

## DEFINITIONS

### **dystopia:**

An imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, as from deprivation or oppression or terror.

The opposite of utopia. An account of an undesirable future. The societies described in novels such as George Orwell's *1984*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and Eugene Zamyatin's *We* are considered dystopias.

Examples of dystopian stories and movies: *The Hunger Games*, *The Matrix*, *Blade Runner*, *Minority Report*, *V for Vendetta*, *Watchmen*.

### **utopia:**

An imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect. The word was first used in the book *Utopia* (1516) by Sir Thomas More.

Examples of utopian stories and movies: *Doctor Doolittle*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Truman Show*.

### **utopian and dystopian fiction:**

The *utopia* and its offshoot, the *dystopia*, are genres of literature that explore social and political structures. *Utopian fiction* is the creation of an ideal world, or utopia, as the setting for a novel. *Dystopian fiction* is the opposite: creation of a nightmare world, or dystopia. Many novels combine both, often as a metaphor for the different directions humanity can take in its choices, ending up with one of two possible futures. Both utopias and dystopias are commonly found in science fiction and other speculative fiction genres, and arguably are by definition a type of speculative fiction.