

Name: _____

The Independent Study Unit

Grade 9 (2022-23)

In this unit, you will select a work of dystopian or climate fiction, and while reading this novel, complete a series of responses, questions, and creative exercises in relation to it.

Your ISU will have five components:

- A. Cover Page
- B. Personal Responses
- C. Knowledge and Understanding
- D. Creative and Media Text
- E. Works Cited Page (MLA formatting)


Below is a detailed description of every component in your ISU, including instructions on formatting.

A. Cover Page

The Cover Page should include the following:

- The title of the assignment: Independent Study Unit
- The title of your ISU book and the name of its author
- A picture
- Your name
- Your course: English, Grade 9
- Your teacher's name (Mme Dupuis or Ms. Dupuis)
- The due date

See below:

<p>Independent Study Unit: Title of Novel by Author of Book</p>  <p>Your Name English Grade 9 Your Teacher's Name Due date</p>

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B. Part 1: Personal Reader Responses

During the course of your ISU, you will write three reader responses. What is a reader response? It is a detailed response to a chosen question, in which you discuss some important aspect(s) of your chosen novel, providing evidence from the text and/or your life as you explain and support your answers. Each response should be 1 page double-spaced, and contain a minimum of 2 paragraphs. Any under or over-writing will be penalized.

Each reader response should:

- Have the chosen reader response question clearly written on the top of the page.
- Include the number of pages read when you wrote the response.
 - o **They can be written DURING or AFTER your reading**
- Answer the question, but more importantly: each reader response should explain WHY you think what you think. The more detailed your explanation, the stronger and more convincing your response will be.
- A good explanation should:
 - o Provide a short **summary** of necessary plot points from the novel.
 - o Explain your **reasoning**: why do you think what you think?
 - o Use **evidence** from the text. This can involve quotations or citing examples.
 - o Use an event from your past (a memory, a story, something you read in the news) as evidence for why you think the way you do
 - o "I don't know why" is *not* a reason. You must be able to explain WHY.
- The use of 1st person ("I") is allowed and encouraged.

Below is the desired format:

<p>Section 1: Personal Responses</p> <p>Personal Response #1</p> <p>Question: _____</p> <p>Pages read so far: ____ to ____</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>...</p>

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On the following page is a series of reader response questions to choose from. You will choose three questions to answer. If you wish, you may combine two questions to make one question, or even, write your own question (pending approval by teacher).

Reader Responses Questions

*All reader responses should explain using evidence from your chosen novel and/or your personal life

- ❑ What were your feelings after reading the opening chapter of this book? Why? Explain.
- ❑ Did this book make you laugh? Cry? Cringe? Smile? Cheer? Explain.
- ❑ What connections are there between the book and your life? Explain.
- ❑ Compare and contrast the dystopian society from your novel with contemporary Canadian society. What similarities do you see? What differences? Explain.
- ❑ How do the characters accept or fight back against dystopian control? Explain.
- ❑ What is the most important word in the book? The most important passage? The most important event or feeling? Explain.
- ❑ Who shouldn't or shouldn't read this book? Why?
- ❑ What are the best parts of the book? Why? What are the worst parts? Why? Explain.
- ❑ Do you like the ending of the book? Why or why not? Do you think there is more to tell? What do you think might happen next? Explain.
- ❑ What came as a surprise in the book? Why? Explain.
- ❑ What parts of the book seem most believable or unbelievable? Why? Explain.
- ❑ In what ways are you like any of the characters? Explain using evidence from the novel and from your life.
- ❑ Which symbol or aspect do you find most interesting in the story? Explain.
- ❑ Do any of the characters remind you of friends, family members, or classmates? Explain.
- ❑ Which character would you like to be in this book? Why? Explain.
- ❑ What is the title of the book? What does it signify? Do you think the title fits the book? Why or why not? Explain.
- ❑ What was the author saying about life and living through this book? Explain.
- ❑ What has the book helped you understand about your own life that you didn't before? Explain.
- ❑ How have you changed after reading this book? Explain.
- ❑ What do I think will happen next? Explain why you think these events will happen next. What clues are present in the opening chapters? Explain.
- ❑ What does the writer's purpose seem to be in writing this book? Explain.
- ❑ What do I notice about characters, setting, and point of view? I think this is strange/interesting/fascinating/frightening because....

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- ☐ My favorite character is.....because....
- ☐ I can relate to.... Because....
- ☐ If I was the author, I'd change... because...
- ☐ Something that doesn't make sense about this story is... because...
- ☐ If I were...(character in story), I'd..... because...
- ☐ Something unrealistic or too coincidental in the story is..... because....
- ☐ My favorite part of the story so far is....because.....
- ☐ The most important character is.....because...
- ☐ This book is controversial because.....
- ☐ If you could be related to a character, who would it be and why?
- ☐ Write a feasible solution for a problem a character has that is different from anything suggested in the book? Why is this a better solution? Explain.
- ☐ In the sequel to this book, the following should happen..... because...
- ☐ Examine, in detail, one character's personality. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.
- ☐ Choose a food that represents this book. Explain why this food best represents this book.
- ☐ If this book could be compared to a car, what model would it be and why? Explain.
- ☐ Discuss a portion of the book that was too predictable. Why do you think this? Explain.
- ☐ What type of reader would enjoy this book and why? Explain.
- ☐ This book has made me reconsider or think twice about.....because....
- ☐ Discuss a conflict in the book that is "timeless" and "universal." First, prove this is a central conflict of the book then discuss how you feel about this issue.
- ☐ If I could step into the book, the first thing I would do is... because...
- ☐ I can't understand why ____ doesn't just ...
- ☐ I laugh aloud when... because.... I felt like crying when... because... I was furious when... because....
- ☐ If the book were set 50 years in the future or the past, how would the conflict change? Explain.
- ☐ Which character would you choose as a friend, brother/sister, boyfriend/girlfriend, mother/father? Why? Explain.
- ☐ This book reminds me ofbecause....
- ☐ Discuss how...(character) shows his/her personality through the dialogue in the story.
- ☐ Discuss how.....(character) shows his/her personality by the actions he/she takes.
- ☐ Does an issue or event from the novel remind you of a real-world issue (happening in the media or on the news)? If so, what is this issue? Compare and contrast it to what is happening in the novel.

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- ❑ Does an issue or event from the novel remind you of your life or your past? If so, what is this issue or event? Compare and contrast it to your situation.

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C. Part 2: Knowledge and Understanding

Below are a series of short-answer questions. You do not have to re-write the questions when you answer them. However, be sure to include the QUESTION NUMBER, as well as answer in complete sentences. Also, be sure to mark the sections using titles ("Knowledge and Understanding") and subtitles ("Plot and Characters" "Literary Elements").

Some questions ask you to recreate a chart. Please do so.

Below is an example of the desired format:

Section 2: Knowledge and Understanding			
Plot and Characters			
1.	I chose this novel because....		
2.	...		
3.	...		
4.	...		
5.			
6.	...		
7.	...		
(...)			
Literary Elements			
10.			

Plot, Characters, and Genre

1. What is the setting of your novel? Use two quotations from the text to prove your answer.
2. On a separate sheet of paper draw your novel's plot graph in as much detail as possible. Include a minimum of 3 plot points in the rising action and 3 plot points in the falling action, with a maximum of 5.
3. Who is the protagonist of your novel? Give their name, approximate age, and approximate appearance. If there is more than one protagonist, say so then choose only one on which to answer the question.

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4. What are three characteristics (personality traits) of your protagonist? Recreate a similar chart and fill it out.

Characteristics <i>(if necessary, refer back to your "Characterization" hand out)</i>	Evidence from the text <i>Please use a quotation from the novel. Don't forget to include the page number in parentheses.</i>	Explanation <i>Explain why the quote you chose proves that your character has this personality trait.</i>

5. Give the name of one other major character in the novel. What is his or her relationship to the protagonist? Why do you consider her/him a major character (and not a minor one)? Recreate a similar chart and fill it out.

Characteristics <i>(if necessary, refer back to your "Characterization" hand out)</i>	Evidence from the text <i>Please use a quotation from the novel. Don't forget to include the page number in parentheses.</i>	Explanation <i>Explain why the quote you chose proves that your character has this personality trait.</i>

6. Give the name of one minor character from the novel. What is his or her relationship to the protagonist? Why do you consider her/him a minor character (and not a major one)?
7. Why would you consider your novel dystopian fiction? Give three to five reasons, using evidence from the text to support each reason (either by explaining a plot point, or using a quotation). While answering this question be sure to take into consideration the various forms of dystopian control, as well as the characteristics of a dystopian society, as seen in class.
8. What factors or situations led to the creation of the dystopian society in your book. Explain using 2 to 3 examples, and be sure to provide evidence. How might the formation of a dystopian society in your chosen novel been prevented? Explain.

Literary Elements

9. What is your novel's point of view? Use evidence (one quote) from the novel to support your answer.

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10. Name one conflict present in the novel (person vs. ...). Give a short summary of this conflict. Then use evidence to support your answer (don't forget to include the page number).
11. Name three major themes of your novel. Now choose one and provide evidence arguing for why you believe this is a theme in the novel. Use quotes or examples to prove your case.
12. Find one symbol in the novel. Explain what this is a symbol of. Find evidence in the text to support your answer (a quote). Don't forget to jot down the page number.
13. Find six different literary devices in the novel and explain why this is a literary device. Don't forget to jot down the page number. (*Simile, metaphor, hyperbole, euphemism, symbol, imagery, flashback, pathetic fallacy, idiom, colloquialism, rhetorical question, etc.*)

For ex:

1. *Simile: "The pillow was as soft as baby bird's feathers." (105) This is a simile because the narrator is comparing the pillow in the novel to a baby bird's feathers.*
2. *Metaphor: "Her face was magic." (117) This is a metaphor because the woman's face is not actually magic. The narrator says this to tell the reader that her face is magical to look at.*
3. *Pathetic Fallacy: "It thundered for hours afterwards." (67) This is an instance of pathetic fallacy because the storm starts after Lorelei and Rory have had a fight. The violent storm matches the anger that Lorelei and Rory feel for each other in that moment.*
Etc.

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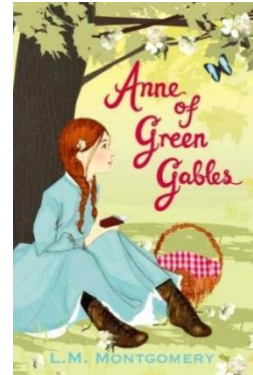
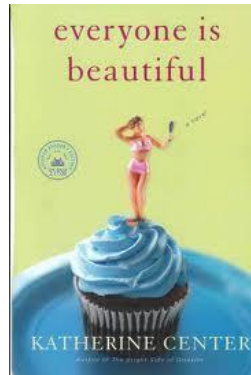
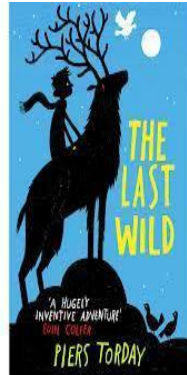
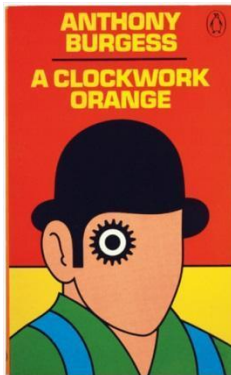
D. Part 3: Creative and Media Text

In this section, you will expand your understanding of your novel through creative means, including the use of media and technology.

Choose TWO-THREE options from below. Your goal here is to showcase your creativity and/or your ability to transfer your understanding of a read text into an oral-visual media communication.

Option 1: Create a new cover for your book. This can be hand-drawn on a sheet of paper, created on the computer and printed, or it can be a collage that uses printed pictures or magazines pictures to use on a sheet of paper. Important: You must also include a short rationale paragraph (4-5 sentences) that explains your book cover choices.

HINT: A book cover always includes the title of the novel as well as the name of the author. A good book cover will put on display an important part of the novel and/or an important character. It will also have appropriate colours (if the book is mostly sad, the colours should not be bright and flowery, but somber and dark, and vice-versa). The book cover will also be clean (no glue marks, or marker smudges).



Option 2: Imagine your novel is being converted into a movie and you are put in charge of the music. Choose 10 songs that might be on the novel's soundtrack. These songs should capture the themes and mood of the novel, as well as the emotions of the characters. You should also carefully choose the order of these songs.

Your playlist should be numbered from 1 to 10. It should also include the title of the song and the name of the artist. At the very end of the list, you must include a short rationale paragraph (4 to 6 sentences) explaining why you chose each song and placed it in this particular order.

HINT: A good soundtrack will choose songs with lyrics that match what the characters are feeling throughout the book, or will match what is happening throughout the book.

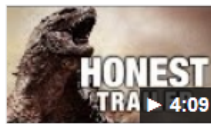
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A good answer will then use evidence from the songs (lyrics) to prove that it shares the same theme/emotion as one in the novel.

Option 3: Create a trailer for your book. For this you can use any movie-making software. Your goal here is to make people want to read the book. To do this you can use a number of techniques: humour, suspense, surprise, intrigue, drama, etc. The trailer should also capture the mood and overall themes of your novel. It should be between 30 seconds and 1 minute.

You must also include a short rationale paragraph (4 to 6 sentences) explaining the choices you made in your trailer.

Honest Trailers - Godzilla (2014) - YouTube



www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOyVy7CTUJE ▼

2 days ago - Uploaded by Screen Junkies

<http://bit.ly/sjsubscr> Click here to see more Honest Trailers

⇒ <http://bit.ly/HonestTrailerPlaylist> America's first ...

Option 4: Rewrite the ending of the novel. Min. 1 page double-spaced.

Option 5: Imagine an exchange between one of the characters in your novel and “Dear Abby” the advice columnist. What would your character ask for advice about? What advice would they receive in return? Min. 1 page double-spaced.

Option 6: Write a free verse poem or rap about one of the characters or themes in the novel. Minimum 14 lines.

Option 7: Write a letter to the author of your book. Be sure to use proper letter format. Min. 1 page double-spaced.

Option 8: Imagine one of your characters has died and you have to speak at their funeral. Write a eulogy to one of the characters in the novel. Look at examples of eulogies on the internet to familiarize yourself with this genre. Min. 1 page double-spaced.

Option 9: Choose a scientific concept shown or mentioned in your novel (related to the environment, or socialization). Explain this concept then elaborate on it by pretending you're a professor giving a university-style lecture. Min 1 page double-spaced.

Option 10: Design your own utopia OR dystopia, using your understanding of dystopian control and the handout provided to you by your teacher. Be sure to explain your rationale.

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5. Works Cited Page

This last section is called the "Works Cited Page." It gives information on the books you have cited (quoted) throughout your assignment.

For this assignment, you should have cited only one book (your ISU book). Therefore, for the purpose of this assignment, only one book should be listed in this section.

Proper format is as followed:

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Print.

****PLEASE NOTE PUNCTUATION AND ITALICS****

...

Here is an example:

Works Cited Page

Blackwood, Gary. *The Shakespeare Stealer*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998. Print.