

In a small Indiana town called Hawkins, things get weird when a boy named Will Byers vanishes into a dark, mirror dimension called the Upside Down. His friends—Mike, Dustin, and Lucas—go looking for him and find Eleven, a girl with superpowers who escaped from a secret government lab. With the help of Eleven and the local police chief, Hopper, they rescue Will from a monster called the Demogorgon.

But the trouble doesn't stop there. Over the next few years, a giant smoke-monster called the Mind Flayer tries to invade our world by possessing people (including Will and a bully named Billy). The "party" grows to include new friends like Max and Steve, and they eventually close the portal, though it seemingly costs Hopper his life—until we find out he's actually trapped in a Russian prison.

The biggest threat arrives in the form of Vecna, a creepy humanoid who was once the first-ever psychic kid at the lab (Number One). He begins killing teens to open massive cracks in reality. We learn that Eleven actually sent him to the Upside Down years ago, inadvertently creating the link between worlds. In a massive battle, the kids fail to stop Vecna completely; he opens a giant gate that begins tearing Hawkins apart. Max is left in a coma, and the Upside Down starts "bleeding" into the real world. Now, the gang is reunited in a broken Hawkins, preparing for one final war to save their home and the world.