bradbury *Fahrenheit 451*
- Lois Lowry *The Giver*
- H.G. Wells *The Time Machine*
- Scott Westerfield *The Uglies*
- Orson Scott Card *Ender's Game*
- James Dashner *The Maze Runner*
- Suzanne Collins *The Hunger Games*
- Ernest Cline *Ready Player One*
- George Orwell *Animal Farm*
- Cormac McCarthy *The Road*
- Veronica Roth *Divergent*
- Jeanne DuPrau *The City of Ember*



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

# UTOPIAN LITERATURE

- Utopia is a hypothetical society that is perfect and peaceful in the physical world. It's paradise—the ideal society!
- The author of a utopian text sets their narrative in a world that aligns with their broader ethos and personal philosophy.
- Utopian and dystopian fiction are related genres because both criticize social and political structures.
- Examples of popular utopian titles include: *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift, *Equality* by Edward Bellamy, *Island* by Aldous Huxley, *Walden Two* by B. F. Skinner, *A Modern Utopia* by H. G. Wells, and *Republic* by Plato.

PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

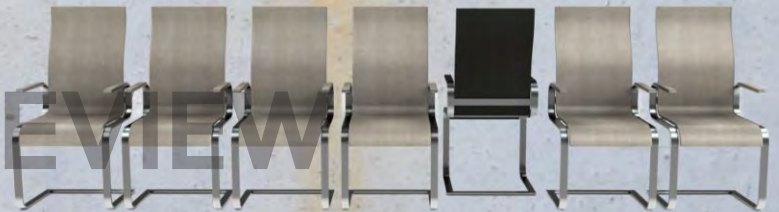


PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

## DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

LITERARY ELEMENTS COMMONLY USED:

- Foreshadowing
- Conflict
- Irony
- Allegory
- Symbolism
- Paradox



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

# PREVIEW

## NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

### FORESHADOWING

- Foreshadowing is a warning or hint about something that will occur later in the story
- Foreshadowing provides a dramatic effect where the audience thinks they can figure out what will happen next
- For example, in *The Giver*, Jonas notices a red apple in a black and white world. The appearance of this apple foreshadows the revelation of color in the community as well as Jonas's ability to "see beyond".
- Dystopian authors might use this technique to illustrate a warning to readers:  
"If we don't change as a society, this will be the consequence."



# PREVIEW

## NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

## CONFLICT: MAN VS. SOCIETY

- A type of external conflict when the main character has a strong belief against the majority of the community
- The protagonist will object or fight against society, breaking the rules; this develops the main conflict in the story and propels the plot
- For example, in Veronica Roth's *Divergent*, The protagonist, Beatrice struggles against the rigid faction system. She doesn't fit neatly into one faction's mold and is labeled "divergent."

PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

# PREVIEW

## NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

### IRONY

- When something occurs that is completely different or opposite than what is expected
- Irony is used to display the vast change and problems that can take place in a society if led down a certain path
- Illustrates the dark, futuristic setting
- For example, in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, a fireman's job is to burn books. They start fires as opposed to put them out (in an attempt to ban freedom of thought).



# PREVIEW

## NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

## ALLEGORY

- Allegories are stories, poems, or art that criticize current events, people, religion, or governmental policies in a subtle way
- Allegories are a type of extended metaphor that can entail multiple hidden messages
- Characters and events equate to a bigger message
- Dystopias are almost always allegories

(but not all allegories are dystopias)

- For example, in *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, different farm animals represent different societal classes and political figures during the Russian Revolution and the rise of Stalinism.

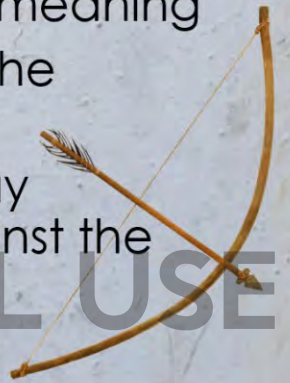


PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

# SYMBOLISM

- Because dystopian literature can be riddled with criticisms about society, authors use symbols to encrypt their message in a less obvious way
- Symbolism is where an object, person, or situation in a story has another meaning other than its literal, surface meaning
- The deeper meaning that is implied is essential to the greater context of the whole story
- For example, in *The Hunger Games*, the Mockingjay becomes a symbol of defiance and rebellion against the Capitol's tyranny.



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

## PARADOX

- A statement that contains contradictory ideas, that appear both true and untrue at the same time.
- Have you ever heard the saying “less is more” ?
- Often used in literature to reveal a truth that is hidden and challenge the reader’s way of thinking
- For example, in 1984 by George Orwell, one of the Party's slogans is "War is Peace." This paradoxical statement suggests that perpetual war is a tool for maintaining domestic stability.

PREVIEW  
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Name:

Date:

## Introduction to Dystopian Literature Guided Notes

What is Dystopian Literature?

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Elements of Dystopian Literature

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Common Characteristics Dystopian Literature

Utopian Literature

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Foreshadowing

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



Conflict: Man vs. Society

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Irony

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Allegory

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Symbolism

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Paradox