

Short Stories for “**Freedom & Rebellion – Dystopian Fiction**”

Suitable for reluctant teen readers (ages 15-17) in a correctional-facility classroom

#	Title & Author (approx. length)	One-Sentence Hook	Why It Fits / Teaching Angle
1	“Harrison Bergeron” – Kurt Vonnegut (~7 pp.)	In a future where “equality” means mandatory handicaps, one 14-year-old rips off his shackles on live TV.	Clear clash between state control & personal freedom; fast-paced, ironic tone grabs attention; perfect for discussing civil disobedience and media power.
2	“Repent, Harlequin! Said the Ticktockman” – Harlan Ellison (~12 pp.)	A prank-happy rebel gums up a clock-ruled society until the omnipotent “Ticktockman” hunts him down.	Stylized language, comic edge, and theme of resisting rigid schedules echo students’ feelings about institutional time-keeping.
3	“Examination Day” – Henry Slesar (~4 pp.)	Turning sixteen means a government test—fail, and you disappear.	Ultra-short thrill with a brutal twist; prompts debate on surveillance, giftedness, and state fear of independent thought.
4	“The Pedestrian” – Ray Bradbury (~5 pp.)	In 2053, walking for pleasure is so abnormal that a lone stroller is arrested by a robot car.	Tiny word-count but huge payoff for discussions on technology, conformity, and criminalizing harmless behavior.
5	“The Veldt” – Ray	Kids addicted to a	Blends tech

	Bradbury (~15 pp.)	VR nursery upgrade it into a deadly rebellion against their parents.	dystopia with teen/parent power struggles—relatable, suspenseful, and ripe for foreshadowing practice.
6	“The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” – Ursula K. Le Guin (~7 pp.)	A perfect city’s joy depends on one imprisoned child; some citizens quietly reject the bargain.	Short, philosophy-rich text for Socratic seminars on moral courage versus comfortable complicity.
7	“2 B R O 2 B” – Kurt Vonnegut (~8 pp.)	In a zero-growth society you can only have a baby if someone else volunteers to die—until one family refuses the math.	Dark comedy disarms readers, then sparks talk on bodily autonomy, population control, and choice.
8	“Amnesty” – Octavia E. Butler (~18 pp.; accessible level)	Years after aliens conquer Earth, a human negotiator fights for fair treatment of her people.	Shows rebellion through diplomacy; strong female lead and themes of colonization and mutual distrust.
9	“The Perfect Match” – Ken Liu (~14 pp.; free online)	Your AI assistant knows you so well it quietly shapes every life decision—until a neighbor recruits you to hack it.	Modern tech dystopia (phones, algorithms) that feels “now,” ideal for media-literacy mini-lessons.
10	“When We Went to See the End of the	Tourists vacation in simulated	Satirizes escapism while raising

	World” – Robert Silverberg (~10 pp.)	apocalypses, but one family fears the real end is already underway.	questions about witnessing versus acting—good tie-in to current-events discussions.
11	“Bread and Roses” – Ariel Dorfman (~6 pp.)	Factory workers locked inside use their one window to stage a silent act of defiance.	Not futuristic but powerfully distills the essence of rebellion and solidarity in a few pages.
12	“The Machine Stops” (excerpt) – E.M. Forster (First 5–6 pp. of the story)	A man dares to leave the underground Machine that supplies every human need—breaking the ultimate rule.	Public-domain classic; excerpt keeps length manageable while showcasing early dystopian roots and fear of the outside world.

Tips for Classroom Use

1. **Chunk & Check-In:** Break each story into 1-2-page segments with quick-write or discussion stops to keep focus high.
2. **Choice Boards:** Offer 3-4 stories at a time; let students pick one to read deeply and one to skim—building autonomy mirrors the freedom theme.
3. **Compare to June Novels:** After a short story, ask, “Which novel hero (Winston, Jonas, or Bernard) would relate most to this protagonist’s struggle? Why?”
4. **Adaptations & Audio:** “Harrison Bergeron,” “The Pedestrian,” and “The Lottery” (if you add it) have short films on YouTube—use for multimodal reinforcement if tech permits.
5. **Writing Extension:** Have students craft a one-page “Rebellion Manifesto” from the perspective of a side character in any story, citing at least two text details.

These selections keep reading loads light while hitting the big ideas of oppression, choice, and courageous defiance—perfect for a summer-freedom vibe that still resonates with justice-minded teens behind walls.