

**Fictitious Insight on *The Maze Runner* series by James Dashner**

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**Abstract:**

*Science fiction (SF) impacts people to believe about the time to come. Science fiction brings the lessons of the past and innovatively projects them into the future to allow us to evaluate the values of our actions today. Science fiction (SF) writer diligently persuade the readers by embellishing fantasy elements. Science fiction (SF) portrays stories where we never been before, changes what is our usual reality, turns over a novel set of figures, and relates our inhabitation in possible realistic or unrealistic Utopian and Dystopian worlds. Dystopian societies often carry the attribute of unfair treatment of the habitants of a particular environment. James Dashner's, *The Maze Runner* series exposes the subjects of the novel by absolute surveillance, containment of victims inside a maze and execution of the survivors, if found not abiding to the rules framed by Wicked (Organization headed by Dr. Ava Paige). The intension was to serve the community and to find cure for the society against the flare. The Protagonist of the novel Thomas strives hard to save the victims from the scientific experiments being conducted upon them in order to find the cure. Technology has absolute merits and dark side as well. In this novel the technology and an intention is imbibed in the antagonists mind to create a better society. The Protagonist leads a resistance team in order to save the victims being experimented. The antagonist cherry picks those survivors of their trials to effectuate a better human civilization. The novel briefs and reminds us the aspect 'Survival of the Fittest'.*

**Key Words:** Science Fiction, Utopia, Dystopia, Unfair Treatment, Flare, Survival

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Literature is the most important role played by the development of society. It exposes the human civilization. Literature portrays the real life situation in an imaginary world with a purpose to stick the surviving social circumstance. Literature works have the dimensions to arouse, strengthen or redirected to the society concern and innovative thinking about environmental futures. For human, survival is a huge task of their lives in the society. Literature works are praised to the moral/ethical value it portrays the readers and society.

Science fiction as a genre of literature judges the upcoming human civilization. Science fiction explores and nurtures twenty first century profound assimilation of scientific inventions into real world spur a greater interest in literature, travels the bridge between technology, society and the individual. Utopian and Dystopian subjects of science fiction and fantasy elements frequently agree on a future in what kind of technology can be used to make better way of survival conditions.

Utopian fiction exposes the society which is to be perfect and dystopian is the opposite of utopia; it reveals an imaginary society which is dehumanizing. Dystopian civilization regularly brings the characteristics of unfair treatment of the habitants of a particular environment.

James Dashner was born on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1972. He is an American writer of science fiction, focusing on children or young adults, such as The Maze Runner series which has won many awards, the New York State Charlotte Award and the Arizona Grand Canyon Reader Award in 2012, the Kentucky Bluegrass Award, the Oregon Reader's Choice Award, the New Hampshire Isinglass Teen Read Award, the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Award and the New Jersey Garden State Book Award in 2008.

James Dashner brought up in warm climate, which impelled him to utilize the sun flares in the series of "The Maze Runner". It's perfectly notable work in the young-adult post – apocalyptic dystopian American literature. The major themes of the novel are identity, sacrifice, manipulation, rules and order, judge and justice, exploration, freedom and confinement.

Thomas the protagonist of the novel "The Maze Runner" opens his eyes and staggers in the box which is moving upwards. He felt the lift being stopped and opens up. He versioned many young boys looking at him. One of them lifts him up from the box and welcomed him as 'greenie' to the glade. The Glade is an open place surrounded by maze on all sides. Thomas was astonished to see glade closed on all sides and they are struggling to find an exit for nearly two years from the deadly maze.

The lads call him 'greenie' which triggers to remember his name Thomas. He learns about the glade, gladers, runners and their routine. Thomas' inquisitive nature lets him to ask many questions. He wants to escape from the glade which eventually leads him to strive for his friends to get out of their miserable life and could enjoy their lives in the outside world. After Thomas' arrival a girl is delivered in the box with a note 'She's the last one ever'. She murmurs 'WICKED IS GOOD' and traumatizes.

Her arrival brings about many changes: the sun disappears, the entrance walls of the maze stops closing which consequently lets the griever to hunt the boys. Thomas encounters one of the griever and undergoes the changing. He then discloses a few memories and the changing maze has a pattern in it. They unite together and finds out the code.

The time has come for the gladers to choose, either to stay in the glade to death or to find an exit, which is uncertain. Many made their choice courageously to go with Thomas. They combat with the griever and punched the code. There comes the exit of the maze and end of their trial. However the survivors were unaware that their struggle to death is just the initial stage of the WICKED's experimentation.

The escaped gladers relaxed themselves after their struggle to death in the maze. Thomas wakes up with the noise of the cranks. They find dead bodies of the rescuers. They rush to see Teresa but they could find a boy named Aris. He discloses about their group of girls and he is the only boy. Aris also tells about his telepathy partner Rachel and her death. An alarm broke out resembling the one when they were in the maze. When the alarm ceased the dead bodies disappeared. When they try to escape they found the boys sitting and eating apples.

There was a man sitting near a desk in the other end of the room. Later the Rat Man instructs them their next trials. He says that all are infected by flare. To get the cure they should cross the scorch and reach the safe haven. The boys found tattoos on their necks. The gladers then made up their minds and prepare for the trials. They cross the desert and could find Teresa near a building in a deserted city.

Teresa warns Thomas to move away from her and something bad is going to happen. The gladers then happen to meet Jorge and Brenda in the crank house. When the WICKED attacks the house Thomas and Brenda eventually gets separated from the rest of the crew. Brenda then explains about the catastrophe and present situation of the world. Brenda and Thomas are then kidnapped by 3 cranks and they were hypnotized. The pair was again rescued by the gladers and Jorge. Unexpectedly, Thomas gets shot by a blondie, one of the three cranks. WICKED flees with Thomas in a berg and he was treated. Teresa and the girls of Group B take away Thomas.

Teresa and Aris lead Thomas into the gas chamber. Thomas had his memory dreams and he feels betrayed by Teresa. Aris and Teresa convince Thomas that they acted on the instructions of WICKED. They then reach the safe haven. Thunder storms strike and kill few members of Group A and B. Again the bulb monsters attack the crew. They then flee in a berg. They relax themselves with fresh food and clothes. Teresa speaks telepathically with Thomas that they took him away as the flare rooted deeply in his brain. Thomas wakes up in a white room.

Thomas was put to solitary confinement for weeks. He is then released by Janson. Janson meets the subjects and discloses that there is no cure for flare, and lists out the subjects who are immune and not immune. Janson gives the subjects to undergo an operation to remove the swipe from their brains in order to get their memories back. The subjects agreed except Thomas, Minho and Newt(not immune). Later when they are forced to remove the swipe, Brenda helps them to escape. They all escape and reach a Berg. There they found Jorge being hit by other subjects who escaped. They are attacked by the guards and somehow they manage and flew to Denver. Brenda suggests Hans; a former WICKED doctor would help them. To their surprise, they are meeting Gally (In Maze Runner).

Wicked manipulates Thomas to kill Hans. But somehow the swipe is removed from Thomas brain when they come to the Berg. They find Newt missing. Brenda guides them to crank palace. Thousands of Cranks escapes and heads towards Denver. Thomas kills Newt with his plead. They are again kidnapped by bounty hundreds working for Right Arm(people against WICKED)

Right arm wants Thomas to help them destroy WICKED. As they planned, Thomas voluntarily goes to WICKED. He plants the device which deactivates the security of WICKED. Janson gets killed by Thomas. Dr.Ava Paige gives the plan of WICKED headquarters. She requests Thomas to save the immunes hidden in the maze and reach the Paradise, where the human civilization would have its fresh start. Thomas, Minho and his friends joins hands and rescues the Immune.

Unfortunately the WICKED headquarters explode. A few of them survivors, Teresa saves Thomas and dies.

Finally, Thomas, Minho, Brenda and other Immune reach the Paradise. In the last memorandum, Dr. Ava Paige states the reasons for such a catastrophe of post flare coalition. The flare is a virus that affects human brains which gradually make the victim blood thirsty and lunatic. This would be considered a biological weapon produced by the humans to kill humans which eventually used for population control in this novel. We can consider these technological advancements as immense inhumane deed by humans.

These are also inhuman creatures in the series bred by people in WICKED which also plays a role in the plot. Some instances are given below. Orderly, the first creature is the Griever which reminds us of the Alien. The griever is a nasty creature with spikes that whirs and clicks while moving. It attacks the gladers who dare to enter the maze. When gladers are attacked a grief serum (another technological aid) is given to the victim. It brings few memories back to the victim. The other creatures in the series are the Bulb monster. As the name suggests the creatures have bulges wrinkled with four limbs. It kills the subjects with its silver blades. Thomas kills it by attacking the bulbs on its body. These are also developed by WICKED.

The above said technological advancement can be classified as external as they have their acts outwardly. There is internal tool called the Swipe a chip which is placed inside the subjects' brain to wipe the memories and to control them. Then the grief serum which brings some of the memories back.

The construction of the maze itself forms a technological advancement which triggers the awesomeness in the minds of readers. The massive walls, its changing patterns are few instances. This is even more raised when they discover that this is not the only maze used for the trails. The spectators and the gladers struggled to find out the code (FLOAT-CATCH-BLEED-DEATH-STIFF-PUSH). The innovative maze again leads to do some brain activity when they punch the code and it's not working. The gladers are relieved only when Chunk gives the idea of pushing (PUSH) the button.

Technology is also used in the field of transportation in the series. They are the Berg and Flat Trans. Berg is an aerial vehicle. Flat Trans is also a transporter being a shimmering wall of grey. The manipulation of technology has been extended in the field of security. The weapons like Launcher, which produces electricity that electrocutes a victim with great deal of pain for quite sometime. Unexpectedly there comes the metal ball which falls from the ceiling and feeds on the entire head.

These innovations astonish us with their man oeuvres. These technological advancements are not only considered as a boon but also reclusive element to the human race.

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