

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION TO DYSTOPIAN FICTION

WHAT DOES THE PERFECT WORLD LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

Consider:

- Social systems
- Economic factors
- Education
- Relationships
- Recreational activities

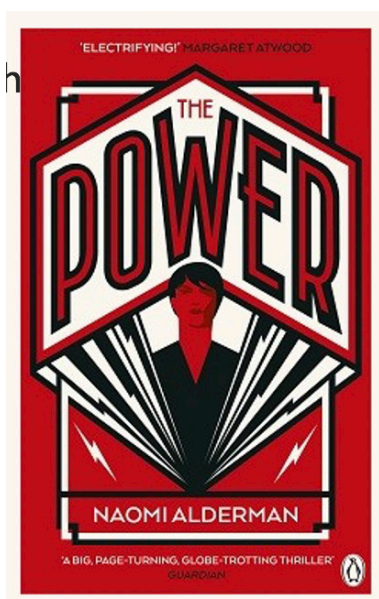


WHAT IS A DYSTOPIA?

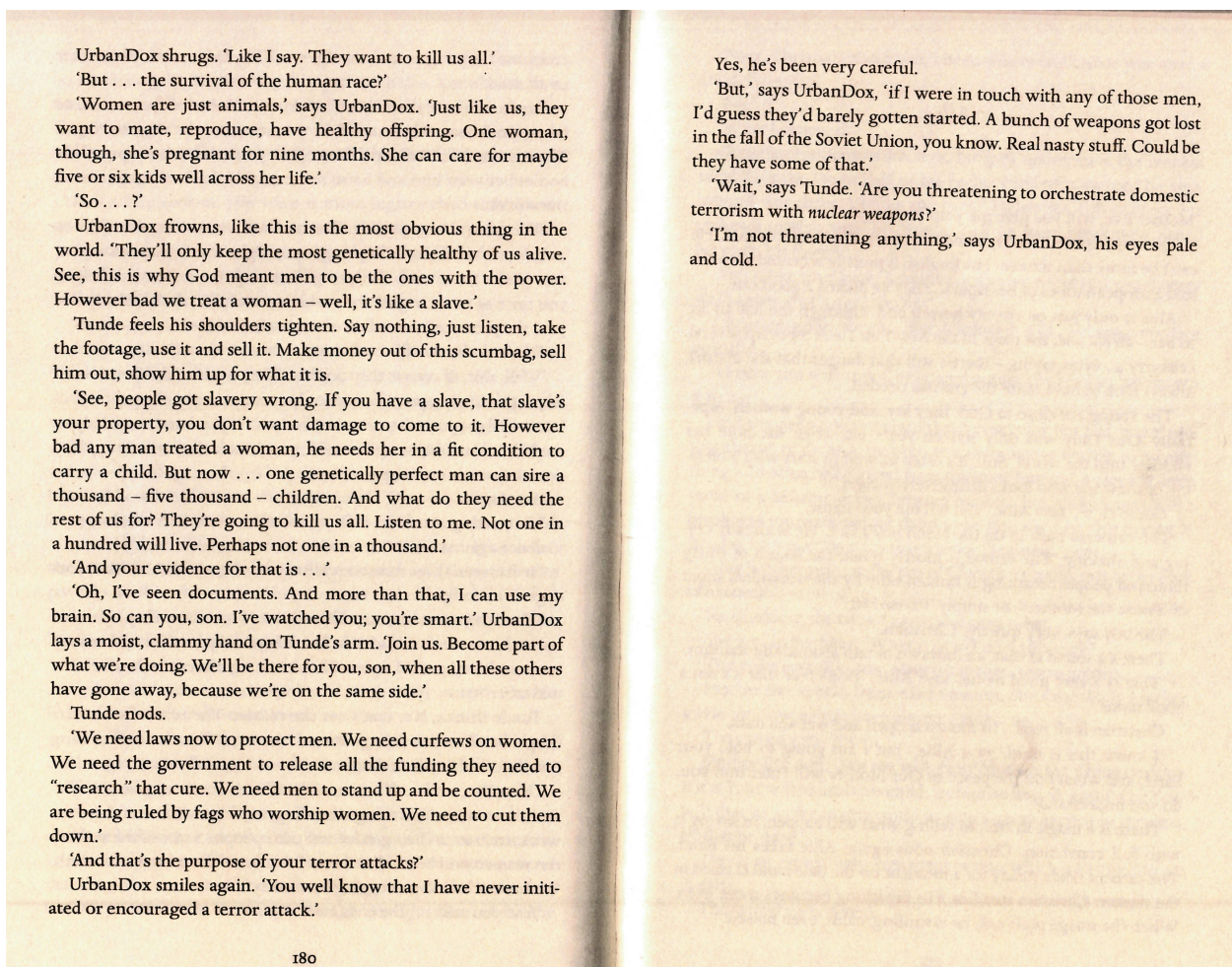
An imagined state or society in which there is great suffering or injustice, typically one that is totalitarian or post-apocalyptic.

'THE POWER' BY NAOMI ALDERMAN (2016)

- All over the world women are discovering they have the power
- With a flick of the fingers they can inflict terrible pain – even death
- Suddenly, every man on the planet finds they've lost control
- The day of the Girls has arrived – but where will it end?



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- In the extract, the only male narrator, Tunde, is interviewing a male with the online name, UrbanDox. He is an extremist who plans to avenge the way men are being treated in light of recent social changes...
- Consider what you think is happening, narratively
- Can you identify some of the main themes with quotations to support?
- Which metaphors could offer implicit meaning about issues concerning gender equality?



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CRITICAL READING...

'Authors have shown that it is easy to conjure dystopias out of any dark or disturbing possibility, demonstrating that there is more opportunity for the world to sink into a dystopian nightmare than evolve into a utopian dream.'

'A dystopia presents the inhumanity of the soulless state machine against the hopes and aspirations of humanity. It's something we will all recognise.'

'The dystopian novel can be considerably more effective than the utopian. The utopian novel, in looking at mankind's ideals and how a perfect society might be achieved, will always encounter hurdles that must be overcome in seeking how to satisfy everyone, or at least the majority. The dystopian novel, on the other hand, readily provides a graphic warning of the consequences of going in a certain social, political or technological direction, and can do so with startling imagery that resonates with the reader.'

(Ashley, 2016)

- Choose a statement from the 3 comments, written by Mike Ashley in 2016, about Dystopian Fiction
- Try to identify what it is your comment suggests. What is the implicit meaning?
- Which one can you find evidence to support? Or challenge?
- Can you find evidence from the text that proves/disproves your point?
- Challenge: Write a paragraph exploring the Alderman's intentions in this extract, using the critical comments to guide you
- Extension: What Social/Political issue/group might the text be reacting too? Hint: it was published in 2016

YEAR 1 READING LIST

- Carol Ann Duffy's 'Meantime'
- Philip Larkin's 'The Whitsun Weddings'
- John Keats' 'Selected Poems'
- Jean Rhys' 'Wide Sargasso Sea'
- Michael Frayn's 'Spies'

RETURNING TO YOUR PERFECT
WORLD, WHAT PROBLEMS DO YOU
ENVISAGE ARISING?

