dystopian reading list

some of the best dystopian writing, old and new, selected by your school librarians.







Slated

Teri Terry

In a future England, sixteen-year-old Kyla is one of the "Slated," those whose memories have been erased, usually because they have committed serious crimes. As she observes strange events, she gains memories that put her in danger.

Keywords:

Crime & Punishment; Memory; Thriller

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:



IL: UY BL: 3.9

AR Pts: 12.0



Where the River Runs Gold

Sita Brahmachari

Shifa and her brother, Themba, live in Kairos City with their father, Nabil. The bees have long disappeared; instead children must labour on farms, pollinating crops by hand so that the nation can eat. The farm Shifa and Themba are sent to is hard and cruel. Themba won't survive there and Shifa comes up with a plan to break them out.

Keywords:

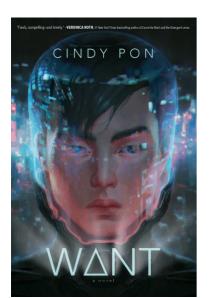
Adventure; Climate Change; Survival

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:



IL: MY BL: 6.1

AR Pts: 11.0



Want

Cindy Pon

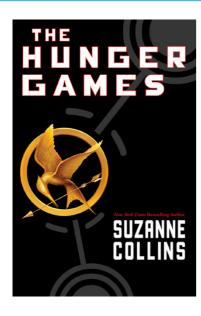
The city of Taipei in Taiwan becomes so polluted that special suits must be worn to withstand the toxic environment. The rich hoard and buy these special suits so they can live longer, while everyone else suffers. But Jason Zhou is determined to change that.

Keywords:

Adventure; Climate Change; Inequality; Romance; Science-Fiction

Available online via:





The Hunger Games

Suzanne Collins

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. But Katniss has been close to death before - and survival, for her, is second nature.

Keywords:

Action; Adventure; Post-Apocalyptic; Thriller; Romance

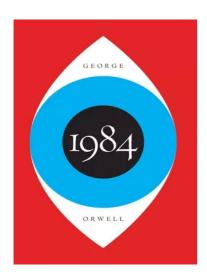
Available online via: Accelerated Reader:





IL: MY+ BL: 5.3

AR Pts: 15.0



1984

George Orwell

Winston Smith lives in a society where the government controls people's lives every second of the day. Alone in his small, one-room apartment, Winston dreams of a better life. Is freedom from this life of suffering possible? There must be something that the Party cannot control something like love, perhaps?

Keywords:

Authoritarianism; Modern Classic Literature; State Violence; Surveillance

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:





IL: UY BL: 8.9

AR Pts: 17.0



Shatter Me

Tahere Mafi

Ostracized her entire life, 17-year-old Juliette is freed from isolation and forced to support a post-apocalyptic dictatorship. Adam, the only person to show her affection, offers hope of a better life.

Keywords:

Post-Apocalyptic; Romance; Science Fiction

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:

RNIB

IL: UY BL: 6.1

AR Pts: 18.0



Internment

Samira Ahmed

Set in a horrifying near-future United States, seventeen-year-old Layla Amin and her parents are forced into an internment camp for Muslim American citizens. With the help of newly made friends, her boyfriend on the outside, and an unexpected alliance, Layla leads a revolution against the internment camp's Director and his guards.

Keywords:

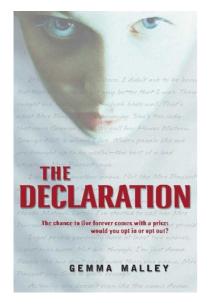
Islamaphobia; Social Justice; State Power

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:

RNIB
Bookshare

IL: UY
BL: 6.1





The Declaration

Gemma Malley

Anna Covey is a 'Surplus'. She should not have been born. In a society in which ageing is no longer feared, and death is no longer an inevitability, children are an abomination. Like all Surpluses, Anna is living in a Surplus Hall and learning how to make amends for the selfish act her parents committed in having her.

Keywords:

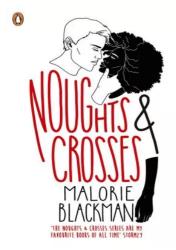
Love & Relationships; Morality; State Power

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:

RNIB
BOOKShare

IL: MY
BL: 6.2

AR Pts: 11.0



Noughts and Crosses

Malorie Blackman

Two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate society. Sephy is a Cross -- a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a Nought -- a "colourless" member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood, but that's as far as it can go.

Keywords:

Love & Relationships; Racism; Romance; State Power; Tragedy;

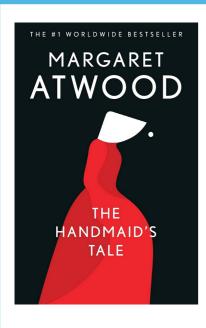
Available online via: Accelerated Reader:





IL: UY BL: 4.0

AR Pts: 14.0



The Handmaid's Tale

Margaret Atwood

In the futuristic Republic of Gilead, which is being ruled and policed by men, women are divided into classes based on their household functions

Keywords:

Modern Classic Literature; Gender Inequality; Sexism; Thriller

Available online via:

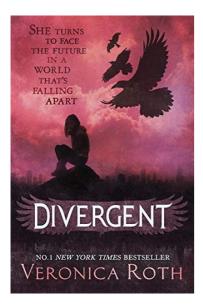




Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY BL: 5.4

AR Pts: 14.0



Divergent

Veronica Roth

In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice must choose among a faction, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is a does not fit into any one group. The plot contains graphic violence

Keywords:

Adventure; Social Class; Survival

Available online via:

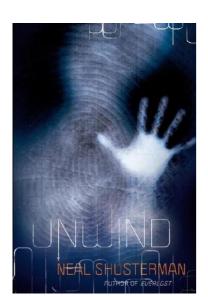




Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY BL: 4.8

AR Pts: 16.0



Unwind

Neal Shusterman

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs and, perhaps, save their own lives

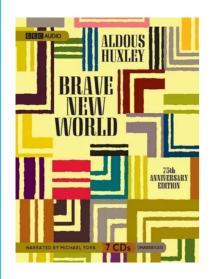
Keywords:

Adventure; Science Fiction; Survival

Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY BL: 5.0

AR Pts: 14.0



Brave New World

Aldous Huxley

Far in the future, the World Controllers have created the ideal society. Through clever use of genetic engineering, brainwashing and drugs, everyone is happy and content. Bernad Marx seems to be alone in his longing to break free! .

Keywords:

Modern Classic Literature; State Power; Thriller

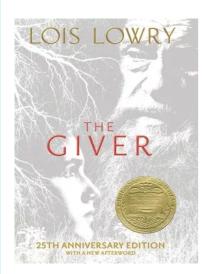
Available online via: Accelerated Reader:





IL: UY BL: 7.5

AR Pts: 11.0



The Giver

Lois Lowry

Since the "Sameness", society has lost all memory of the pains and emotions of the past. Humans are now emotionless. Jonas is selected to inherit the position of Receiver of Memory, the person who has access to all the past memories lost since the "Sameness". But is this burden too much for Jonas to handle?

Keywords:

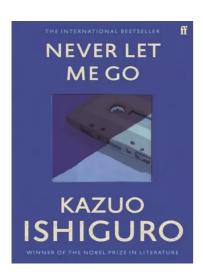
Memory; Morals; Thriller

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:





IL: MY BL: 5.7 AR Pts: 7.0



Never Let Me Go

Kazio Ishiguro

Hailsham seems like a pleasant English boarding school, far from the influences of the city. Its students are well tended and supported, trained in art and literature, and become just the sort of people the world wants them to be. But, curiously, they are taught nothing of the outside world and are allowed little contact with it.

Keywords:

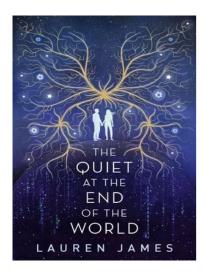
Love & Relationships; Mystery; Thriller

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:





IL: UY BL: 6.0 AR Pts: 16.0



The Quiet at the End of the World

Lauren James

Lowrie and Shen are the youngest people on the planet after a virus caused global infertility. Closeted in a pocket of London and doted upon by a small, ageing community, the pair spend their days looking for treasure - until a secret is uncovered.

Keywords:

LGBTQ+; Romance; Survival

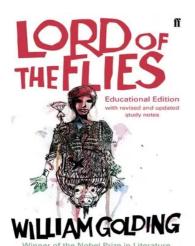
Available online via: Accelerated Reader:





IL: MY+ BL: 5.5

AR Pts: 12.0



Lord of the Flies

William Golding

Classic novel by a Nobel prize winner about a group of boys who, after a plane crash, set up a primitive society on an uninhabited island

Keywords:

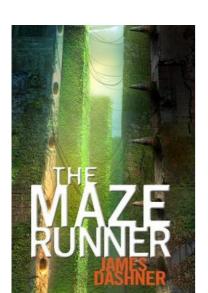
Adventure; Nature vs Nurture; Survival

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:





IL: UY BL: 5.0 AR Pts: 9.0



The Maze Runner

James Dashner

When the doors of the lift crank open, the only thing Thomas remembers is his first name. But he's not alone. He's surrounded by boys who welcome him to the Glade - a walled encampment at the centre of a bizarre and terrible stone maze.

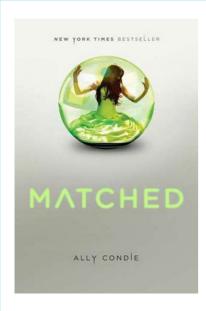
Keywords:

Action; Adventure; Science Fiction

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:



IL: UY BL: 5.3 AR Pts: 15.0



Matched

Allie Condie

On her seventeenth birthday, Cassia meets her Match. Society dictates he is her perfect partner for life. Except he's not. In Cassia's society, Officials decide who people love. How many children they have. Where they work. When they die. But, as Cassia finds herself falling in love with another boy, she is determined to make some choices of her own.

Keywords:

Love & Relationships; State Power

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:



IL: UY BL: 4.8

AR Pts: 13.0



Legend

Marie Lu

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, 15-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover they have a common enemy.

Keywords:

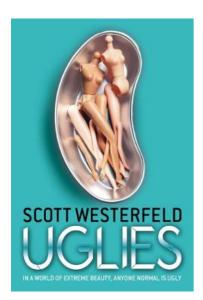
Adventure; War & Conflict

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:



IL: UY BL: 4.8

AR Pts: 11.0



Uglies

Scott Westerfeld

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. In just a few weeks she'll have the operation that will turn her from a repellent ugly into a stunning pretty. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to become a pretty. When Shay runs away, The authorities offer Tally a choice: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all.

Keywords:

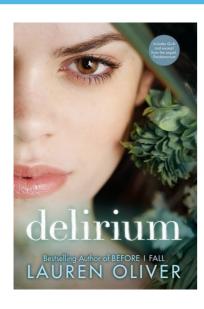
Body Image; State Power; Thriller

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:



IL: UY BL: 5.2

AR Pts: 13.0



Delirium

Lauren Oliver

In an alternate United States, love has been declared a dangerous disease, and the government forces everyone who reaches eighteen to have a procedure called the Cure.

Keywords:

Love & Relationships; Romance; State Power

Available online via: Accelerated Reader:

RNIB

IL: UY BL: 6.1

AR Pts: 15.0