

June Mini-Unit: Freedom, Rebellion & Morphology

Big Idea: Great dystopian stories turn language into a weapon—governments “re-educate,” media “mis-inform,” rebels “counter-act.”

Mastering **negative / contrast prefixes** and the power-roots **liber, arch, dict** equips students to see (and wield) that weapon themselves.

1. Unit Outcomes (4 weeks)

Domain	Students will be able to...
Decoding & Fluency	- segment, blend, and instantly recognize 50 + words that carry the prefixes anti-, contra-, counter-, dis-, mis-, non- .
Vocabulary & Morphology	- explain how each prefix flips or contrasts meaning; - define / use liber, arch, dict derivatives (e.g., <i>liberate, anarchy, contradict</i>).
Comprehension & Writing	- analyze how authors exploit charged words (<i>misinformation, counterrevolution</i>) to reveal power dynamics in dystopian texts; - craft a “Freedom Manifesto” that purposefully deploys at least six target words.

2. Week-by-Week Flow

Week	Prefix / Root Spotlight	Anchor Text & Quick-Writes	Key Activities (15-20 min daily)
1	anti-, dis-, mis-+ liber (“free”)	“ <i>Harrison Bergeron</i> ” (Vonnegut) – passages where citizens are **dis-abled for “equality.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefix T-chart sort: helpful vs. harmful words (e.g., <i>anti-virus</i> vs. <i>anti-hero</i>). • “License to Liberate” classroom graffiti wall—every time a student spots <i>liber-</i> in the wild, they add it.
2	contra-, counter-, non-+ arch (“rule”)	“ <i>Examination Day</i> ” (Slesar) – discuss **counter- examples to government logic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morph Matrix: combine prefixes with <i>-arch</i> forms (monarchy, anarchy, counter-arch?). • Card-Flip Speed Drill: students race to generate antonyms using the correct negative prefix (e.g., <i>legal</i> → <i>illegal</i> is wrong; encourage <i>lawful</i> → <i>unlawful</i> later).
3	Cumulative Prefix Challenge+ dict (“speak/order”)	News clip or op-ed on censorship → define dictator, verdict, contradict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Dict-ation” Dictation: sentences loaded with target words read twice at natural speed. • Misinformation Relay: Teams rewrite a neutral headline three times, each

			with a different prefix to show bias (<i>information / misinformation / disinformation</i>).
4	Synthesis & Transfer	Short YA excerpt (<i>The Giver</i> Ch. 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom Manifesto mini-zine: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Title page with an anti- / contra-slogan. 2. 150-word persuasive piece using ≥ 6 target words. 3. Illustration of a symbolic “broken chain.” • Friday “Escape Room” review—lock codes = prefix + root clues.

3. High-Utility Word Bank

Prefix	Base	Target Words for Practice*
anti- (“against”)	hero, social, body, virus	antihero, antisocial, antibody, antiviral
dis- (“opposite/lack”)	obey, qualify, trust, appear	disobey, disqualified, distrust, disappear
mis- (“wrong”)	behave, manage, judge, lead	misbehave, mismanage, misjudge, mislead
contra- (“against”)	dict, vene, band	contradict, contravene, contraband
counter- (“opposite, return action”)	act, claim, productive	counteract, counterclaim, counterproductive
non- (“not”)	sense, violent, fiction, existent	nonsense, nonviolent, nonfiction, nonexistent

*Choose 5–6 per prefix for mastery lists; keep the rest in extension banks.

4. Roots in Action

Root	Core Meaning	Power Words & Dystopian Connections
liber	free	liberty, liberate, liberation, libertarian
arch / archy	rule, chief	monarch, anarchy, hierarchy, matriarchy
dict / dictat	speak, order	dictator, edict, verdict, predict, contradict

Morphology Map Example (whole-class anchor chart)

liber (free)

anti- + liber + ate → anti-liberate (block freedom)

re- + liber + ation → re-liberation (win freedom back)

Students quickly see how prefixes tug meaning in opposite directions.

5. Daily Mini-Lesson Structure (15 min)

1. **Connect & Review (2 min)** – Quick oral drill of yesterday’s word cards.
2. **Teach / Model (4 min)** – Blend new words, mark prefix | root | suffix with slashes.
3. **Guided Practice (4 min)** – *Word Sort, 4-Square Frayer, or Morph Matrix.*
4. **Rapid Application (3 min)** – One-minute “36/72” timed read or partner sentence swap.
5. **Reflect (2 min)** – “Which word felt most powerful today, and why?” (students jot on sticky note for Exit Slip).

6. Quick Assessment Ideas

- **One-Paragraph Cloze** with strategic blanks for targeted prefixes.
- **Morphology Choice Board:** create a meme, news headline, comic panel, or rap using ≥ 3 target words.
- **Exit Ticket:** circle the *true* sentence where the prefix is used correctly.
- **Friday Quiz:** identify prefix + root + suffix, define, and use in a new sentence.

7. Scaffolds & Engagement Tips for Struggling / Reluctant Teens

- **Kinesthetic “Prefix Tug-of-War”** – rope with prefix tags on one end, root cards on the other; students physically show how meaning shifts.
- **Tabletop Word Tiles** – recycled Jenga blocks with prefixes taped on one side, roots on the other; build towers of rebellion.
- **Choice & Voice** – let pairs choose *one* dystopian short story and hunt for five examples of negative prefixes to add to a class “Control vs. Rebellion” board.
- **Real-World Hook** – headlines about “misinformation” or “counter-protests” connect abstract morphology to daily news.

Finish Line

By month’s end, students can **decode & debate** loaded words like *counterproductive propaganda* or *misinformed populace*—exactly the language that fuels dystopian conflict **and** empowers them to analyze real-world power plays.

