

THE NOBEL PRIZE

In-depth assignment: Utopias and Dystopias

Kazuo Ishiguro: Technology and Humanity

The author Kazuo Ishiguro is fascinated by what technology means for humanity. The rapid developments in artificial intelligence, big data and genetic manipulation have had an impact on human beings and created new opportunities for us. But what kind of worlds and people does Ishiguro write about? Are they dystopian, utopian or something else?



Here are some ideas for more in-depth study of utopias and dystopias using two stories by Nobel Prize laureate author Kazuo Ishiguro.



Never Let Me Go

Watch the film *Never Let Me Go* and discuss the following questions:

- Like the book it's based on, the film has been called a dystopia. Why do you think that is?
- What does the world these youths live in look like? What has the author developed from our own world in a terrifying way?
- In 2017, Kazuo Ishiguro was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature because he, “in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world.” Do you think this description applies to the film *Never Let Me Go* as well? If so, how?



Klara and the Sun

Read the novel *Klara and the Sun* and discuss the following questions:

- Is *Klara and the Sun* a utopia or a dystopia? Why?
- What does the world Klara describes look like? What distinguishes it from our own world?
- How would you describe Klara at the end of the story? Has she changed in some way?
- In 2017, Kazuo Ishiguro was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature because he, “in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world.” Do you think this description applies to *Klara and the Sun* as well? If so, how?