

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 9 AND 10 WRITING/HANDOUT 3

GRAMMAR

REVIEW

1. Subject-verb Agreement

Notice the difference between singular and plural forms in the following examples:

Singular	Plural
The <u>student</u> <u>sings</u> . (He or she sings)	Your <u>children</u> <u>sing</u> . (They sing)
The <u>bird</u> <u>does</u> migrate. (It does)	Those <u>birds</u> <u>do</u> migrate. (They do)

2. Comma Splices/Run-on Sentences

A RUN-ON SENTENCE (sometimes called a "fused sentence") has at least two parts, either one of which can stand by itself (in other words, two independent clauses), but the two parts have been smooshed together instead of being properly connected.

The sun is high, put on some sunblock. (WRONG)

Corrections:

The sun is high, and so put on some sunblock (CORRECT)

The sun is high. Put on some sunblock. (CORRECT)

Because the sun is high, you should put on some sunblock. (CORRECT)

GRAMMAR: DANGLING AND CONFUSED MODIFIERS

Examples of Dangling Modifiers:

WRONG:

I was late for the school bus again. Running for the bus, my book fell in the mud.
(Was the *book* running for the school bus? It's the only nearby noun beside *mud*.)

CORRECT:

Running for the bus, I dropped the book and it fell in the mud.

WRONG:

Deciding to join the navy, the recruiter enthusiastically pumped Joe's hand.
(Was the *recruiter* deciding to join the navy? The only other option is *Joe's hand*.)

CORRECT:

Deciding to join the army, Joe enthusiastically pumped the recruiter's hand.

Examples of Confusing Misplaced Modifiers:

WRONG:

She claimed yesterday she saw a UFO.

(Did she see the UFO yesterday? Or did she *make the claim* yesterday? To be clear, we must rewrite the sentence.)

CORRECT:

Yesterday, she claimed that she saw a UFO. / She claimed that she saw a UFO yesterday.

WRONG:

The assembly line workers were told they had been fired by the personnel director.

(Did the personnel director tell the workers they had been fired? Or was he the one who actually fired them, and somebody else told them? It's not at all clear.)

CORRECT:

The assembly line workers were told by the middle management that they had been fired by the personnel director. / The assembly line workers were told by the personnel director that they had been fired.

Fix the following dangling and misplaced modifiers. (6 marks)

1. Having laid an egg weighing two pounds, the farmer proudly displayed his favorite ostrich before the photographers.

2. Stung by wasps, bees, or other such insects, powerful toxins can bring on allergic reactions so severe that people might die.

3. The veterinarian never returned our frantic phone calls. Having given birth to six kittens, my girlfriend anxiously watched her exhausted cat, Whiskers. I was uncertain if this behavior was normal.



4. Ugly, warty creatures with protruding noses and bat-like wings, architecture students find gargoyles endlessly fascinating as expressions of the grotesque.

5. There are many pictures of comedians hanging on the walls at Gavin's Restaurant. These images are of people who have performed there. He is an unusual host noted for his decorations.

6. The robber was described as a six foot-tall man with brown hair and blue eyes and a mustache weighing 150 pounds.

YOUR FICTIONAL SOUL MATE/BEST FRIEND/BFF/BF/GF

Who is your fictional soul mate/best friend/BFF/BF/GF? Create a Top 10 list – the character may be from books, anime, manga, movies, even video games. As you think about who to include in your Top 10 list, watch this YouTube presentation that may (or may not) inspire you:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xguLBmilOmg>



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Discussion: What would a night out with her/him be like?

Read the following article from wordandfilm.com and respond to the discussion prompts that follow.

APOCALYPSE 2.0: ON THE APPEAL OF YOUNG ADULT DYSTOPIAS

- by Keith Rice
- September 9, 2015



Still of Evan Ross, Liam Hemsworth, Sam Claflin, and Jennifer Lawrence in 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2'/Image © Lionsgate

With millions of books sold, countless successful adaptations made, and a nearly guaranteed spot on the bestseller lists for any well-written entry, dystopian fiction may very well be more popular now than any other time in the genre's existence - and this is particularly true for dystopian fiction tailored for the young adult set. It seems as if a new dystopian series hits the market or is adapted to the big screen every other week. The genre is loudly speaking to a particular generation; the question is: why?

Like most other genres, dystopian fiction is by no means a new or original concept. Like tales of vampires and werewolves, the tidal popularity of dystopias ebb and flow. The recent surge focused on young adults - and told from that perspective - is a relatively current trend. The classics of the genre - George Orwell's seminal *1984* or Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* for instance - generally feature adult protagonists and an adult perspective. However, the runaway success of 2008's *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins was followed by a deluge of quality, teen-centered dystopian fiction (*The Maze Runner* by James Dashner, Veronica Roth's *Divergent*, and *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi to name a notable few). There are myriad reasons for the rising popularity of YA dystopian fiction, but really it all traces back to one fact: Dystopian adventures are a perfect literary storm for adolescent readers.

There is a common thread that runs through the center of nearly all of the recently published dystopian fiction: a resourceful and determined yet marginalized adolescent struggling to find a voice and put right the failings of the adults who have doomed the world. In *The Hunger Games*, Katniss Everdeen fights against the tyrannical oppression of an authoritative government that does not value her existence. Tris Prior struggles to

come to terms with her seemingly conflicting identity within a claustrophobic and constricting social structure in *Divergent*. In *The Maze Runner*, Thomas fights to discover his identity in a world that he doesn't understand. These are resonant themes for someone stepping from the shelter of childhood and staring out over the precipice of the unforgiving realities of adulthood. It seems cliché to refer to adolescence as a difficult time, but it is indeed a universally shared experience - as are the stereotypical feelings of confusion, oppression, angst, and rebellion. There's a reason those feelings of isolation and being misunderstood are so prevalent in young adult fiction and film. From "Rebel without a Cause" and *The Catcher in the Rye* to *Paper Towns* and "Mean Girls," fans of word and film have long responded to angsty tales of youthful outsiders struggling to fit in.

On a more superficial - but no less valid - level, fiction of any sort is an inherently escapist pastime. Many of us turn to fiction for the immersive experience or the vicarious thrills and excitement. Whether it's an adventure novel or a suspenseful thriller or something in between, dystopian fiction is created to provide a combination of thrilling action and dread-inducing suspense. It is an appealing marriage particularly when set against the dark tones of typical dystopia, wherein a happy ending or eventual triumph is never guaranteed. Adolescence is undeniably a time of anxiety and perceived isolation. We've all struggled with the emerging and warring feelings and conflicts that ushered us inescapably toward the unknown realities of adulthood. The heroes of YA dystopian fiction are the ideal surrogate for the reader - confused and conflicted protagonists who are nonetheless valuable and resourceful fighting to be heard against the din of an overbearing adult society that not only doesn't understand them but has pushed the world beyond the brink and failed to pick up the pieces.

The rise in popularity of YA dystopian fiction speaks to the anxiety felt by a generation stepping into a seemingly ever more perilous society. It gives readers something to identify with as well as an outlet for feelings one cannot help but relate to - after all who hasn't felt marginalized at some point, or like an outsider in world that refuses to understand? YA dystopias are a perfect literary storm for the adolescent reader, but perhaps we should wonder instead what they say about the society these young adult readers will inherit.

Prompts

- In your opinion, why is YA dystopian fiction loudly speaking to a particular generation?
- Why are "[d]ystopian adventures are a perfect literary storm for adolescent readers"?
- "There is a common thread that runs through the center of nearly all of the recently published dystopian fiction: a resourceful and determined yet marginalized adolescent struggling to find a voice and put right the failings of the adults who have doomed the world." Agree/disagree? Explain.

- “It seems cliché to refer to adolescence as a difficult time, but it is indeed a universally shared experience - as are the stereotypical feelings of confusion, oppression, angst, and rebellion.” Agree/disagree? Explain.
- “Whether it's an adventure novel or a suspenseful thriller or something in between, dystopian fiction is created to provide a combination of thrilling action and dread-inducing suspense.” Agree/disagree? Explain.
- “The heroes of YA dystopian fiction are the ideal surrogate for the reader - confused and conflicted protagonists who are nonetheless valuable and resourceful fighting to be heard against the din of an overbearing adult society that not only doesn't understand them but has pushed the world beyond the brink and failed to pick up the pieces.” Agree/disagree? Explain.

THE END