

The Silver Synopsis Project

A *synopsis* is a work that appears to be perfect, but turns out to be hiding a terrible secret. Usually, we think things are going well at first and then one of the characters gets suspicious. We are going to be reading a synopsis together in class, and you will read one book and watch one movie on your own.

Video Choices

The Island (2005) (Steven McQueen, Scarlett Johansson PG-13 106 minutes)

A mysterious contamination has wiped out all life on earth, except for one last few who live in a special facility and dream of winning the lottery to go to The Island, where they will re-populate the Earth. One of the inhabitants gets suspicious when he discovers a flying insect, and the mystery of what things are not quite what they seem.

The Truman Show (1998) (Jim Carrey PG 104 minutes)

Truman Burbank is living the American dream. He has a nice house and a beautiful wife and a good nice job. He lives in a suburb near Manhattan and has good friends hanging out with his best friend, but he's secretly afraid of the ocean. One day, a light falls from the sky and Truman begins to wonder why his life is so perfect.

House on Haunted Hill (1999) (Johnny Depp PG-13 (some sexually suggestive material) 118 minutes)

How could life be better than a life on a island? Two teenage girls find out when a magic remote sends them into a video television show, where their lives are filmed on the tube screen every night and all the kid has to worry about is who will be who to the show. Everything is in black and white. Sound familiar?

Book Choices

Synopsis has become a very popular genre for young adult books. Here are some favorites.

Among the Hidden Margaret Peterson Haddix

Due to overpopulation, each family can only have one child. Extra children have to stay hiding from the Population Police.

The Hunger Gary Shtern Collier

This is the worst reality show ever! Something terrible has happened to the planet, and the people that are left are nearly starving. To make sure the privileged have enough, the poor are kept isolated in sections, and their children compete for survival in a reality show where the prize is their food.

Believe by Jennifer

There is not only evil. Children are raised in the home of the infant until they are given their job by the Council of Mothers. "Shouldn't you be happy being a street newspaper?"