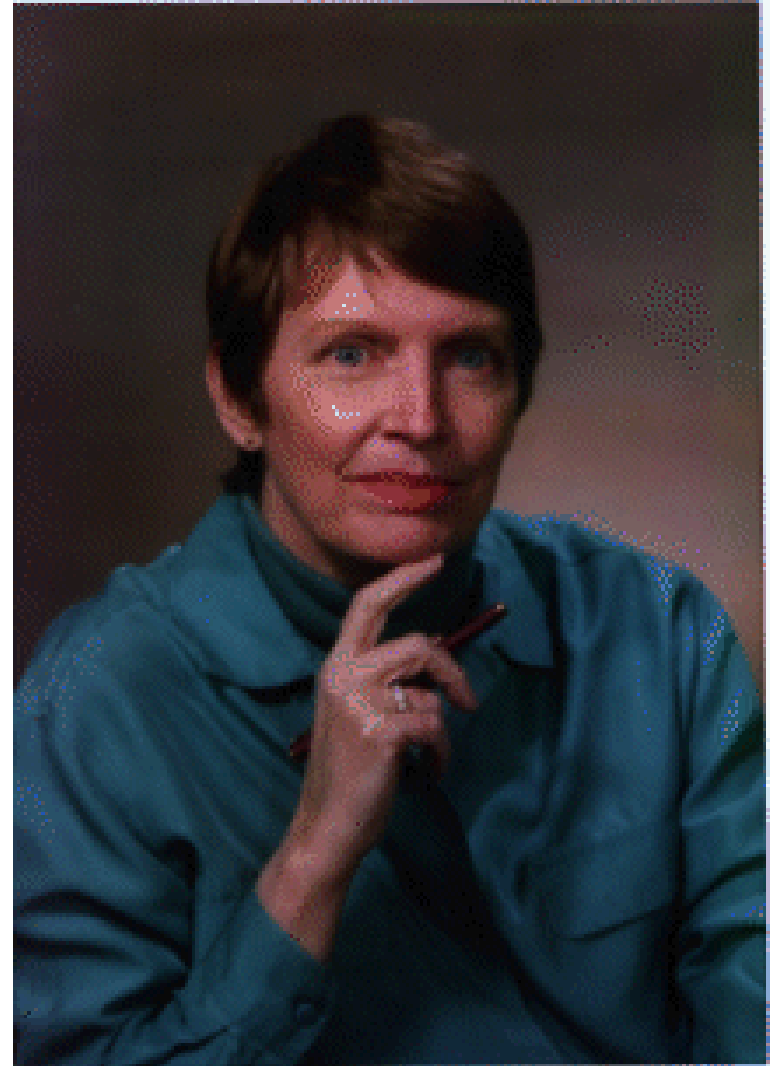# Intro to <u>The Giver</u>

- Written by Lois Lowry in 1993
- Lowry has written many books for children and young adults
- <u>Number the Stars</u>

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

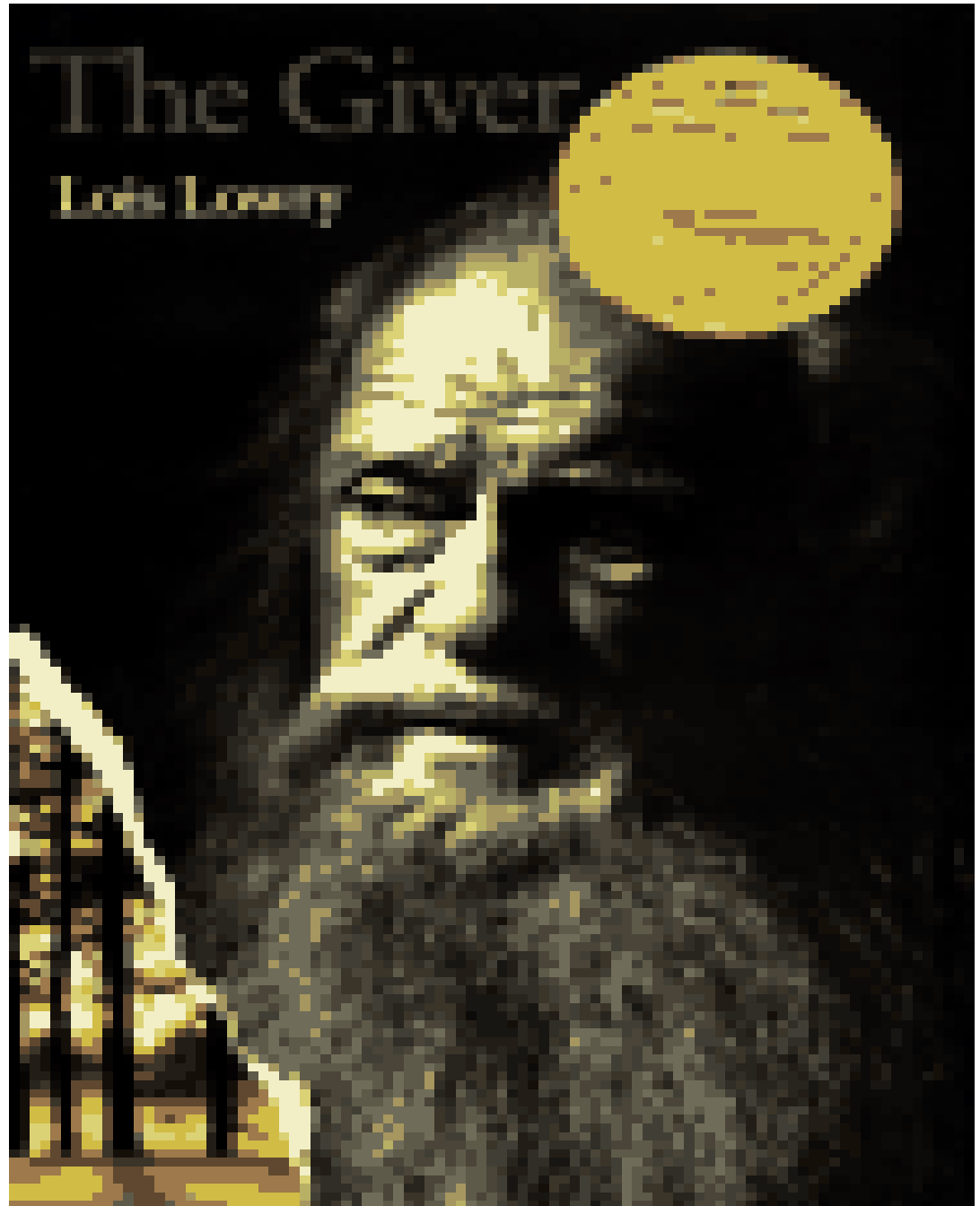Anastasia Again! 1981

See You Around Sam!, 1996

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**
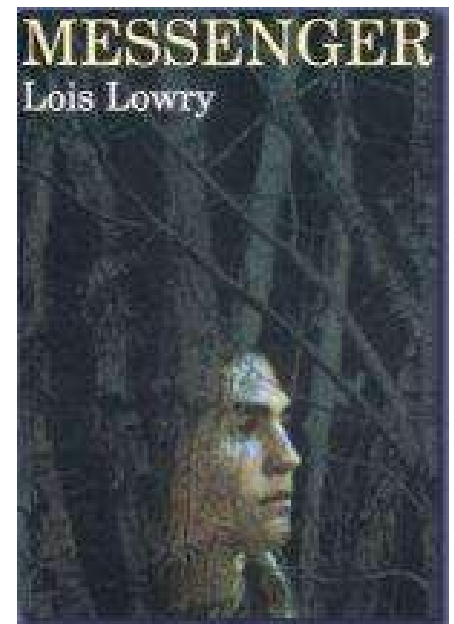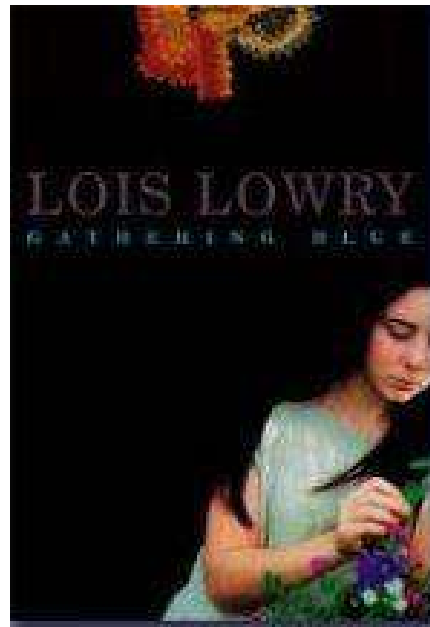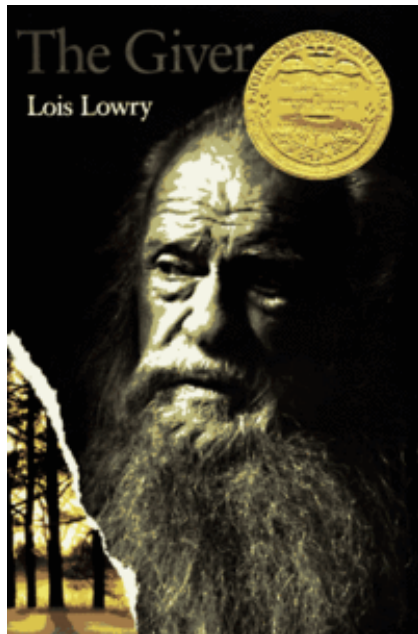
- **No memories, either positive or negative**

Welcome to the world of "THE GIVER"

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.
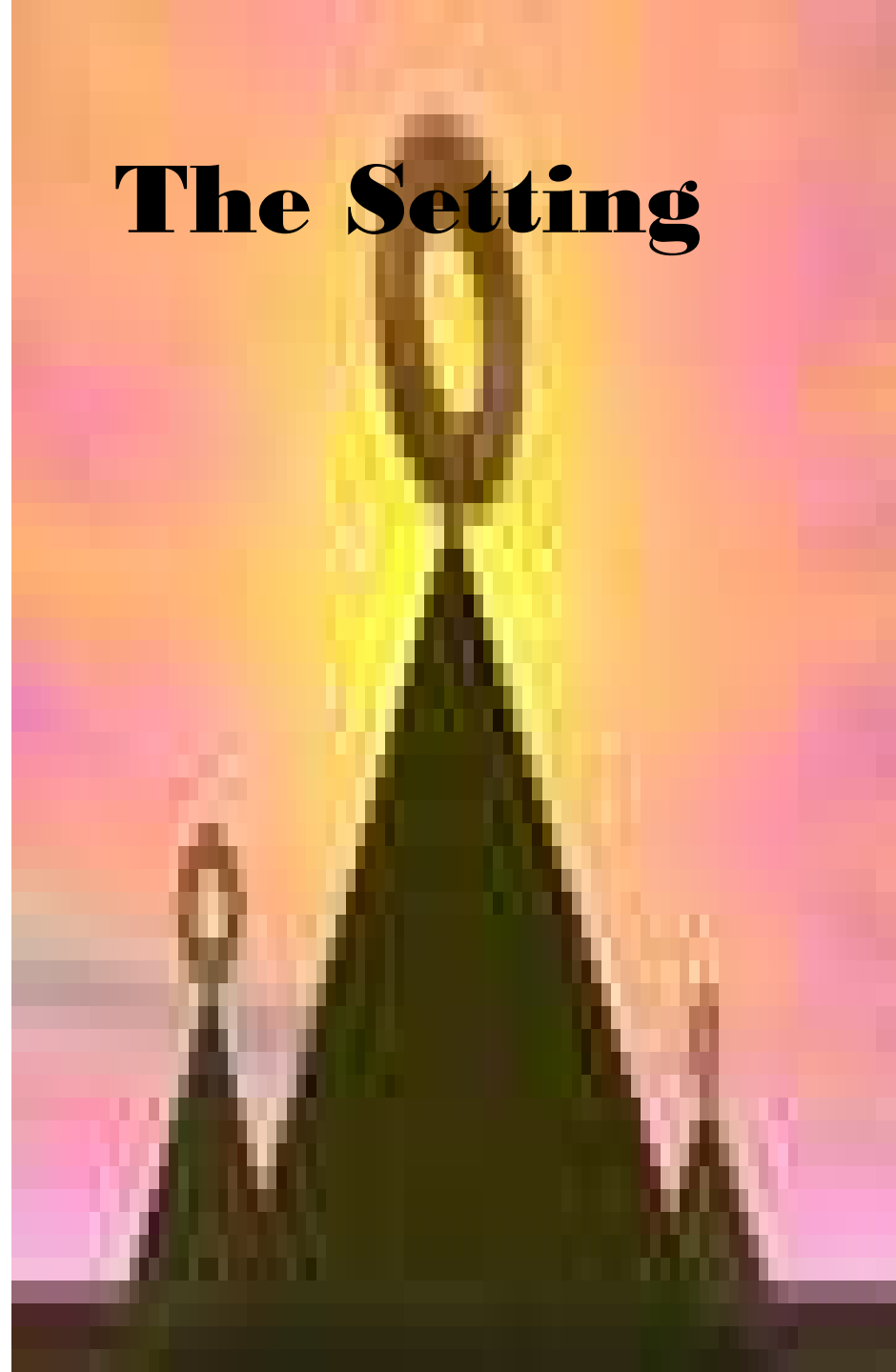
Themes

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

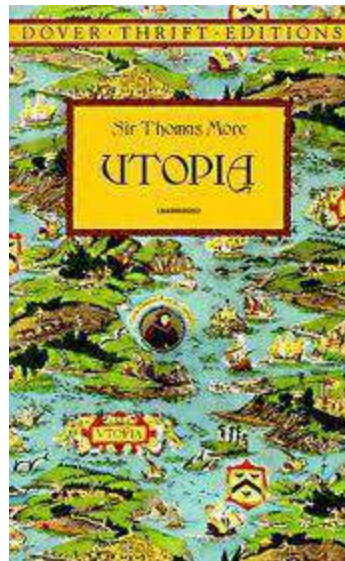there can be no pleasure without pain and no pain without pleasure.

Utopia and Dystopia

Utopia
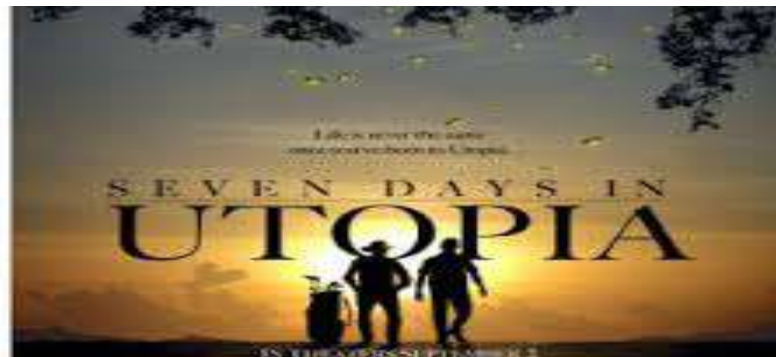
- Two Greek words: "oi" (not) and "topos" (place) = "nowhere"
- The word was created by Thomas More in 1516 when he wrote a book by that title

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)

Dytstopian 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 comtemporary 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
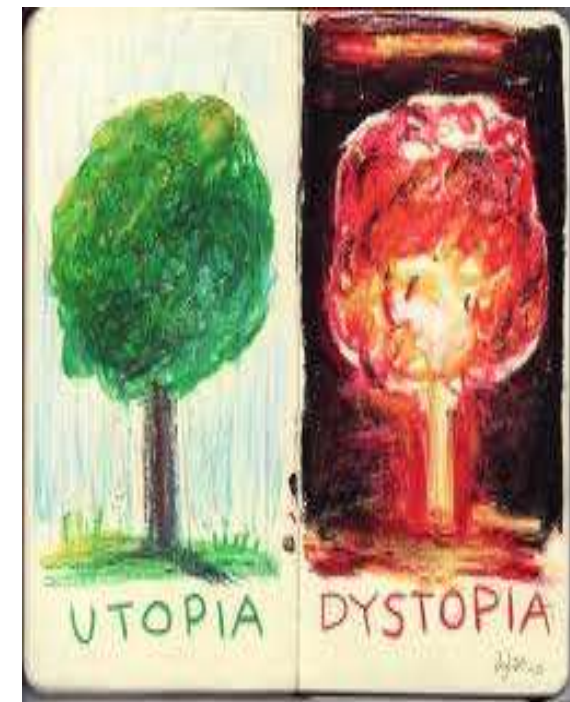
•A dystopia is usually characterized by a totalitarian society.

•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
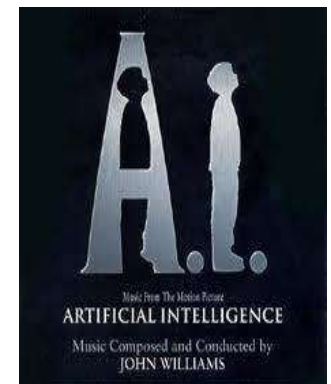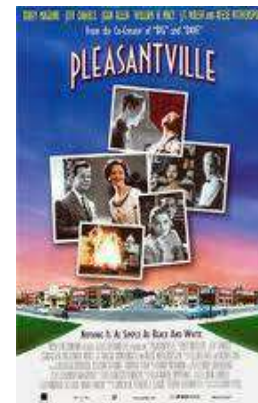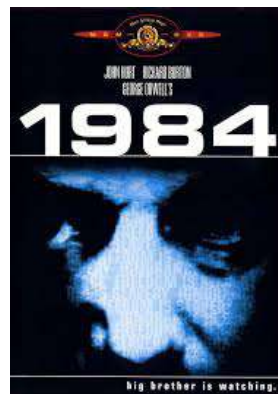
More Dystopian Societies

More Dystopian Societies
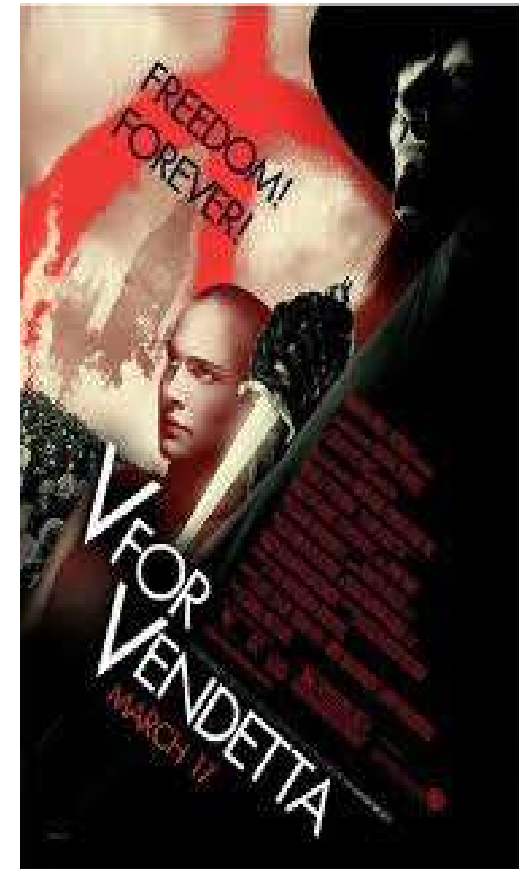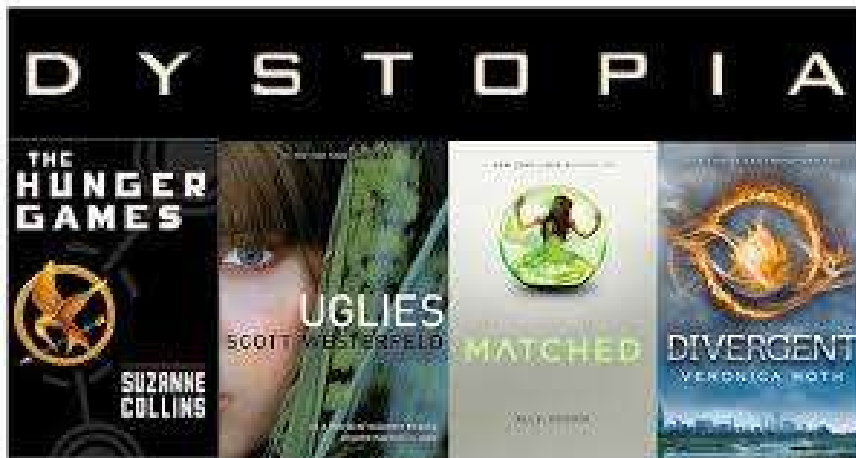
Dystopia in the Making What if. . .

- 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?

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

Writing Assignment

- A "Utopia" is a perfect society. A "Dystopia" is a world that appears to be perfect, but is not. Write a short story that depicts a dis/utopian place.

Utopia:

_____
_____
_____

Dystopia:

_____
_____
_____

Write a story about a utopian or dystopian society:

_____
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- Essential Question: How can learning Greek and Latin affixes and roots help me unlock the meaning of unknown words?

- Task: Greek and Latin affixes and roots

- Standards: ELACC7L4, ELACC7L6, ELACC7L3, ELACC7W1, ELACC7L3

Greek and Latin Affixes

- Class discussion on the similarities/ differences of prefixes and suffixes (Double Bubble Map)

- Prefix: an affix placed before a word, base, or another prefix to modify a term's meaning, as by making the term negative, as un- in unkind, by signaling repetition, as re- in reinvent, or by indicating support, as pro- in proabolition.

- Suffix: an affix that follows the element to which it is added, as -ly in kindly.

- (Greek Roots Power point on Intranet, or visit Drop box explained at end of unit for resources)

Prefixes & Suffixes

- Changing **prefixes** changes the **meaning** of a word.

    preview   **re**view

- Changing **suffixes** changes the **function** of a word

    fair (adjective)   fair**ly** (adverb)

    fair**ness** (noun)

Affixes and Roots 1

	AFFIX/ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
PREFIX	mis-	wrongly	misconduct
	in-, im-, ir, il	not	irrelevant
	anti-	against	anti-Semantic
GREEK ROOT	auto	self	autonomous
	dys	bad; hard	dysfunctional
	mono	one	monotonous
LATIN ROOT	aud	to hear	audible
	dict	to speak	dictator
	mal	bad	malevolent
SUFFIX	-able, -ible	is; can be	commendable
	-ist	one who does; one who makes	activist
	-ence, -ance	action; quality; condition of	tolerance

Affixes and Roots III

	AFFIX/ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
PREFIX	dis-	not; opposite of	discriminate
	in-, im-	in	insubordinate
	super-	above; beyond	supercede
GREEK ROOT	chron	time	chronological
	hypo	below	hypothetical
	photo/phos	light	phosphorescent
LATIN ROOT	circum	around	circumstance
	ject	to throw	objection
	port	to carry	deport
SUFFIX	-ic	having characteristics of	diplomatic
	-ly	how something is	belligerently
	-ous, -eous, -	having qualities	courageous

Affixes and Roots IV

	AFFIX/ROOT	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
PREFIX	bel-	war	rebel
	sub-	under	subordinate
	semi-	partial; not final	semi-conscious
GREEK ROOT	hyper	over; above	hyperactive
	tele	distance	telecommunications
	therm	heat	thermal
LATIN ROOT	vid/vis	to see	visualize
	scrib/script	to write	inscription
	voc	voice; to call	advocate
SUFFIX	-ism	state of; act of	plagiarism
	-ness	state of; condition of	relentless
	-ment	state of being; act of	accomplishment