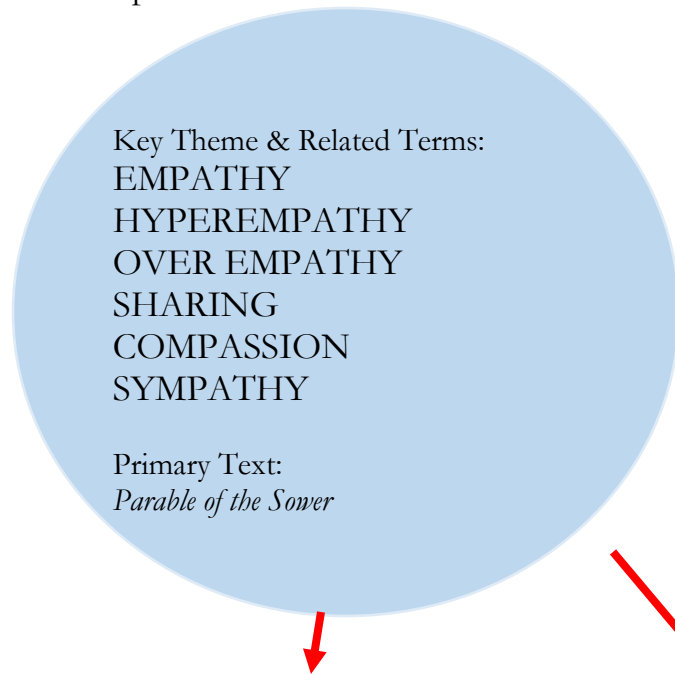


# Writing 101: Dystopian Literature

## Theme Exploration



## Making Connections:

### Sub-themes/topics: *what sub-themes/topics of interest emerge for you?*

- “hyperempathy syndrome”
- Stigma & mental illness
- Religion vs. psychology
- Gender & psychology
- Strength / weakness

### Historical/Social Connections: *how might you relate your theme to historical events, social phenomena, or social movements?*

- Interactions between caregivers (psychologists) and patients in mental health care settings
- Who has access to mental health care? What are the health barriers/obstacles for minority populations seeking mental health services (historical & present)?
- Over-pathologizing of mental illness

### Theoretical Connections: *what theories might intersect with your theme (ex. feminist? Marxist?)?*

- Freud & psychological theory of empathy
- Feminism

### Scholarly & Disciplinary Connections: *Who studies this? What disciplines might intersect with your theme? Are there any particular scholars you can identify?*

- Psychology / Mental Health (Freud) – are there disorders related to over empathy / lack of empathy?
- Global Health
- Social Psychology / Sociology

### What passages, details, events, and/or characters from the novel relate to the theme:

- Lauren’s “hyperempathy syndrome” / sharing
- “Hyperempathy is what doctors call an “organic delusional syndrome” (page #)
- How is Lauren treated differently because of her ‘hyperempathy’?
  - Lauren’s brother Keith tricks her into sharing by faking injuries (page #)
  - Lauren’s father is dismissive of her illness (page #)
  - Stigma of inheriting illness from her “drug damaged” mother; illness not discussed outside the family (page #)
- Comparison of Lauren’s situation compared with those people outside the community (e.g. homeless population)
- Does religion and/or community act as a suitable surrogate for treatment of Lauren’s mental illness?