Dystopian Vocabulary

**Dystopia** – a futuristic, imagined, unpleasant, repressed (forbidding) society where people lead dehumanized, fearful lives.

**Utopia** – an imaginary place where everything in society is perfect.

**Apocalypse** – disaster, catastrophe, destruction, the end of the world. In Dystopian literature, a new world may begin with those who lived.

**Revolution** – a revolt, rebellion, uprising in which people completely change their government or political system, usually by force.

**Protagonist** – “the good guy” who feels trapped, questions the situation, struggles to escape, and helps the reader to see/feel the negative aspects of the Dystopian world.
**Antagonist** – “the bad guy”, the adversary of “the good guy”. In Dystopian novels, it might be control by a government, a corporation, technology or religion/philosophical beliefs.

**Conformity** – everyone is the same, in actions and how they are treated in a Dystopian world. People are expected to behave the same, and follow orders, without having individual thoughts or ideas.

**Propaganda** - a form of communication aimed at influencing the attitude of the community toward some cause or position by presenting only one side of an argument.

**Allusion** – making an indirect reference to somebody or something. Ex: “Don’t act like a Romeo in front of her.”

**Symbolism** – words or a visual that represents a deeper meaning; what does the author want you to feel?

**Freewill** – doing something willingly rather than being ordered/forced to do it.

**Perception** – using the senses to understand what is observed in a situation.