



The list below provides a short selection of books commonly read in high school, but you may find others that are interesting and appropriate to your study of Dystopian societies. Read the synopses below, and select the novel that most interests you.

Novels:

Creed for the Third Millennium by Colleen McCullough

What will life be like in the future, after the glaciers have shifted southward and the entire Northern Hemisphere is frozen? Who will lead the people? Where will the people go? What new laws must be enacted? What role will the government play? What will happen to individual rights? This book addresses those issues.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Written in the 1930s, this grim view of a plastic world, in which science and technology condition the people to passivity, is a warning against false optimism and the dangers inherent in scientific progress. Huxley's work argues that man's obsession with material goods and movement away from moral and spiritual values leads to a dystopian society.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

The title is drawn from the temperature at which paper catches fire, and the novel is set in a Dystopia where all books are banned. The protagonist is a fireman whose primary duty is to burn books and punish book readers and owners. What would it be like to live in a world where we not only didn't have to read, but actually were not allowed to read?

The Giver by Lois Lowry

At first, the setting of this novel seems to be idyllic; there is no violence, no pain, and no starvation. However, upon closer investigation, it is revealed to be nothing more than a collage of harsh and bitter realities of death and repression.

1984 by George Orwell

This novel, written in 1949, depicts a robot-like society, controlled by Big Brother. Inhabitants are unable to think or act without permission. This book details yet another "rebel" who wants to change, or at least to escape, the system.