

A Timeline of Dystopian Literature

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Dystopian literature is a fast-growing genre in young adult literature today. The first known use of the term “dystopia” appeared in a speech before the British Parliament by Greg Webber and John Stuart Mill in 1868 (Dystopia, 2013). YA Dystopian literature includes books that are set in future worlds with fatal flaws, written in easy to understand language and centered on young protagonists. These books reflect the reality of the world today as well as imagine the future darkly by exploring the consequences of war, terror, oppression, environmental disasters, and anarchical governments. Below is a timeline and excerpt of common YA dystopian literatures.

1954- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding



In the midst of a raging war, the plane evacuating a group of young schoolboys is shot down and the boys are stranded alone on a deserted tropical island. Left to fend for themselves, they must take on the responsibilities of adults, even if they are not ready to do so.

1955- *The Chrysalids* by John Wyndham



The Chrysalids is set in a post-apocalyptic world hundreds of years after an unspecified, possibly nuclear disaster, known as Tribulation occurred. This story explores the 1950s tension in Britain between the social forces for change and conservatism. It entails a lot of evolutionary and religious themes.

1962- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle



A story of Meg Murry, a high-school girl whose father has disappeared mysteriously. She must join forces with her brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin to find him.

1967- *Logan's Run* by William F. Nolan and George Clayton Johnson.



Set in the future, the Earth can no longer support human life and there is an introduction of a harsh population control measure which ensures no-one lives past the age of 21. To escape this fate many people

go on the run and certain policemen are sent to hunt and kill runners.

1974- *House of Stairs* by William Sleator



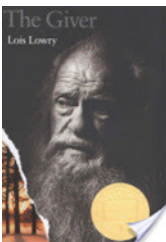
Five sixteen-year old orphans are held up in a building filled with nothing but stairs and a strange red machine. They need to interact with the machine to come out alive.

1985- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card.



This story is set in the future where aliens called Buggers have tried to invade the earth twice. Twice the Earth defeated them, but at great cost. The government is trying to ensure that this never happens again by training the next set of starfleet commanders from childhood. Ender Wiggin is one of the child geniuses selected by international military forces to save the world from destruction.

1993- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry



Eleven year-old Jonas lives in a naïve community where there is no pain, fear, hatred, and

prejudice. The people do not have a record of the past, only the receiver does, but everything seemed perfect. Jonas was chosen to become the receiver of memory by the giver because of his unusual powers of perception. Soon, Jonas escapes from the world of sameness to find freedom.

1998- *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix



In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until he meets another "third" forbidden child, a shadow of himself who convinces him that the government is wrong.

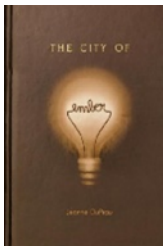
2001- *Naughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman



Two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate society. Sephy is a Cross- a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a

Nought -- a "colourless" member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood, but that's as far as it can go. In their world, Noughts and Crosses simply don't mix. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum -- a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger (Goodreads, 2015).

2003- *City of Ember* by Jeanne Duprau



The City of Ember is a dark place with no natural lights except flood lamps. The inhabitants of the land have to spend two hundred years before they can leave but the clues to exit are missing. After two hundred years, the great flood lamps that light the city began to fail and the people are frightened. Twelve-year-old Doon and his friend Lina are set to unravel the secrets that would save the city from destruction.

2005- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld



Uglies tells the story of a post-apocalyptic dystopia where everyone gets a surgery at age 16 from being ugly to make them "pretty" with a perfect body, perfect face and their world becomes pretty. Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she is really anxious. Soon Tally is faced with a challenge, an assignment that reveals that the pretty world isn't so pretty and may never be pretty for her.

2008- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins



In the novel, the Hunger Games are an annual televised event where the ruthless Capitol randomly selects one boy and one girl, each between the ages of 12 and 18 from each of the twelve districts, pitting them against each other in a game of survival where they are forced to fight one another to the death. The victor then wins a new house for themselves and their families in their district, along with food, fame, and wealth (Wikia, 2015).

2010- *Matched* by Ally Condie



Matched tells the story of Cassia Reyes, robot

extraordinaire, who lives in this nameless City run by the Society. The society dictates everything including who to marry. Cassia is faced with a difficult choice as she doubts the ability of the society in telling her who to marry.

2011- *Divergent* by Veronica Roth



Set in the future, the world has started to crumble and cities are falling. Citizens are grouped into five distinct factions depending on their instincts and the virtues they possess: bravery, intelligence, honesty, kindness, and selflessness. At sixteen, like every other citizen, Beatrice must take an aptitude test to determine her group. She possesses more than one trait and was then asked to make a choice. She chose the Dauntless (the brave) and the events that follow are a test of power, strength and daring forces.

2012- *Pandemonium* by Lauren Oliver



Sequel to *Delirium*, the story takes place in the wilds after Lena escapes from Portland. She was

waiting to die but was rescued and nursed back to good health to be stronger and to be a better resistance fighter. Many challenges await Lena including one of survival and a test of love.

2013- *Phoenix* by Elizabeth Richards



Sequel to *Black City*, Ash and Natalie are engaged and just starting to build a life together. Life seemed good until dictator Purian Rose threatens Natalie's

life unless Ash votes in favor of Rose's Law—a law that will send Darklings and other dissenters to a deadly concentration camp known as the Tenth. Their happiness is cut short and they have to embark on a journey to find a weapon for pulling down Purian Rose. The decision seems good but the quest could tear Ash and Natalie apart.

2014- *Survival Colony Nine* by Joshua David Bellin



In a future world of dust, ruin and starvation, the world is threatened by certain monsters called the Skaldi. Fourteen year-old Query Genn

who is a member of the survival

colony nine has had a previous encounter with the Skaldi but he cannot remember anything. Genn struggles to regain his memory in order to recollect his encounter which may enable him defeat the Skaldi and save the human race.

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