



# THE HISTORY OF STORYTELLING

# Janet H. Murray

- Janet Horowitz
- 6/8/1946
- NYC, USA
- Digital Media
- Harvard University
- Dystopia and Utopia



*“I find myself anticipating a new kind of storyteller, on who is half hacker, half bard.”*



# DYSTOPIA

A dystopian cityscape with a river, construction cranes, and a large fire in the foreground. The scene is dark and atmospheric, with a large fire burning in the lower right foreground, casting a bright orange glow. In the background, a city is visible with a river winding through it. Several tall buildings are under construction, with cranes and scaffolding visible. The sky is overcast and grey.

- Disaster
- Chaos

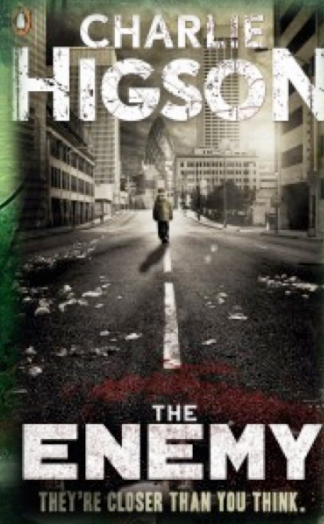
Highlight the most  
negative sides of  
society

**DYSTOPIA**



# DYSTOPIA

Used in storytelling to describe a world falling a part





# UTOPIA

- Paradise
- Perfection

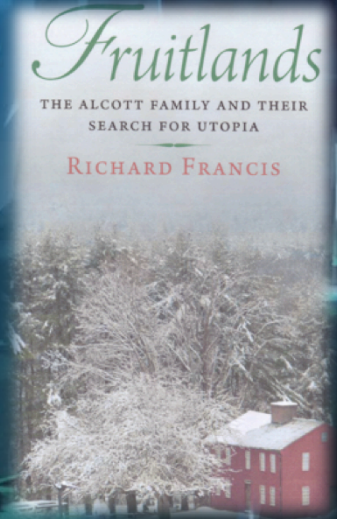
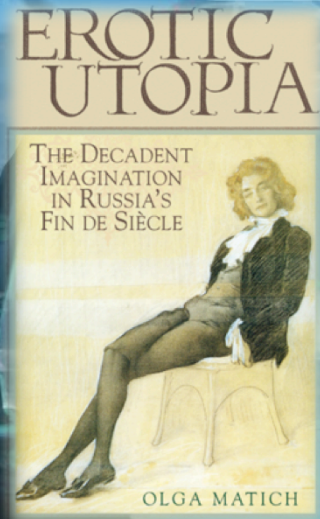
The ideal republic towards what we should all strive





# UTOPIA

Used in storytelling to describe paradise





# REAL WORLD

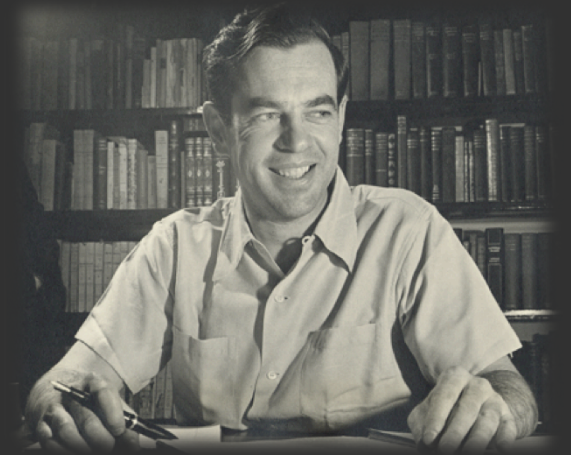
Dystopia & Utopia **DON'T EXIST**



“There is always something bad at the best places and something good at the worst places”

# Joseph Campbell

- Joseph John Campbell
- March 26, 1904 - October 30, 1987  
(aged 83)
- Columbia University
- American mythologist, writer and lecturer
- “The Hero with a Thousand Faces”
- 12 steps of the hero’s journey



*“When you find a writer who really is saying something to you, read everything that writer has written and you will get more education and depth of understanding out of that than reading a scrap here and a scrap there and elsewhere.”*



# The 12 steps of hero's journey



1. Ordinary world

2. The call of adventure

3. Refuse the call

4. Meeting the mentor

5. Crossing the first threshold

6. Test, allies and enemies

7. Approach the inmost cave

8. Ordeal

9. Reward

10. The road back

11. Resurrection of hero

12. Return with elixir



# The 12 steps of hero's journey

The 12 steps of the hero's journey is used in storytelling to describe the story of a hero.



IRON MAN 3



HARRY POTTER



Selina Kyle / Catwoman



WONDER WOMAN

FANTASTIC 4  
SILVER LINING  
MARVEL



# REAL WORLD



In the real world superheroes **DON'T EXIST**



# STORYTELLING



UTOPIA  
HTd01SLd

To create a good story you need to include Dystopia/Utopia and mythology.



In movies and books storytelling is used to bring the audience to a fantasy world.



Storytelling is about entertaining.



Storytelling is not about real life.



# Storytelling is about Fantasy

**FANTASY IS A NECESSARY  
INGREDIENT IN LIVING. IT'S A  
WAY OF LOOKING AT LIFE  
THROUGH THE WRONG END  
OF A TELESCOPE.**

~ DR. SEUSS



THINK  
DROPS

**“Stories tell us of what we  
already knew and forgot,  
and remind us of what we  
haven't yet imagined.”**

Anne L. Watson

**We cannot  
create a world  
we can't imagine  
and stories are  
the engines of  
our imaginations.**

*“Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today”*