Utopia and Dystopian Novels

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 society, or utopia, as the setting for a novel. Dystopian fiction is the opposite: creation of an utterly horrible or degraded society, or dystopia.

Utopia and Dystopia Essential Questions

- How would we define a utopian society?
- Has the concept of utopia changed over time and/or across cultures or societies?
- What are the ideals (e.g., freedom, responsibility, justice, community, etc.) that should be honored in a utopian society?
- Why do people continue to pursue the concept of a utopian society?
- How do competing notions of what a utopian society should look like lead to conflict?
- What are the purposes and/or consequence of creating and/or maintaining a dystopian society?
- Is utopia attainable? At what cost would it be worth attaining?
- By attempting to eradicate disease and disfigurement, are we moving toward or away from utopia?