Lesson 5 Science Fiction vs. Dystopia

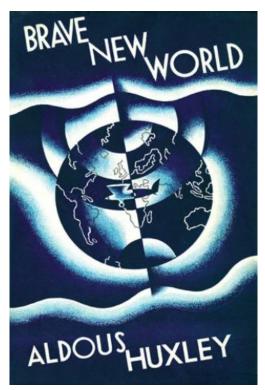
First, the definition of DYSTOPIA

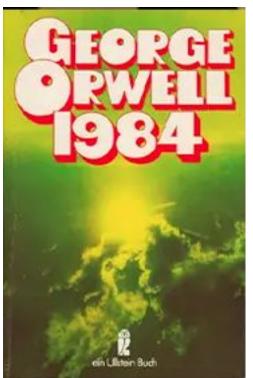
- an imaginary world
- which is extremely difficult
- with terrible injustice and suffering

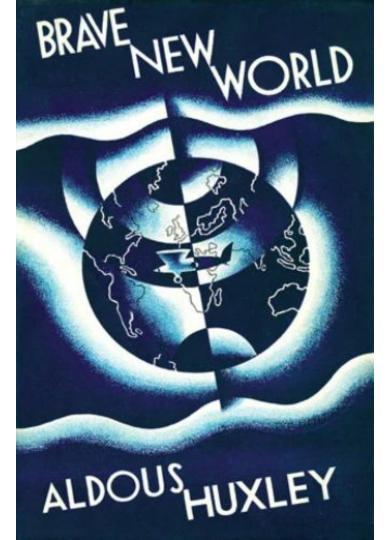
For example: It's the year 2700. The Earth is uninhabitable because it's covered in towers of garbage.

The opposite of DYSTOPIA is UTOPIA, an imaginary world which is perfect and everyone is happy.

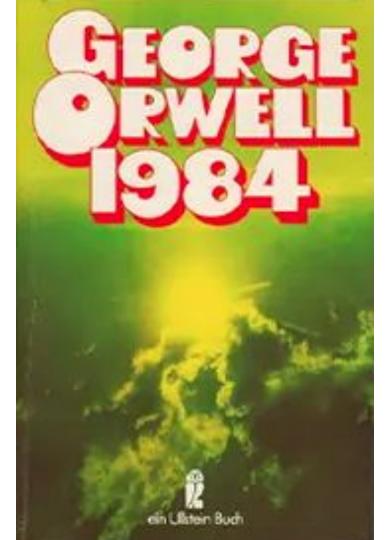
Two Famous Examples of DYSTOPIA





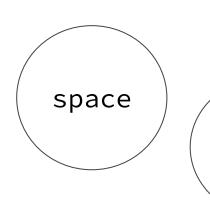


Aldous Huxley's profoundly important classic of world literature, Brave New World is a searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order-all at the cost of our freedom, full humanity, and perhaps also our souls.



A masterpiece of rebellion and imprisonment where war is peace freedom is slavery and Big Brother is watching Thought Police Big Brother Orwellian These words have entered our vocabulary because of George Orwell's classic dystopian novel 1984 The story of one man's nightmare odyssey as he pursues a forbidden love affair through a world ruled by warring states and a power structure that controls not only information but also individual thought and memory 1984 is a prophetic haunting tale More relevant than ever before 1984 exposes the worst crimes imaginable the destruction of truth freedom and individuality.

Let's recollect:



time travel life on other planets

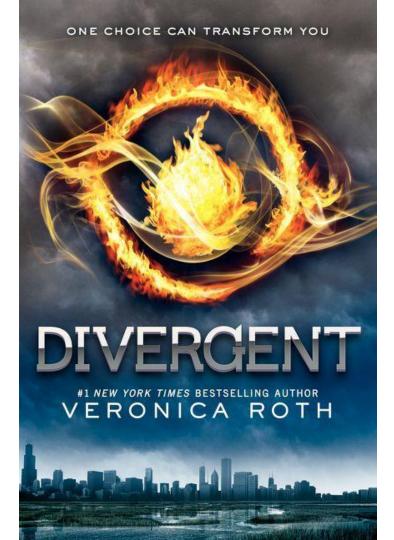
Science Fiction

- fiction
- mostly set in future
- with imaginary scientific or technological developments
- sometimes major social or environmental changes

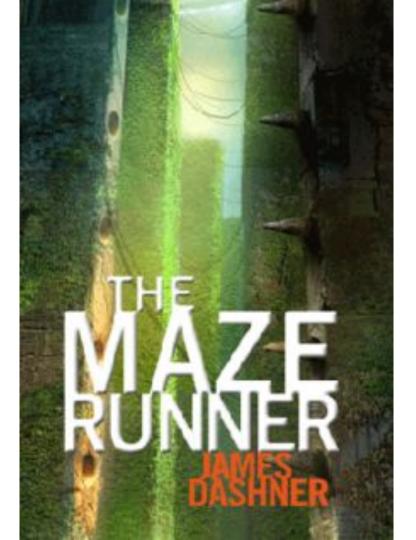
The source of confusion between science fiction and dystopia:

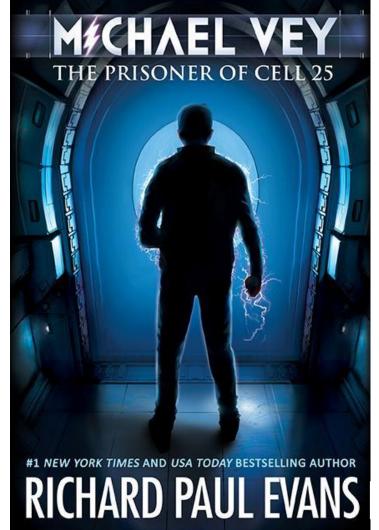
Very often, the future in **science fiction** is presented in a **dystopian** setting.

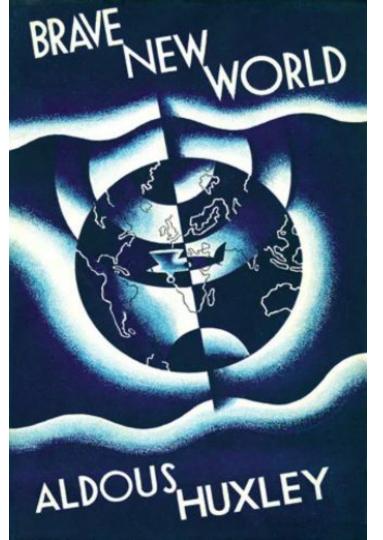
So, science fiction is OFTEN dystopian.

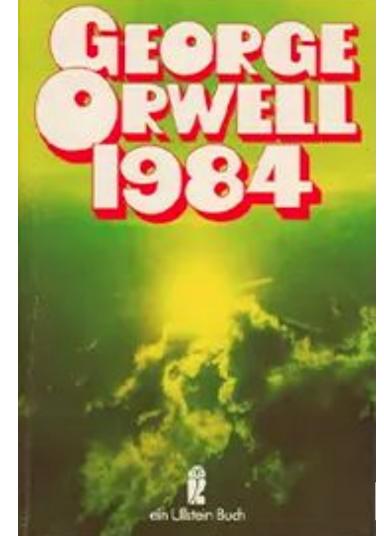




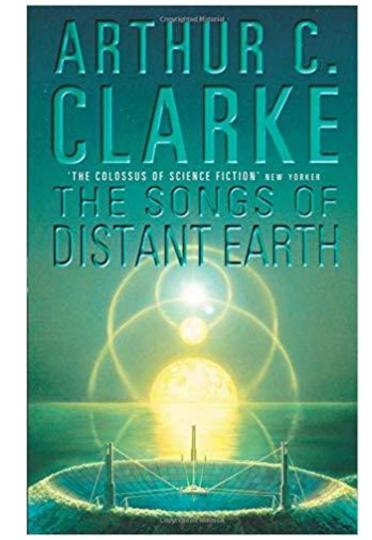


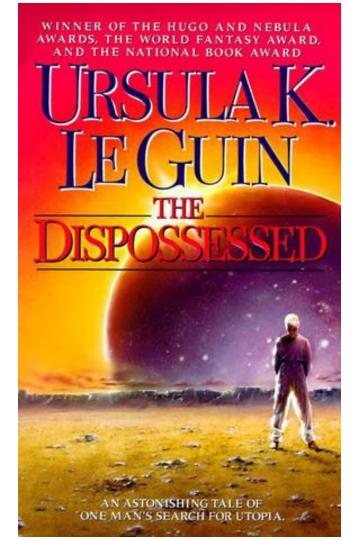




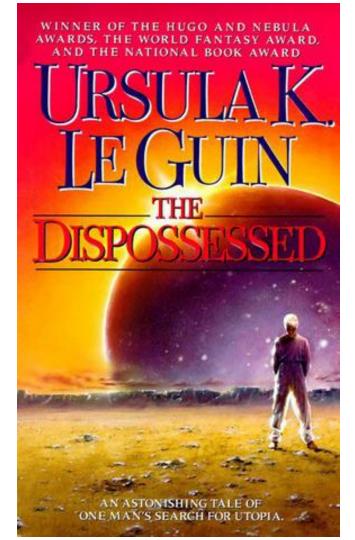


Many science fiction stories are NOT dystopian.

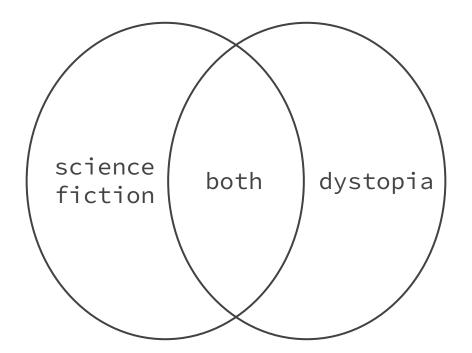




Shevek, a brilliant physicist, decides to take action. He will seek answers, question the unquestionable, and attempt to tear down the walls of hatred that have isolated his planet of anarchists from the rest of the civilized universe. To do this dangerous task will mean giving up his family and possibly his life -Shevek must make the unprecedented journey to the utopian mother planet, Urras, to challenge the complex structures of life and living, and ignite the fires of change.



Science Fiction and Utopia



To Conclude

Most books belong to multiple genres.

They are complex, just like us, and resist simple classification.

The question of whether a book is, say, more science fiction or more dystopian,

and hence which shelf it must belong to

is ultimately at the discretion of the reader.