

Other Worlds

Imagining a More Perfect Future

Utopia
yoō'tōpēə/

noun

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.

Synonyms: paradise, heaven (on earth), Eden

Dystopia

dĭs-tō'pē-ə

noun

- 1** An imaginary place or state in which the condition of life is extremely bad, as from deprivation, oppression, or terror.
- 2** An imaginary society in which social or technological trends have culminated in a greatly diminished quality of life or degradation of values.

Unit Questions

- How do competing notions of what a **utopian** society should look like lead to conflict?
- What does **dystopian** fiction teach us about ourselves and society?
- How are scientific and technological advancements a blessing *and* a curse?
- What can we do to prevent society from becoming a dystopia?