

THE NOBEL PRIZE

In-depth: Utopias and Dystopias

Film: Kjell Espmark on Utopia, Dystopia and the Nobel Prize

What is the relationship between utopias, dystopias and the Nobel Prize? Are there more utopian or dystopian stories among the laureates of the Nobel Prize in Literature?



Author Kjell Espmark is a member of the Swedish Academy, which selects the laureate each year of the Nobel Prize in Literature. He has dug through the archives of the Nobel Prize, and in the film *Kjell Espmark on Utopia and Dystopia in the History of the Nobel Prize* he gives a short presentation in which he describes what he came up with.

Photo: © The Swedish Academy



The film is about 10 minutes long. You can find it here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZuz9D4ik8Y>



Watch the film and work with the following questions:

What examples of utopias or dystopias by Nobel Prize-awarded authors does Kjell Espmark give?

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Why do you think that utopias and dystopias have been given so little attention during the history of the Nobel Prize, especially during its first fifty years?

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