

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

~~Lessons, structure~~
Lessons give stories meaning and purpose; they allow the audience to fully understand the purpose of what they are reading. Lessons are important but when an author strays away from the convention of having a moral, it is far more significant. Both George Orwell's 1984 and Margaret Atwood's Oryx and Crake exemplify ~~these~~ this subversion of convention. Although in both novels the audience is ~~more~~ pushed to believe that there will be a lesson to be learned, this false path is what tricks the readers and surprises (maybe even upsets) them, when there is a change. Both Atwood's Oryx and Crake and Orwell's 1984 merge away from the convention of obtaining overall morals through their misleading language and elements in order to truly connect to the audience.

Symbolism is used prominently in Oryx and Crake and 1984 in order to trick the audience into thinking there will be an outstanding lesson. In 1984 there are many symbols of hope. The proles, for example, ~~are~~ are a symbol of hope due to their lack of government and their great numbers. When Winston, the main supposed protagonist, says that if there was hope for rebellion it was in the proles, it gives the reader the idea that the moral of the story is that there is power in numbers. When Winston meets Julia and they have sex without the intention of having kids,



this fornication becomes a symbol of hope because it empowers Winston to rebel. This symbol leads the reader to believe that maybe love can defeat all things or that small acts of rebellion can help in war. All of these symbols get taken away near the end; the proles stop singing, and Julia is separated from Winston causing the audience to reevaluate the purpose of the novel. Oryx and Crake also does this with symbols of hope. The children of Crake, or the Crakers, are supposed to be the hope for a new and better life after the fall of humans in the post-apocalypse. If they are the hope, maybe the moral of the story is: in order to create a utopia, the world must start over. This lesson is crushed when ~~the narrator~~ ~~is~~ ~~telling~~ ~~the~~ ~~story~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~audience~~ ~~is~~ ~~questioning~~ ~~the~~ ~~purpose~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~story~~ Jimmy (otherwise known as Snowman but will be called Jimmy) tells false stories to the Crakers. In both cases the point is to really make the audience question the purpose of the ~~story~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~lessons~~. Maybe the point is to say humanity wastes their time on such things like figuring out morals.

The third person narrative in both novels creates a sense of ~~the~~ uncertainty which makes one question the morals being said. In both cases, the narration is pretty unreliable. In Oryx and Crake, ~~the~~ ~~narrator~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~audience~~ ~~has~~ ~~to~~ ~~trust~~ ~~the~~ ~~narrator~~ because it is not Jimmy but this becomes difficult when the narrator revises the story from



time to time. Not only is this extremely unconventional but it ~~also~~ creates uncertainty. How can one believe any morals or lessons that the ~~narrator~~ novel brings up when the narrator has the power to change them or push fake ones to the audience? The narrator in 1984 is also suspicious due to the content in the book.

Throughout the novel there is surveillance everywhere and propaganda posters yelling "Big Brother is Watching". The fact that Winston is not narrating pushes the idea that the narrator could be from the Party and is spreading lies and forcing propaganda to the readers. The audience, similar to Oryx and Crake, can't trust the possible lessons of the "protagonist", especially when in the end Winston ends up loving Big Brother, contrary to his previous opinions. If there are any lessons, they cannot be trusted which to an extent creates a lack of morals.

Another element that creates a lack of lessons in both novels are the paradoxes used. In 1984, there are the slogans, like "War is Peace" and "Ignorance is Strength". In Oryx and Crake there are paradoxes like ~~the~~ the Clock with zero hour and Snowmen living on a beach in "Paradise". These paradoxes make the novels, once again, unreliable. A clock's ~~purpose~~ purpose is to tell time but it has zero hour. This misleading language makes the piece meaningless. "War is peace" is already kind of a lesson but



because it's a paradox, it loses meaning.

~~The~~ The misleading ~~and~~ and unreliable ~~elements~~ elements in Oryx and Crake and 1984 combine for the purpose of losing overall lessons in order to ~~connect~~ ~~point~~ connect to the audience in a broader sense. Humans strive for meaning and due to the lack of morals in both novels, both authors question the point of doing so. Society wastes their time looking for purpose or rhyme and reason and it leads to disappointment and failure. When novels don't include lessons or merges away from having them, they are questioning Society's need for them in general.

