

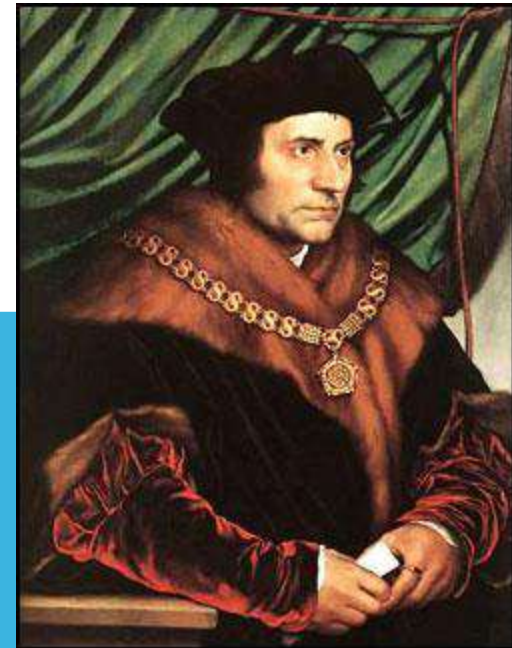
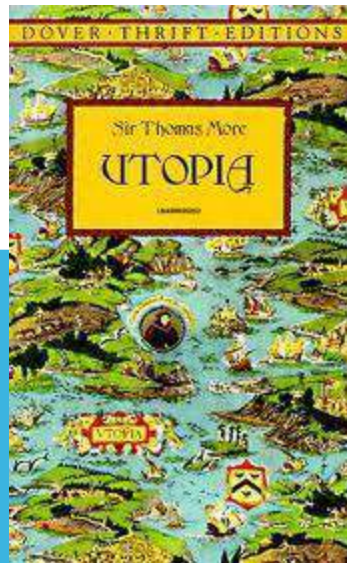
Utopia and Dystopia



UTOPIA

Two Greek words: “oi” (not) and “topos” (place) = “nowhere”

The word was created by Thomas More in 1516 when he wrote a book by that title



UTOPIAN CONCEPTS

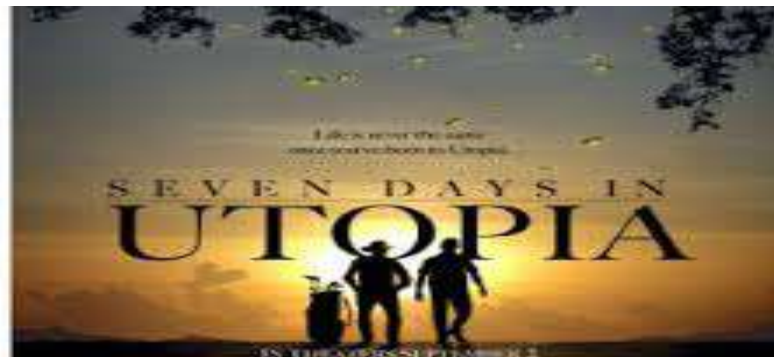
A beautiful society with a general pacifistic attitude = no violence

Poverty and misery are removed

Very few laws are necessary

Money is not necessary

People do only work that they enjoy and which benefits the common good



RELATED IDEAS: RELIGION

- The Judeo-Christian concept of the Garden of Eden and Heaven
- The Buddhist concept of Nirvana



DYSTOPIA

The antonym (word that means the opposite) of utopia

An imaginary place where people lead dehumanized and often fearful lives (a worst-case scenario for society)



DYSTOPIAN CONCEPTS

Totalitarian dictatorship

Glorification and justification of violence

Technology replaces humanity

Negative social trends are taken to
nightmarish extremes



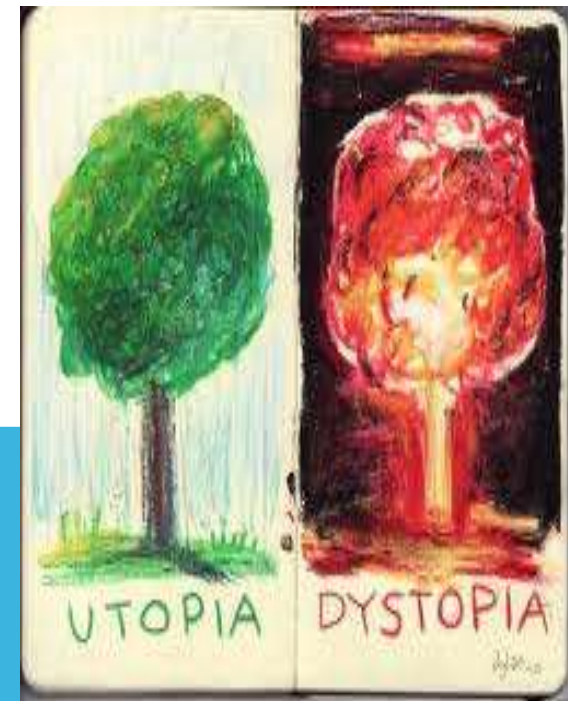
CHARACTERISTICS OF DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

- Fictional and futuristic
- Dystopias serve as warnings to contemporary man
- Comment on our own current society





- Utopian and dystopian societies are often present in science fiction literature.
- A utopia refers to a perfect society that does not exist or can never exist



- **A dystopia is usually characterized by a totalitarian society.**

- **What does totalitarian mean?**

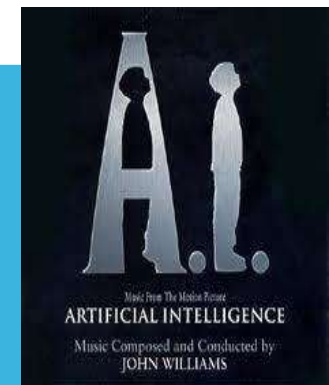
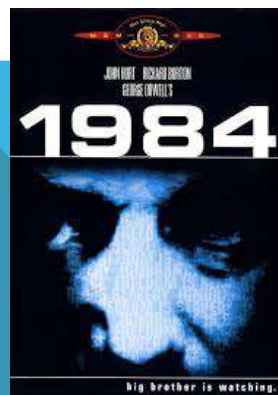
- In short, it refers to a society in which nearly every aspect of public and private behavior is regulated by the state.

- **Characteristics of a dystopian society:**

- A poor standard of living among the lower and middle classes

- A protagonist that questions the society

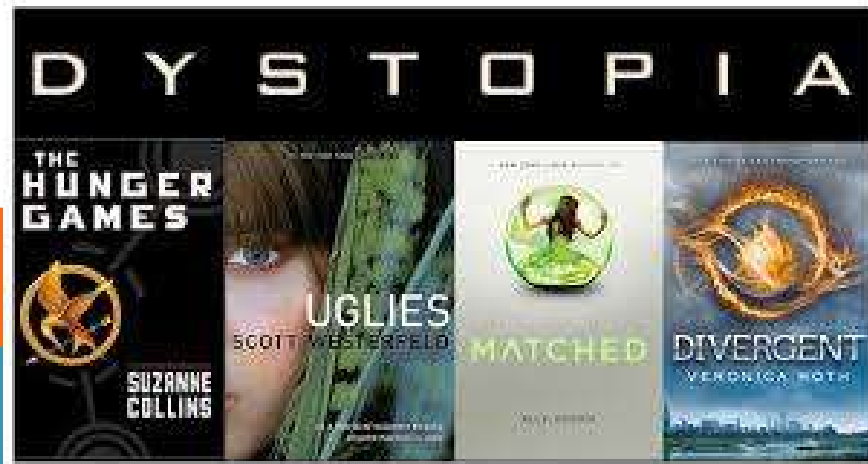
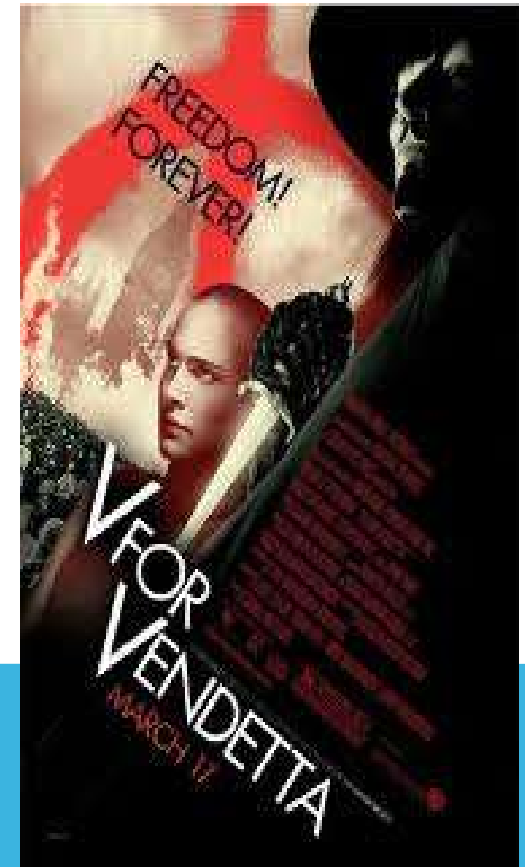
- Set in the future but resembles contemporary society



MORE DYSTOPIAN SOCIETIES



MORE DYSTOPIAN SOCIETIES



DYSTOPIA IN THE MAKING

WHAT IF . . .

No one had to go to school?

You could have an iPod in your brain?

Your computer could read your thoughts?

No one had to pay taxes?

Everyone had plastic surgery?

Babies were scientifically created?



INTRO TO THE GIVER

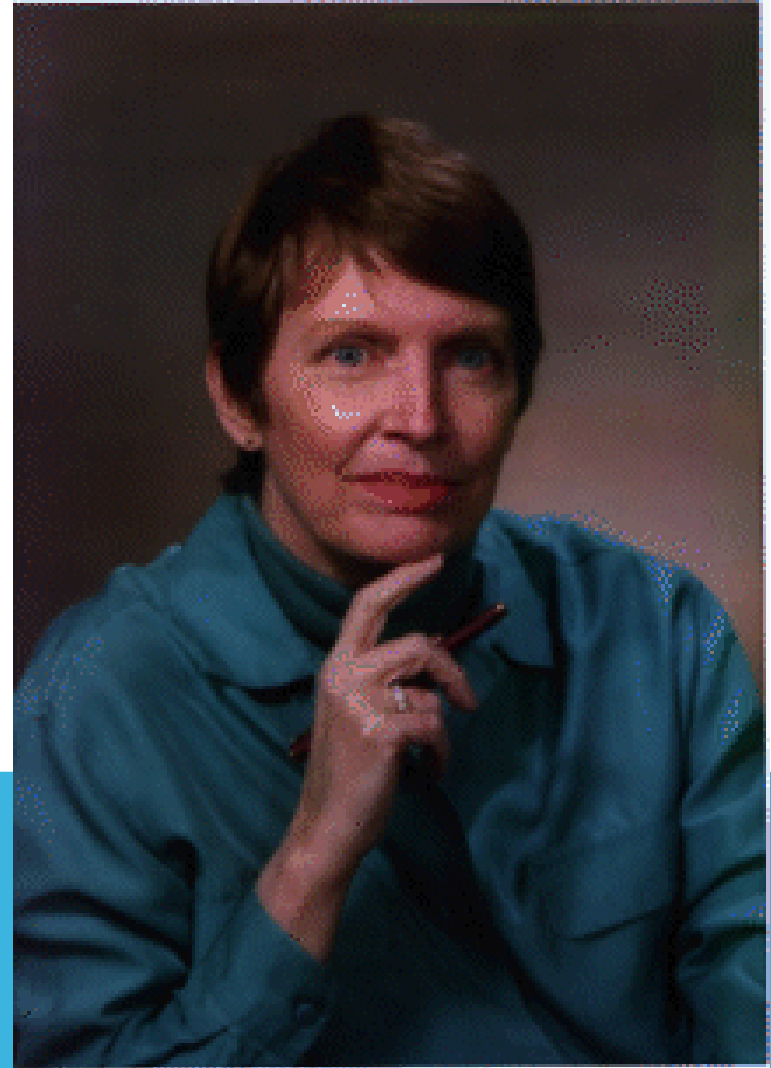
Written by Lois Lowry in 1993

Lowry has written many books for children and young adults

- Number the Stars

**LOIS LOWRY
(1937-PRESENT)**

**Two-time winner
of the
Newberry
Medal**



LOIS LOWRY: BACKGROUND

Born March 20, 1937 in Hawaii to Robert and Katharine Hammersberg.

her father was an Army dentist and the family lived all over the world.

has addressed a number of topics in her literature including adoption, mental illness, cancer, the Holocaust, and futuristic societies



SELECTED WORKS

A Summer to Die, 1977

See You Around
Sam!, 1996



astasia Again! 1981

The Giver, 1993

Anastasia Has the Answers, 1986

IMAGINE A WORLD VOID OF COLOR AND EMOTION

No music

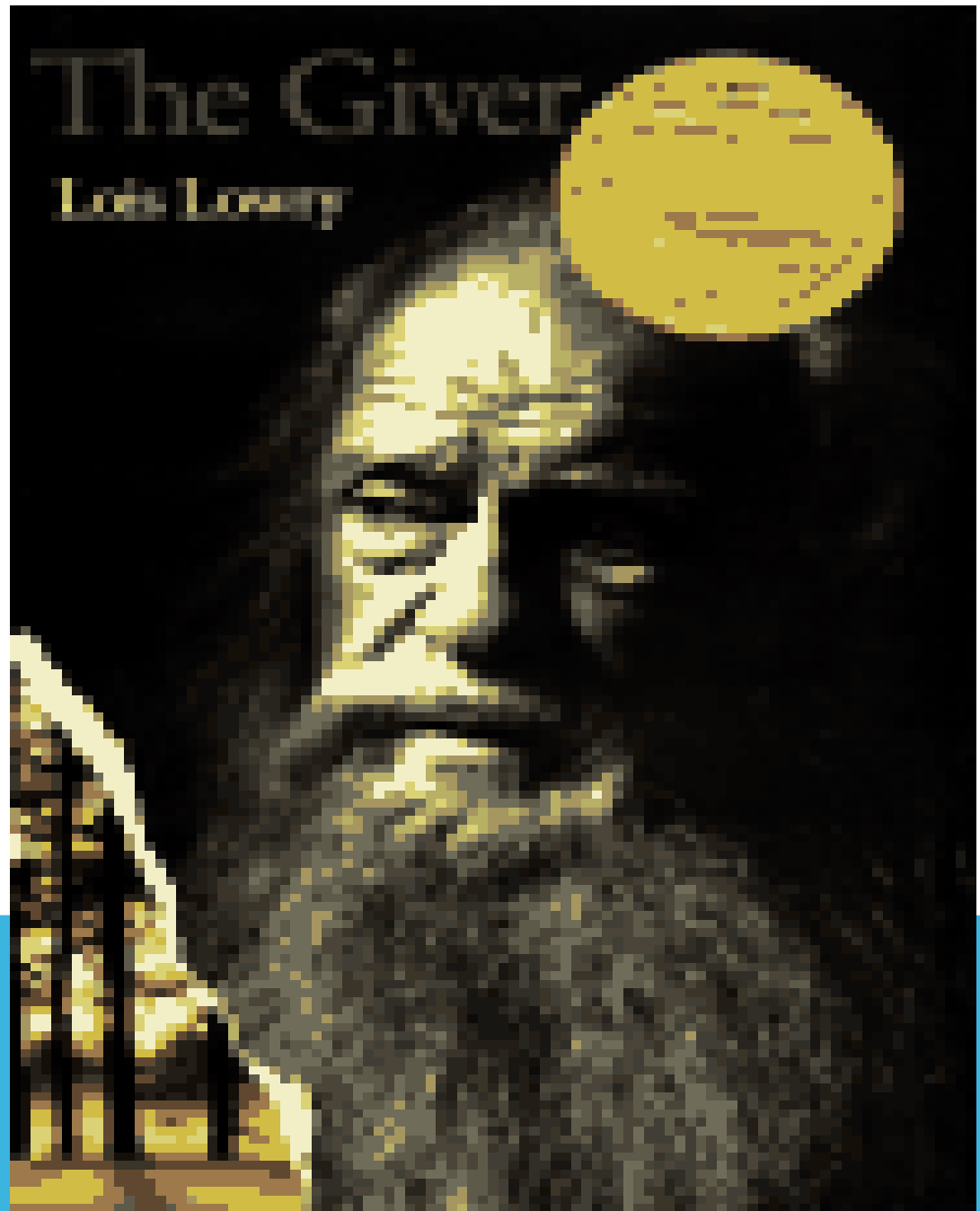
No change of season or traditional holidays

No expression of emotion

No memories, either positive or negative

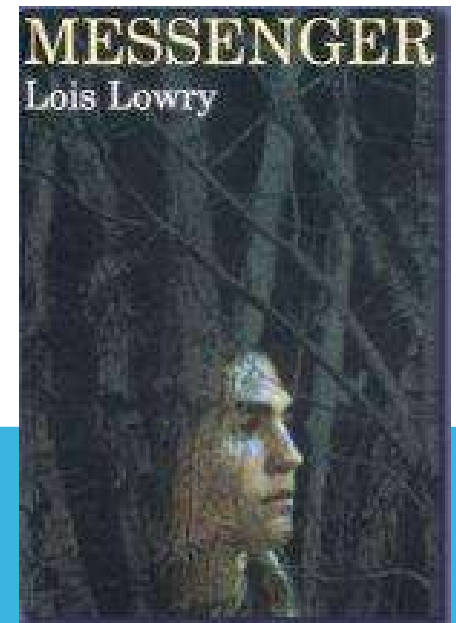
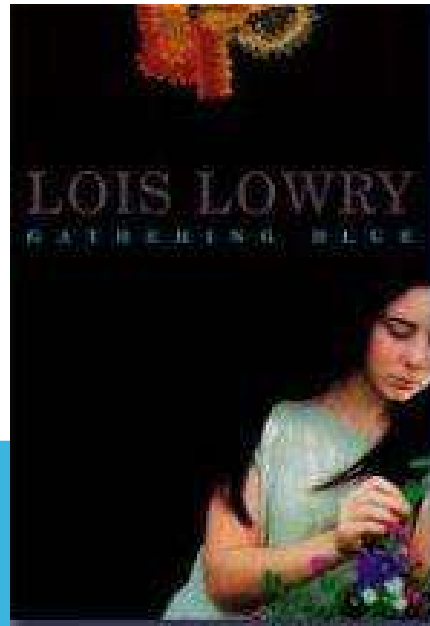
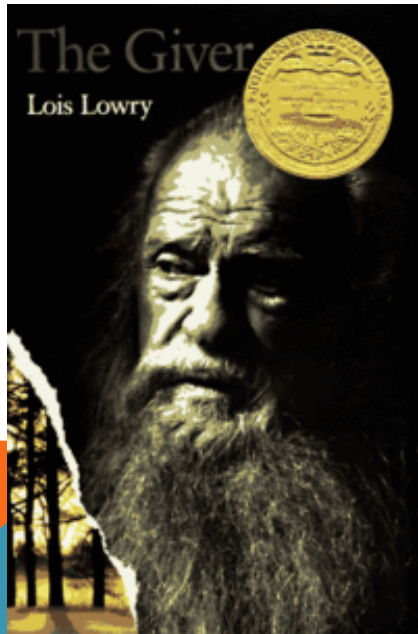
**WELCOME
TO THE
WORLD OF
“THE GIVER”**

<http://www.carolhurst.com/titles/giver.html>



THE GIVER INTRO

The Giver is part of a trilogy featuring the lives of the characters through time



PLOT OVERVIEW

Science fiction story about a 12-year-old boy who must choose between a world of sameness or one filled with both the intense joys and pains of life.

Jonas lives in a "perfect" world, devoid of strife or conflict.

When Jonas begins training for his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory, he meets his teacher, a man called The Giver.

THE MAIN CHARACTER

Jonas, a young boy, receives his life's assignment along with others of his age group.

To his astonishment he is given the most respected job of all -- to become the "Receiver of Memory."



WHAT IS “THE GIVER?”

In the Utopian society Lowry has created, people--

- **don't want to be burdened with memories.**
- **don't want to make decisions or changes which, in the past, have led to disaster so they have assigned one person to keep all the memories of history, their own and that of all societies.**



THE SETTING

The society seems ideal--

**All have a job for which they
are especially suited.**

**The elderly and newest
members are lovingly
cared for.**

**There is much laughter and
joy.**



THEMES

The Importance of Memory

memory is essential, so The Committee of Elders designates a Receiver to remember history for the community.

The Relationship Between Pain and Pleasure

there can be no pleasure without pain and no pain without pleasure.



THE GIVER...THINK WHILE YOU READ...

Character Development

Examples of how society is a utopia or dystopia

Foreshadowing

Important Plot Events

Symbolism

Important Theme Development

