

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?

09

From an early age, children ~~are~~<sup>learn</sup> 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, that they'll soon be indulged in a "happily ~~and~~ ever after" ending. Although the majority of stories teach others ~~an~~ about the importance of doing the right thing, some of the most important life-long lessons are ~~learned~~<sup>taught</sup> through doing the wrong thing. A few authors intentionally change up their story plots so that the endings of their story stories ~~can~~ may shock their readers, and teach them important lessons on life. Both, Margaret Atwood and George Orwell, purposely change the endings to Dryx and Crake and 1984 to shock readers and teach them vital, life-long lessons.

The first important lesson taught in Dryx 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 suppressed under the power of Big Brother and the Inner Party. Winston



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lives are  
lived in a dystopia where the citizens were  
terribly controlled, and society was bland  
lacked <sup>lacks</sup> creativity, and cultures were <sup>are</sup> bland  
In the beginning, Winston ~~demonstrated~~ <sup>demonstrated</sup> ~~secret~~.

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 re-  
leased from the torturing of O'Brien, in the  
Ministry of Love. Orwell purposely makes Winston  
start off as a brave rebel, and slowly  
transforms him into a brain washed & coward  
to show readers the dangers of allowing  
communism to spread. People who experience  
& living under the reign of a dictator-  
ship learn that life can be unfair, for  
the most part. Atwood takes a more inter-  
esting 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 BlissPlus Pill are designed  
to allow mankind to enjoy two things:  
pleasure and health. <sup>with virtually no consequences.</sup>  
The Crakers were  
people that were designed with the following  
features: resistance to diseases, a limited time  
to live, and no surpassed intelligence. The

endless



Crakers ~~were~~ <sup>would</sup> 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 BlissPlus 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 ~~diseased~~ diseases spread. The rapid plot twist in Atwood's novel shows readers the dangers <sup>and consequences</sup> of playing the role of "God." Life is meant to have downfalls, 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 <sup>Two straightforward, focused depictions of</sup> ~~the~~ relationships between <sup>the</sup> characters, <sup>lessons in novels.</sup> only ~~a~~ ~~relationship~~ ~~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~~ 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 off sex, and not <sup>true</sup> love, can crumble quickly. Atwood shows readers how the opposite of Orwell; although Onyx and Jimmy never had an established relationship due to her <sup>current</sup> <sup>status</sup> 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 ~~Onyx~~ kills her, despite the fact that he loved her. Both novels accurately depict how the course of love never runs smoothly, and how its 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 ~~be~~ befriended Mr. Charrington



and they began renting the room above him. Mr. Charrington winds up betraying them and having both <sup>characters</sup> 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 ~~and~~ never had any real friends. His only friend was his pet rakunk (a mix between a skunk and a racoon) that his ~~pop~~ <sup>father</sup> brought him home from work once, however, his mother ends up releasing him to the wild. In high school, Jimmy meets Crake and they instantly ~~become~~ became 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 hooks Jimmy up with a job. Their friendship takes an unexpected turn at the end when Jimmy shoots Crake to death. ~~to~~ 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



Orwell and Crake 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 ~~the~~ themes of sex ~~to~~ 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~~ start or end. These stories stand out from fairy tales because ~~it~~ 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.

