A moral or a lesson is a common convention in stories. In what ways and for what purposes have at least two of your chosen authors either adhered to or subverted this convention?

From an early age, children are taught the importance of being taught the moral of the story through brief and easy to comprehend fairy tales. These short stories help build a child's conscience, and the moral of the story is basic enough to be able to apply it to real-life situations. Children develop the philosophy that if they treat others with care and compassion, they'll soon be indulged in a "happily ever after" ending. Although the majority of stories teach others about the importance of doing the right thing, some of the most important life-long lessons are learned through doing the wrong thing. A few authors intentionally change up their story plots so that the endings of their story stories may shock their readers and teach them important lessons on life. Both, Margaret Atwood and George Orwell, purposely change the endings to *Drys, Drax* and *Crake and 1984* to shock readers and teach them vital, life-long lessons.

The first important lesson taught in *Drys, Drax* and *Crake and 1984* is that sometimes life is unfair. Many of the characters in both stories are faced with difficult challenges as their lives progress. In *1984*, Winston is supeossed under the power of Big Brother and the Inner Party. Winston
lives in a dystopia where the citizens are terribly controlled, and society was bland. Tactless creativity, and cultures were bland. In the beginning, Winston demonstrated several rebellious characteristics. He wrote, "Down with Big Brother" and committed several illegal acts, not caring if the Thought Party or the Ministry of Truth/Love/War would catch him. The protagonist quickly traded sides by the end of the novel, after being released from the torturing O'Brien, in the Ministry of Love. Orwell purposely makes Winston start off as a brave rebel, and slowly transforms him into a brainwashed coward to show readers the dangers of allowing communism to spread. People who experience life living under the reign of a dictatorship learn that life can be unfair. The most part. Atwood takes a more interesting approach to teach readers that life can be unfair. In Oryx and Crake, a seemingly intelligent young man named Crake is introduced. Crake invents the "perfect" human and the "perfect" pill. The Crakers and Blyss Plus Pill are designed to allow mankind to enjoy two things: pleasure and health. The Crakers were people that were designed with the following features: resistance to diseases, a limited time to live, and no surpassed intelligence. The
Cravers would essentially die once they reached the age of 30, they stayed healthy, and they attained no virtually no intelligence (so they could not try to invent a new species of humans—such as Crake). The Prostrix Pill was a permanent contraceptive that prevented all STDs and increased sex drive. Crake’s new inventions seemed to make life a better, however, nothing is perfect. The permanent contraceptive in the pills ended up rapidly decreasing populations and everybody died, or got sick when new diseases spread. The rapid plot-twist in Atwood’s novel shows readers the dangers of playing the role of “god.” Life is meant to have downfall; so that the perks are enjoyed, life is not always fair for everyone.

The second lesson taught in both stories is on love. Although both authors elaborate on straightforward, focused descriptions of characters, only a fraction of characters are truly in “love.” Orwell focuses more on the sexual encounters between Winston and Julia, as well as Atwood does with Oryx and Jimmy, however, by the end, 1984, Winston and Julia betray each other and openly admit that they both lose feelings for the other, whereas, in Oryx and Crake, Oryx and Jimmy share a discrete connection until Oryx’s failure. The love that Winston
and Julia Share at the beginning is fueled by the passion they both have towards defeating the Party. Orwell clearly demonstrates how a relationship that is built on sex, and not love, can crumble quickly. Atwood shows readers the opposite of Orwell; although Onyx and Jimmy never had an established relationship due to her being in one with Crake, it is evident that Jimmy truly loved and respected Onyx, despite the fact that they only had casual sex. Both authors also demonstrate how even a loved one can betray you, and how the feeling of love is temporary. In 1984, Winston and Julia are both tortured would rather betray each other, despite promising they wouldn't, than be tortured. In Onyx and Crake, Crake slits Onyx's throat and Moira kills her, despite the fact that he loved her. Both novels accurately depict how the course of love never runs smoothly, and how it's full of unexpected surprises.

The final lesson that both stories accurately demonstrate is based on friendship. While the friendships in 1984 seem genuine, they end up being fake, and the friendships in Onyx and Crake seem unlikely, but end up being honest and real. Winston and Julia both befriended Mr. Charrington
And they began renting the room above him. Mr. Cherrington wields up betraying them and having both arrested. Winston also befriends O'Brien with high hopes in joining The Brotherhood, but it turns out that The Brotherhood, as well as his friendship with O'Brien, is all make-believe. O'Brien turns out to be the person that tortures Winston. Growing up, Jimmy had never had any real friends. His only friend was his pet rakunk (a mix between a skunk and a raccoon) that his father brought home from work once. However, his mother ends up releasing him to the wild. In high school, Jimmy meets Crake and they instantly become friends. Their friendship seems unlikely because Crake is mature, and highly talented, and very smart — the opposite of Jimmy, but both characters seem to get along well. Crake comforts Jimmy after the departure of his mom and even helps Jimmy up with a job. Their friendship takes an unexpected turn at the end when Jimmy shoots Crake to death. Both authors focus on displaying the importance of trust in friendships, and they both show how quickly trust can be broken and how people betray one another. The unexpected endings to 1984 and
Orux and Crave shock readers and effectively teach them life-long lessons. Orwell and Atwood display morals about life, love, and friendships in their works. Both authors use the unexpected plots to teach readers about the unfairness of life. They also use themes of sex, 70 and loyalty to teach readers about the downfalls of love. Finally, the authors use trust to teach readers about friendships and how quickly they may be lost or end. These stories stand out from fairy tales because they instead of being told from an optimistic point of view and resulting in a happy ending, they teach their readers about the harsh realities of life and are told from a realistic point of view.