

Year 9 English: Dystopian Writing Knowledge Organiser

Key Writing Techniques

	Adverbial phrase	A group of words that function as an adverb. E.g. <i>In the blink of an eye</i> , everyone in the city was missing.
1	Ambitious Adjectives	Use a range of adjectives in your writing to help make your description strong and effective.
2	Foreshadowing	A literary device where the writer hints at events to come in the story or plot.
3	Metaphor	A figure of speech when you say something is something else. E.g. <i>Ronald is a walking dictionary</i> .
4	Long and short sentences	Use a mixture of long and short sentences in your writing. Short sentences are good for fast and action sequences. Long sentences are good for detailed descriptions and building suspense.
	Noun phrase	A simple phrase built around a noun to improve description. It will contain a determiner and a noun. A <i>determiner</i> is word placed before a noun to provide information such as ownership, quantity, specificity. E.g. <i>three green tables</i> .
5	Pathetic fallacy	A technique when the writer gives human emotions to inanimate objects usually in nature. Often used for foreshadowing.
6	Personification	Giving human qualities to objects or ideas. E.g. <i>The car danced along the ice</i> .
7	Prepositions	Words to connect different nouns and phrases in a sentence – e.g. <i>during, until, before</i>
8	Simile	A figure of speech when you say something is <u>like</u> something else. E.g. <i>Her smile was as bright as the sun</i> .

Expand your vocabulary

Describing a disaster	Apocalypse, cataclysm, catastrophe, holocaust, Armageddon, destruction, devastation, annihilation, tragedy, 'end of days',
Describing a dystopia	totalitarian, autocratic, grim, sombre, gloomy, undemocratic, one-party, dictatorial, apocalyptic, tyrannical
Describing control	command, check, curb, restraint, contain, rule, authority, mastery, govern, regulate
Describing fear, terror or despair	afflicted, affliction, agony, anguish, apprehensions, apprehensive, concern, despair, dejection, dismal, dismay, dread, dreaded, dreading, fearing, frantic, fright, frightened, grief, hopeless, horrid, horror, lamentable, melancholy, miserable, mournfully, ordeal, panic, sadly, scared, shrieks, sorrow, sympathy, tears, terrible, terrified, terror, unhappy, wretched
Describing anger	anger, angrily, enraged, furious, fury, incense, incensed, provoked, rage, raving, resentment, temper, wrath, wrathful, wrathfully
Describing protest	Object, protest, dissent, object, remonstrate, demur, affirm, expostulate, declare, resist
Describing darkness	dark, darkness, dismal, shaded, black, night, dingy, leaden, overcast, shadowy, starless, sunless

Key Words

1	Allegory	A story with a hidden meaning – usually moral or political
2	Apocalypse	A disaster – often on such a scale that it represents the end of civilisation and humanity.
3	Authoritarian	Enforcing strict obedience against personal freedom and belief
4	Capitalism	Political ideology associated with businesses making money. Often there is inequality.
5	Decay	When things fall into disrepair.
6	Deceive	To trick someone
7	Dictatorship	When a society is run by just one person.
8	Draconian	Excessively harsh or severe
9	Dystopia	From the Greek meaning 'bad place'. A society of control, coercion and of disaster. Often hopeless.
10	Eden	Reference to the Garden of Eden in The Bible. Often used to describe a place of paradise or a utopia.
11	Extra-terrestrial	A being which comes from another planet or world.
12	Ideology	A system of ideas and ideals
13	Lugubrious	Looking or sounding sad or dismal. E.g. <i>his face looked lugubrious</i>
14	Manipulation	When people are controlled and their thoughts and beliefs are influenced often by those who are in charge of a society.
15	Maxim	A short saying or slogan. E.g. 'Four legs good, two legs bad'.
16	Morbid	Obsession or interest with death.
17	Post apocalyptic society	A society that comes after an apocalypse. Often dystopian fiction is set in such a world.
18	Proletariat	Word often used in dystopian fiction to describe the workers or working-class
19	Propaganda	Literature or poster designed to make people believe a point of view.
20	Repress	To put down and stop freedoms
21	Science fiction	Fiction based on imagined scientific or technological progress.
22	Society	People living together in a community or country.
23	Surveillance	When people are watched or monitored
24	Totalitarian	When the government or leader has complete control over people's lives.
25	Utopia	A perfect world. From the Greek meaning 'not place' suggesting that such a place is not possible.