

## Totalitarian Regime and the Three R's: Rebellion, Resistance, and Revolution in YA Dystopian Novels

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- YA Fiction
- Dystopia
- Resistance
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### Abstract

*In the age of science and technological development, Young Adult (YA) literature has undergone a fascinating transformation. This article delves into the study of the post-apocalyptic YA dystopian fiction, A Whisper of Horses (2016) by Zillah Bethall and Outwakers (2018) by Fiona Shaw. The study employed Foucault's three fundamental concepts of disciplinary techniques, power/knowledge, and subjectification to understand the concepts of resistance, rebellion, and revolution. The textual analysis by closely analyzing the words, visuals, literary techniques, and relevant sections of the text highlights how young adults and their small acts of rebellion against the totalitarian regime snowball into a revolutionary movement. The young subjects represent a collective community that shares the same experiences and fosters the narratives to challenge the dominant oppressive powers. The study contributes to highlight the potential of YA dystopian fiction that can inspire critical thinking, social change, and collective effort against injustice.*

## 1. Introduction

Young Adult literature is “fiction that deeply resonates with the unique experiences and challenges faced by adolescents” (What’s YAL). The prominent themes and issues that the young adult fiction addresses include urgent social and global issues such as liberty and self-determination, environmental destruction and looming catastrophe, questions of identity, and the increasingly fragile boundaries between technology and the self. The text is “directed at young readers, who are trying to understand the world and their place in it” (Arter, 2015). Talking about how YA literature is different from children’s literature, R. S. Trites, an expert in the study of YAL, opines that this genre of literature “tend[s] to interrogate social constructions, foregrounding the relationship between the society and the individual rather than focusing on self and self-discovery as children’s literature does” (18). Stefanie Van Melckebeke, differentiates between the characters in Dystopian fiction and young adult dystopian fiction stating, “...classic dystopian characters commonly are unable to rebel against the totalitarian regime, young adult dystopian protagonists are able to defy the system” (2018, p.18). YA literature has had a rich tradition since the 1940s and has attracted the interest of scholars and researchers. Over the years, a number of subgenres in YAL have emerged, and one such subgenre is YA dystopian fiction. The success of *Hunger Games*, *The Twilight Saga*, and *Divergent* as novels directed at young adult readers and their screen adaptations have led to the immense popularity of the genre. Osterland, in his research, states that a noticeable shift can be seen after the 1990s in YA dystopian novels, where the novels tend to address more serious and darker themes, including social and political problems including violence (120).

This article analyzes the two post-apocalyptic young adult dystopian novels, *A Whisper of Horses* by Zilah Bethall and *Outwalkers* by Fiona Shaw, exploring Michael Foucault’s concept of how, in a totalitarian regime, rebellion gives way to revolution. The term totalitarianism was first used by Benito Mussolini, who defined it as “Everything in the State, nothing outside the State, nothing against the State” (Mussolini, 1932). Suggesting a state that holds the ultimate power over its subjects, in other words, is a sovereign model of power. Hannah Arendt sums up the idea in *The Origins of Totalitarianism* by stating, “The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the dedicated communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction, true and false, no longer exists” (Arendt, 1951).

This study brings critical attention to Young Adult Dystopian Fiction, which is often overlooked in academic research. While existing scholarship frequently analyses popular young adult dystopian works, especially those adapted into films, non-mainstream novels in this genre have yet to receive comparable critical and scholarly attention. Given the general lack of academic inquiry into non-popular young adult dystopian literature, this study makes a meaningful contribution by elucidating theoretical constructions of power and the young people’s struggles against it. Analyzing overlooked literary works expands scholarly discourse and enables more inclusive interpretations of how contemporary authors bring forth the struggles and resistance of the young generation in dystopian societies. The way they learn to negotiate with power, the existing power structure, and authority figures in their lives is the ultimate knowledge and skill that makes them complete and aware members of society.

### 1.1. Research Objectives

- To study the presence and nature of acts of defiance in the selected texts and the underlying dynamics of subject's rebellious actions against the totalitarian regime.
- To investigate and ascertain the subjects' awareness of their circumstances and individual acts of resistance that pave the way towards a collective revolutionary movement.

## 2. Literature Review

This section gives a critical review of the existing scholarly research on the selected texts, including Dystopian Fiction and Young Adult Fiction. It aims to lay a solid basis for the subsequent analysis by outlining the state of the research in this field and showcasing how the selected novels fit into and contribute to the broader discourse when evaluated through the framework of Foucault's concept of resistance and revolution.

Hashmi et al. (2021) in the deconstructive analysis of Adiga's *White Tiger* argue that the protagonist challenges and even restructures the power relations in his struggle of resistance against power exposing the despotic social and political order. Hussain and Azam (2021) through Marxist critique of *Manchild in the Promised Land* explain that the hegemony of the powerful is maintained through manipulative and discursive strategies. However they claim that this hegemony is faced with a strong resistance and is countered by more or less same manipulative tactics to counter the hegemony of the powerful groups.

Sean P. Connors (2017) explores the issue of monitoring in young adult dystopian fiction using the ideas of Michel Foucault and Michel de Certeau to analyze *Little Brother* by Corey Doctorow, the *Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins, and *Feed* by M. T. Anderson. His study focuses on how characters deal with authority and frequently switch between being compliant and being resistant. Darren Dillman's (2020) study investigates the essential roles that memory and technology play in promoting resistance and challenges to coercive means of control. The importance of public memory is emphasized to subvert the official state narratives. His research illuminates the importance of resistance in dystopian writing and the intricate relationships between memory, technological advances, and narrative structures in the genre (Dillman, 2020).

A similar concept was looked upon by Eva Solina Gultom and Syifa Salsabila (2023), who launched an investigation into the fundamental concepts of control and resistance in dystopian literature. Analyzing Cecelia Ahern's *Flawed* they explore how the government's control machinery including surveillance, limits subjects freedom. Their study reveals that dystopian stories serve as "strategies of warning," highlighting the effects of unresolved societal crises and drawing comparisons to totalitarian governments in the actual world (Gultom & Salsabila, 2023). Jill Westfal examined the thematic underpinnings of dystopian fiction norms and orders, control and manipulation, sacrifices, rebellion and resilience. In light of the review of related literature, it can be observed that the way young adults negotiate with the use of authority and control needs scholarly engagement. This paper delves into the study of young adult subjects in the totalitarian regimen.

### 3. Research Methodology

The theoretical framework of the present study has been adapted from Michel Foucault's theory of Biopolitics and Biopower. Further narrowing down the idea, in analyses of the concept of resistance and revolution, the study explores how power dynamics give rise to different forms of resistance. From the individual level to the collective revolutionary movements, Foucault's idea of disciplinary power and resistance against them is the main focus of the study. In *The Subject and Power*, Foucault provides insight into the modes of resistance and the possible underlying dynamics. He claims that this resistance is not just "anti-authority struggles" (Foucault, 1982, p. 780) against specific institutions but against the forms of power that shape individuals and their lived experiences. He says,

The main objective of these struggles is to attack not so much 'such or such' an institution of power, or group, or elite, or class but rather a technique, a form of power. This form of power applies itself to immediate everyday life which categorizes the individual, marks him by his own individuality, attaches him to his own identity, imposes a law of truth on him which he must recognize and which others have to recognize in him. It is a form of power which makes individuals subjects. (1982, p. 781)

The analysis explores the working of power structures in the selected texts and the struggle of characters who navigate, resist, rebel, and give rise to a revolution against totalitarian powers. Focusing on overt and subtle forms and levels of resistance, the study also examines how the characters exercise resisting agency and what are the underlying dynamics behind their actions. The study emphasizes Foucault's three fundamental concepts of disciplinary techniques, power/knowledge, and subjectification to understand the concepts of resistance, rebellion, and revolution. The regime establishes boundaries of permissible behavior using bottom-up micro-tactics, a persistent and intensive effort, and the application of normalization techniques that reproduce subjects. The initiatives that sparked his early interest in biopolitics and those he later expanded, particularly the genealogical studies of governmentality and the topic of desire, are what we must seek if we are to create a notion of resistance. He makes the convincing argument in his work *Subject and Power* that these battle's primary goal is "to attack not so much such-or-such institution of power, or group, or elite, or class but, rather, a technique, a form of power"(Foucault,1997, p.331). Stated differently, they contest the policies and discriminatory tactics that personalize the issue. The resisting struggles he discusses in *Society Must Be Defended* are primarily focused" (Foucault, 1976, p.331) against that which ties the individual to himself and submits him to others in this way," much as state tactics attempt to control people's behavior. Some traits that the disputes have in common include their universal or global nature, their advocacy of the freedom to be oneself and to create alternative identities separate from ones that have been dictated to them, their concern for the issue of who we are, and their rejection of any approach that downplays individuality or make them "objects of power" (Foucault, 1975, p. 28) or "scientific or administrative inquisition." "(Foucault, 1976, p.329) that ensures compliance with dictated rules and regulations.

With Celena Kusch's *Literary Analysis: The Basics* (2016) as a model, this study uses a qualitative close reading analysis approach to methodically find and examine themes and textual components pertaining to acts of defiance and the underlying dynamics governing them in the selected young adult dystopian texts. By responding to several queries, the model puts out a methodical literary text analysis. According to I.A. Richard's definition in

Practical Criticism, close reading is delving deeper into a text's meaning to see beyond its literal meaning. Richards refers to close reading as understanding a text's "overt meaning" as a collection of understandable phrases (1930, p. 13). However, to discern additional meanings and insight, one must go deeper into the text's implications, imagery, linguistic patterns, and structure. For literary analysis, close reading is a methodical, evidence-based approach. It offers a targeted, thorough textual analysis by closely analyzing the words, visuals, literary techniques, and sections of the text.

#### **4. Data Analysis & Discussion**

The analysis focuses on the rebellion, resistance, and revolution in the selected young adult dystopian novels *Outwalkers* by Fiona Shaw and *A Whisper of Horses* by Zillah Bethel. Foucault's theoretical concepts of resistance and power dynamics serve as an analytical tool that uncovers the subtle as well as overt forms of defiance against totalitarian rule. With characters paying more attention to their changing surroundings, a journey of self-awareness and potential for individual and collective rebellion can be seen in the selected texts, starting from small yet meaningful defiance by the young adults that works as a catalyst and a chain reaction that challenges the totalitarian status quo to more pronounced ways of rebellion. Foucault's concept of localized resistance helps explain this shift from individual acts of resistance to a revolutionary rebellion.

##### **4.1 Rebellion and Resistance Leading to Revolution**

The act of "rebellion" is usually associated with disruption and disturbance, distress, or what embodies a spirit of resistance. In *The History of Sexuality*, Foucault takes rebellion as a potent form of resistance against the oppressing system, an unjust established order, and a collective challenge to the power structures. "Where there is power, there is resistance, and yet, or rather consequently, this resistance is never in a position of exteriority in relation to power. Hence, there is no single locus of great Refusal, no soul of revolt, source of all rebellions" (Foucault, 1976, p. 95). Foucault defined resistance as the "irreducible opposite" that is present in bits and pieces "spread over time and spaces at varying densities" (Foucault, 1976, p. 96). Rebellion is the most confrontational form of resistance, focusing on one point and a collective refusal of oppressive norms in the face of injustice and domination. This spread of resistance over time can become a collective rebellion to bring a revolution within the society. He wrote, "And it is doubtless the strategic codification of these points of resistance that makes a revolution possible" (Foucault, 1976, p. 96). Hence, given a strategic direction and organization, the isolated acts of defiance and resistance, when collaborating in an organized manner, reinforce and emerge as a collective rebellion. Resistance occurs at different levels and is dispersed throughout society. This dispersion of resistance can be clearly observed in the selected novels, *Outwalkers* and *A Whisper of Horses*.

The protagonists Jake and Serendipity show resistance at the individual level. Both subjects find themselves at a crossroads, facing a conflict between staying obedient like others or going against social expectations. These individual acts of transgressing and engaging themselves in practices that counter the imposed rules dictated by the powers are not an easy choice to make. One reality of our existence in power is resistance. However, our resistance's strength and scope, as well as its political impact, are dependent, meaning they

rely on the social structures and discourses that surround us. Our social lives provide us with a broad or limited range of options, and it is within this range that autonomy has to be recognized and expressed.

Ideological criticism and physical agitation is used in the uprising against these institutions. The first act of defiance in both the novels was running away from the strict surveillance in the society. In *Outwalkers*, Jake's running away from the "Home Academy" and Serendipity choosing to embark on a journey to find the truth and to escape the continuous watch represent a pivotal moment in individual resistance. Foucault claims that institutions act as state apparatuses for the creating hegemony of the regime. First, the main reason the school functions as a state apparatus is that it spreads a conservative mindset under the guise of expertise and knowledge. Despite the hegemonic rule of keeping subjects docile and obedient, the dormant critical thinking emerged with triggers of hope that led them to question every established truth along the way. When Professor Nimbus tries to warn Serendipity about the consequences of going against the social order, she says, "I still want to try... If I don't try then I'll never know, and if I never know then I'll be all crumpled up until the day I die" (Bethell, 2016, p. 64). Seeing her mother on her deathbed and finally decoding the last words of her mother, she decided she would not let herself regret not finding the truth about the map. Similarly, Jake, with the hope of leading a life of freedom in his old neighborhood, escaped the "Home Academy". He remembers how they were made to believe the confinement in the academy was normal and the life outside a transgression, "Don't attempt a departure. That's what the teachers told them. They called it 'departure' because escape made the Academy sound like a prison. But nobody was fooled. The Academy was a prison. So escape was what it was" (Shaw, 2018, p. 22). Choosing to escape depicts the first step taken at the personal and individual levels of resistance, challenging societal norms. This symbolizes the rejection of subjectivities and identities that were imposed on them, refusing to be governed by the dominant discourses by embarking on a journey of recognizing their autonomy and self-determination.

While resistance begins at a personal or individual level, it always has the capacity to spread, whether the reason behind it is survival or resistance. It soon becomes a struggle that has the potential to inspire and mobilize others to join in the rejection of the subjugating powers. From an individual act, it grows into a group struggle, establishing resistance on a collective level. As the journey progressed, they found more people who shared the same critical consciousness and the passion to be liberated from strict surveillance and controlling power structures. Serendipity and Professor Nimbus came across Tab, who was a smuggler. Tab guided and informed them about the world beyond the walls, as well as disclosed certain information about how the governing powers were working with the help of tools and strategic tactics to control and regulate the people of the city. His information disrupted the established picture of the safe and ideal city of Lahn Dan, the truth about the deaths, the public display of frozen bodies, Two Swords being a prison for people who the government claimed were executed, all this information of how the powers are working to keep their subjects docile and compliant led Professor and Serendipity to question everything and ignited a fire of rebellion against the authorities. When Serendipity was firmer about her decision, the Professor decided to take the resistance a step further by informing people with the help of storytelling. About the decision to stay in Lahn Dan, she said, "We storytellers are a tight bunch, you know. I have many friends who will protect me and together we might just be able to show people the truth...the lies, the deceptions. I owe it to all the Grys and Brackens that grace this city.

Every single one of them deserves to know the truth” (Bethell, 2016, p. 116). Jake, on the other hand, was rescued by a group of outwalkers who took him in and allowed him to join the gang. They told him how they rescued him, and the eldest of the boys, Poacher, said, “We rescued yer. Yer’d be back in your Home Academy by now if we hadn’t.” Moreover, the eldest girl, “You were lucky. Our lookout spotted you more than a mile off” (Shaw, 2018, p. 48). They further inform him about the rules he has to follow if he intends to stay with the gang. The first act of defiance of the group was the decision to take out the hub chip; when Jake was rescued and regained consciousness, Poacher told him they had to take the chip out: “there wasn’t time. They’d have had you by now if we hadn’t done it quick, and maybe they’d have got us too. Couldn’t let that happen. So we took out yer hub chip. Stuck you with superglue. Works good. Better than stitches out here” (Shaw, 2018, p. 48). Running away from the hubb police and hiding in tunnels and abandoned buildings, the resistance against the very source of surveillance over subjects is evident. The isolated acts of resistance conjoined and transcended the individual level and evolved into collective forms of defiance on the basis of the sense of solidarity and shared struggles. This makes it clearly apparent that, in line with Foucault’s views, “local struggles” around particular issues in which various forms of resistance can be used strategically against the manifestations of hegemonic and oppressive powers.

Foucault acknowledges that “local or localized struggles” and the various forms of resistance they represent have the potential to culminate in a significant and dramatic shift in the social, cultural, political, and economic spheres through “multiple forms of solidarity” and “affiliations” at the local, national, regional, or global level this in History of Sexuality he wrote “And it is doubtlessthe strategic codification of these points of resistance that makes a revolution possible” (1976, p.96). Coming together as a gang and collective community that shares the same experiences and fosters the narratives to challenge dominant powers, the resistance gains momentum. Further collective resistance points can be the smugglers who live outside the walls in A Whisper of Horses or just near the border walls like biker gangs and smugglers or lowlifer gangs living in underground tunnels in Outwalkers. Living in the darkness, “hundreds of lowlifer gangs with no laws to stop them, and they were on the run from the Coalition” (Shaw, 2018, p. 225). Just like Jake and the Outwalker gang, disrupting the established social order and going against the dictated norms and social expectations, the experiences and the goal were the same: to live a free life and escape the controlling gaze. In A Whisper of Horses, Tab’s people, the smugglers, are seen to be living life to the fullest without any confining laws. When Serendipity reached the area, she noticed a pile of food and music. He asked Tab if there was a party tonight, and his reply was, “They’re smugglers” Tab shrugged. “Every night is party night for smugglers” (Bethell, 2016, p. 122). Late in the night, when Serendipity and other citizens of Lahn Dan are under curfew, and nobody is allowed to be outside, the smugglers just start their day. They were living and thriving in shadows and in the darkness of night where the norms and rules hold no power. When all these resistances connect and find common ground, the resistance turns into rebellion and revolution. The professor’s struggle inside the city established a collective struggle with storytellers, turning the individual resistance into a revolution called “Storyteller’s Revolution.” Knottman reported that from inside the city, “there is talk of unrest: “A revolution. They are saying that a revolution is imminent” (Bethell, 2016, pp. 217-218). Similarly, Jake and the outwalker gang reached Scotland with the help of bikers and smugglers. After reaching there, Jake reads the headline, “English crowds rally to New Wall in peaceful protest. Angry scenes

outside Coalition Parliament” (Shaw, 2018, p. 414). This leads the people to change the social order; when Serendipity meets Professor after a long time, he tells her, “London had changed, he told us. Everything in London had changed. There was no such thing as an Au or a Cu or a Pb now” (Bethell, 2016, p. 332). The protest taking place demonstrated how the dispersed points of resistance, either individual or group level when asserting their agency together, a collective rebellion emerges that rejects the subjectivities and renegotiates and reshapes their conditions of existence. A minor act of defiance, such as running away, can pave for a broader transformation that eventually overthrows the customs of living life in obedience and subjugation.

#### **4.2 Resistance and Underlying Power Dynamics**

With acts of resistance, Foucault suggested that the strategic exercise of power could be fully revealed. Rather than focusing on and analyzing power structures using a top-down technique, Foucault took a different approach and introduced a lens of resistance that exposes the inner workings of power relations. While using a metaphoric analogy and “using this resistance as a chemical catalyst so as to bring to light power relations, locate their position, and find out their point of application and the methods used. Rather than analyzing power from the point of view of its internal rationality, it consists of analyzing power relations through the antagonism of strategies” (1982, p. 780). By understanding the nature of resistance types, targets, and strategic employment, the underlying power relations that gave rise to these resistances can be brought to light. So, by analyzing acts of resistance can serve as an inverse map that illuminates strategies, positions, methods, and deployment techniques the power structures employ to maintain dominance. For instance, the choice of resistance methods and their deployment among the masses can provide insight into the injustice the powers are exercising in society. Professor Nimbus’ choice of staying in Lahn Dan and choosing storytelling as a method of resistance, giving voice to the experiences of the marginalized and oppressed, highlights the authoritative hold powers enjoyed by silencing the subjects. The same tool--storytelling --Serendipity said, government established only to keep the subjects busy “Storytellers were employed by the Ministry to keep us busy when we weren’t working on the lotments” (Bethell, 2016, p. 11), preventing them from conspiring against the powers became the very source of resistance afterward that resulted in a rebellion and ultimately a revolution that led Lahn Dan to change. In the end, the “Storyteller’s Revolution” Professor says, “merely helped to start the process. It was the people of Lahn Dan who took it all to their hearts so valiantly” (Bethell, 2016, p. 332). The resistance acted as a diagnostic tool that highlighted the diffused ways powers manifest control in everyday life and the strategical techniques used by them to subjugate individuals.

Additionally, the acts of disobedience give a deeper insight into what the powers expect from their subjects and how powers operate to control them. Obedience and disobedience here are taken in context to the definition given by Eric Foamm in his work *On Disobedience and Other Essays*. He writes “Obedience to a person, institution or power (heteronomous obedience) is submission; it implies the abdication of my autonomy and the acceptance of a foreign will or judgment in place of my own” (Foamm, 1981, p.6) and disobedience as an act “of the affirmation of reason and will. It is not primarily an attitude directed against something, but for something: for man’s capacity to see, to say what he sees, and to refuse to say what he does not see” (Foamm, 1981, p. 17). The definitions align with Foucault’s concept of obedient and disobedient subjects, embedded within the power



dynamics. He does not treat obedience as passive compliance but as something that is produced by installing the notions of acceptable and unacceptable, punishable and reward worthy. Where obedience is instilled with the help of several tools and strategies to ensure the subject's complete submission to the state narrative, disobedience, on the other hand, disrupts the established notions and challenges authority and its norms by questioning the set narratives. In both selected contemporary young adult novels, acts of rebellion and disobedience by the protagonists and other characters highlight how the authoritative system exercises social control over subjects. It reveals its tactical workings and underlying dynamics. Getting ready to go into the town to restock on basic necessities government deprived the outlaws and illegals, Martha cuts Jake's hair, which he claims is too short, but she corrects him by saying, "The shorter, and the better. Makes you look obedient. Not like a boy who'd steal things" (Shaw, 2018, p. 108). For a government that dictated the outlook and actions of a loyal subject, going against its rules in actions or outlook is considered to be a rebellion. Stealing the necessities as an act of resistance depicts how outlaws or anybody who goes against the government is stripped of their basic human rights of getting proper food or medication. Similarly, in *A Whisper of Horses*, after the resistance became a revolutionary movement in Lahn Dan, Knottman reported that people were "Doing things they shouldn't. Not doing the things they should. General disobedience" (Bethell, 2016, p. 218). This indicates how the powers mandated do's and don'ts. Authorities exercise power by producing subjects who will disregard any truth over the word of the powers; they would say what powers want them to say and see what powers want them to see. In other words, authorities rule over a group of people who follow the rulings blindly without questioning anything and willingly curtailing their critical thinking.

A question that arises here is about the factors that ignite these acts of disobedience and resistance and what does this resistance reveal about the injustices taking place. Subjects who are 'manufactured' under rules and regulations, do's and don't of societal norms, and with an installed fear of authorities start recognizing how their individualities are stripped off; this provides them with reasons to liberate themselves. Subjects may recognize how their thoughts, behaviors, and identities are moulded in order to limit their autonomy. The realization then acts as a catalyst and provides the impetus for acts of resistance. Questioning the truth regimes and engaging in practices previously deemed to be unacceptable. Through Tab, when Professor Nimbus and Serendipity come to realize how the Minter is operating by spreading lies to control people, Professor decides to stay behind and "show people the truth. Open their eyes to the things that they see every day but are too afraid to notice" (Bethell, 2016, p. 116). Further, Knottman told others that before he left Lahn Dan "Cus and Pbs are protesting on the streets. Doing things they shouldn't" (Bethell, 2016, p. 218). Going against societal expectations and rulings, they sort their individuality and self-determination to challenge the entrenched power structures, their narratives, and the injustices of imposed identities in order to embrace their true individuality.

The analysis of the selected young adult dystopian novels shows how an individual act of resistance and defiance can become a foundation for a collective and larger revolutionary movement. The theoretical framework also helps to reveal what control mechanisms are employed by the governing authorities and how the critical consciousness of the characters changes from acceptance to challenging their situations.

## 5. Conclusion

Foucault's critical lens allows the dissection of the dominant mechanisms of manipulation of truth paradigms and their distortion. Modern strategic techniques shape individuals with a more subtle and pervasive form of disciplining subjects by manipulation of thinking patterns. Strategical disciplinary power is the dominant form of power that Foucault enlightened us about for it limits freedom by influencing the choices one makes and even what one takes to be truth and knowledge. The analysis of the selected YA dystopian novels reveals not only the ways used by authorities for disciplining subjects but also the strategies employed by the subjects to defy the oppressive system. Jake and Outwalker gang in *Outwalkers*; Serendipity, Professor, and Tab in *A Whisper of Horses* employed resistance strategies to expose the strong authoritative hold of the oppressive regime. The subjects challenge the expectations of powers and the mechanism of enforced compliance. The individual acts of defiance challenging surveillance and monitory discourses evolve into a broader resistance movement at a collective level that brings revolutionary changes in society. Gaining consciousness about their situation and rejecting oppressive regimes ignite a potential for reclaiming autonomy over the oppressive power structures. These results advance our knowledge of how oppressive regimes, and the possibility of revolutionary social transformation are portrayed in contemporary young adult dystopian fiction. The study led to understanding the nature of resistance by digging deep into the aversive relationship of obedience and disobedience, the power regime and its strategical exercise in the selected texts. The vivid depiction of power dynamics in society in young adult dystopian fiction not only puts forward a picture of contemporary reality but also envisions the complicated roles of power and control in the fast changing world.

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