

Context Knowledge Overview Year Group: 6	Term: Spring Text: The Giver Author: Lois Lowry
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Dystopia and Utopia	
Utopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A version of the world, usually set in the future, in which everything is perfect. For example: there is no disease, war, hunger, poverty, oppression, discrimination, inequality etc
Dystopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A version of the world, usually set in the future, in which extreme problems are present in society. For example, a lack of free will and independent thought

Social Norms	
What is a social norm?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unwritten rule of behaviour that is considered acceptable in a group or society
Examples of social norms:	
Politeness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaking someone's hand when you greet them Saying 'please' and 'thank you' Looking someone in the eye when speaking Apologising if you have bumped into someone
Queuing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing one behind the other in a line when waiting for something
Not speaking on public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not talking to a stranger on the tube or bus, so as not to disturb them on their journey
Using a knife and fork to eat a meal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would not be considered socially acceptable to eat many types of food with your hands.
Arriving on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being late is considered rude and is frowned upon by society.

Structure of Society	
Government structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is led by the Prime Minister. The government is made up of members of parliament (MPs). Laws are made by MPs voting in parliament. The government is chosen by the people of the United Kingdom in a vote which happens at least every five years. The Queen is known as the 'Head of State' but has no power to make or pass laws.
Class structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British society has often been considered to be divided into different classes, which make up a social hierarchy. A social class is a group of people, often defined by their cultural capital. The three classes often referred to in the UK are known as Upper, Middle and Lower Class.
Family structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are many different types of family structures. Family members often develop close relationships. Many people know the people they are related to – e.g. parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles. In the past, the 'nuclear family' was considered to be a typical family structure. This consisted of a mother, father and two children. Now, however, there are many different types of family structure and no one type is considered to be typical.

Secondary Texts	
What other significant texts are set in a dystopian future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1984 by George Orwell The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Democracy	
What is democracy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derived from the Greek 'dēmokratía' meaning 'the rule of the people' The right of citizens of a country to vote to decide who will govern them For example, in England, members of the public vote for members of parliament (MPs) to represent their local area. The political party with the most elected MPs forms the government which runs the country.

Free Will	
What is free will?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The freedom of humans to make independent choices about their own lives For example, we decide what job we want to have after we leave school.

