

Dystopian and Post Apocalyptic Fiction

Presented at ***RA in a Day*** by Sarah Dearman

What is it?

Dystopian and post apocalyptic fiction takes place in a future world where things have gone terribly wrong. Usually stories involve oppressive and controlling governments, or a disastrous situation that has destroyed the world as we know it (this can include environmental disaster, supernatural disasters, epidemics, and more.)

These stories are often a reaction to the world around us, where anxieties about modern issues such as social media, war, or the environment are explored and “what if?” scenarios are played out.

These are tales of survival where characters are forced to exist in a cruel new world. They usually feature rebellion in the form of one special and brave character who is smart enough and capable enough to take on the problem.

Why do people like it?

Dystopian and post apocalyptic fiction are often fast paced and action packed, full of world building, and might provide escapism for the reader.

Key Authors and Classic Titles

1984 by George Orwell, *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, *World War Z* by Max Brooks, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (teen).

Newer Releases

Station Eleven by Emily St John Mandel, *Red Rising Trilogy* by Pierce Brown, *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline, *Wool (Silo Series)* by Hugh Howey, *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi, *Ink and Bone* by Rachel Caine, *The Heart Goes Last* by Margaret Atwood

Tips and Tricks

- ✓ You will find these titles primarily in science fiction, but they can pop up all over the collection.
- ✓ Know what your reader is looking for because many of these titles are written in very different styles.
- ✓ Be aware of graphic novels.
- ✓ Movie tie-ins work well since many of these titles have been made into movies.
- ✓ Try recommending non-fiction.
- ✓ Don't forget about YA – many adults will enjoy these titles just as much as teens do.

Helpful Resources

Bibliocommons lists

NoveList Professional Toolbox

GoodReads

Hugo Awards

Nebula Awards