ECO (DE)COMPOSITION WORKSHOP

ALTERNATIVES TO APOCALYPSE

WHAT ARE THE APOCALYPTIC TROPES YOU SEE MOST OFTEN?

WHAT DO YOU THINK THOSE TROPES REFLECT ABOUT OUR SOCIETY, SPECIFICALLY OUR PERCEPTION OF CLIMATE CRISIS?

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TEACH-IN

MAPPING AN OPTIMISTIC CLIMATE FUTURE

Eco-composition: approach that calls for literary studies to turn a critical eye on the way literature informs, reflects, and influences the ways in which humans relate to the natural world. (Guignard)

Step one: Exploring our relationship to place(s)

Step two: Imagining an optimistic future

Step three: What realities come into direct conflict with that imagined future?

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Alternatives to Apocalypse

BUILDING A NARRATIVE

CHARACTERS

what kind of characters need to exist in your story in order to carry out the solutions you propose?

RELATIONSHIP TO PLACE

how do your characters feel about their environment?

conflicts

NATURAL

what natural events are impacting your characters ability to achieve their objectives? how do they handle this?

INTERPERSONAL

what types of people are perpetuating issues or disagreeing with your characters? where do their beliefs and actions stem from?

GROWTH: LOCAL & GLOBAL

how has your character overcome personal or local challenges? are there any larger-scale changes taking place as a result of the events of this story? how does your story provoke the reader to consider an optimistic climate future?

resolutions

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Novels

Ministry of the Future by Kim Stanley Robinson

The Water Knife by Paolo Bacigalupi

The Overstory by Richard Powers

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness by Arundhati Roy

The Year of the Flood by Margaret Atwood

Solarpunk: Ecological and Fantastical Stories in a Sustainable World edited by Gerson Lodi-Ribeiro

Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler

Essays

How 'Urgent Optimism' Can Save the World
Hannah Ritchie for Time Magazine

Surprise! There's a reason to be (cautiously) optimistic about the climate
Jonquilyn Hill for Vox

Instagrams

Leah Thomas @greengirlleah

Zahra Biabani @istherehopein

Alaina Wood @itsthegarbagequeen

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