

Year 8 Dystopian Writing Unit (8 weeks)

Unit Content

Dystopian fiction explores imagined worlds where society has gone wrong, often as a warning about real issues in our own world. In this unit, pupils learn how writers use dark, oppressive settings, strict governments, and constant surveillance to show what happens when power is abused and freedom is lost. Stories like 1984 and other dystopian texts help us think about themes such as control, fear, rebellion, and the importance of independent thought. By studying these ideas, pupils can understand how authors use dystopias to reflect the problems of their own time and to encourage readers to question the world around them.

Core Writing Outcomes

- A dystopian story opening
- A dystopian setting
- A persuasive speech
- Create a faction for dystopian novel
- Transfer Test: to write an original piece of dystopian fiction

Key words

- Dystopia — a society where life is harsh, controlled, or frightening
- Utopia — an imagined perfect world
- Totalitarian — a government that controls every part of people's lives
- Surveillance — being watched or monitored
- Oppression — unfair treatment that keeps people powerless
- Propaganda — information used to control what people think
- Rebellion — resisting or fighting against authority
- Conformity — behaving the same as everyone else because of pressure
- Fear — a tool used to control people in dystopian worlds
- Control — the power to influence or direct people's behaviour

Core Oracy Outcomes

Write and deliver a speech either in favour or against modern surveillance systems.



Core Writing Objectives

- Critically evaluate authorial techniques, considering how structure, form, and viewpoint create meaning, style, and impact across genres and contexts then apply those techniques in own writing.
- Compose openings and endings that suit the audience and purpose
- Experiment with structure (flashback, dual narrative, withheld information) with clarity.
- Sustain cohesion across longer texts using repeated motifs or threads.

Core Reading Objectives

- Evaluate how word choice contributes to tone, atmosphere, and viewpoint.
- Evaluate how context influences themes and reader interpretation across periods
- Produce succinct, critical summaries showing how key ideas and themes interrelate across complex texts.