

“What If...” Activity

In a dystopian world, the government or those in power, solve problems by imposing rules for the entire population in an attempt, supposedly, to make the situation better. Often the solution leads to more or worse problems.

- In the book *Invitation to the Game* one of the problems of this future society is lack of jobs and wide spread unemployment for a majority of the population. The Government solves the problem by institutionalizing welfare and preselecting the few individuals who awarded jobs.
- In the book *Delirium*, the government has decided that a cause of many social problems is that people are making bad decisions based on love, and has therefore devised a medical procedure to remove that emotion from individuals.
- In *Among the Hidden*, overpopulation is a problem that the government solves by instituting a rule against having more than two children.
- The book *The Limit* takes place in a world where debt is out of control, so the government strictly monitors spending and imposes consequences on families that cannot keep to their budgets. One consequence is that teenage children must go to workhouses in order to work off the family debts.
- In *True Sight*, genetic engineering has created a society where everyone is blind because the authority has decided that sight leads to temptation, greed and corruption.

So consider what solution you would develop for these problems, or other ones you can think of, and what new problems could your solution cause?

- What if the world was running out of water?
- What if the world was running out of oil?
- What if the ozone layer was disappearing?
- What if