**Traits of Dystopian Literature**

Genre, as you know, is the way that texts are classified into categories.  Knowing the genre of a story helps the reader make predictions, connections, and have a more analytical approach when reading a text.  If the reader already knows basically what to expect from this kind (genre) of story, the reader can then focus on more complicated parts of the reading experience.

*Directions: Today, we are going to examine several film clips and images that are classified already as dystopian.  It is your job to take careful notes on the details and patterns that you notice. These details and patterns are the key to unlocking the genre.  Be observant and don’t dismiss any ideas! Record all of your thoughts in the chart below.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Clip/**  **Image** | **Details I noticed** | **Patterns I noticed** |
| #1 |  |  |
| #2 |  |  |
| #3 |  |  |
| #4 |  |  |
| #5 |  |  |
| #6 |  |  |

**Utopia:** A place, state, or condition that is ideally perfect in respect of politics, laws, customs, and conditions.

**Dystopia:** A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system.

**Elements of a Dystopian Society**

*Directions: After watching the film clips and viewing the images, try to write your own definition of each of the elements that characterize a dystopian society.  You have been given only a few clue words for each element. It is up to you to come up with the rest of the definition!*

1. Propaganda is used to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_are restricted.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is worshipped by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ under constant surveillance.
5. Citizens have a fear of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dehumanized state.
7. Nature is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, while technology is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_conform to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Individuality is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is an illusion of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Citizens experience desensitization from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ around them.