

## Oryx and Crake – Log

Dec. 20, 2022

- Began re-reading Oryx and Crake to fill in knowledge/understanding gaps

Jan. 1, 2023

**17:00-19:00**

- Began brainstorming topic ideas, and finished re-reading Oryx and Crake. Went through Topic Threads in the Excel sheet for some inspiration.
- Topic Ideas:
  - Exploitation of power, knowledge, and technology
    - Crake's genetic engineering ventures, Crakers
    - BlyssPluss pills disrupting the natural balance of life
    - Threat of exploiting technology in diminishing human capability, monopolizing society, and causing worldwide imbalance
  - Relationship conflicts
    - Clash between different life perspectives and how it leads to conflicts later (Jimmy's mother and father, Jimmy and Crake)
  - Motivations
    - The desire to tend to the unknown in light of an uncertain future/mutual obligation (caring for the Crakers, but for what?)

Jan. 7, 2023

**19:00-20:00**

- Further developed topic (highlighted above) in preparation for the term paper consultation. Looked for some quotes in the topic threads spreadsheet to bring together some ideas.

Jan. 12, 2023

**14:30-18:30**

- Realized my previous topic was too broad and could be applied to anything. Developed a new topic on **assimilation in an artificial world**

Jan 13, 2023

**09:00-09:15**

- Consulted topic with Ms. Cowley. Topic was valid but I need to make some structural amends. Consider the following:
  - Cause and effect, or character analysis?
  - Thesis is too long, pull some inspiration from the "so what" section

Jan 16, 2023

**13:00-13:30**

- Revised consultation paper to suit the **cause-and-effect** structure
- Made thesis more concise, changed main point structure to better reflect Jimmy

Jan 24, 2023

**10:00-10:15**

- Follow-up term paper consultation, topic approved: **scientific progress' ability to strip away identity**
- Things to consider:
  - Might want to reverse points in later drafts to adhere to the novel timeline
  - Clarify "assimilation" and consider other words like "progress" because right now, you're not sure if Jimmy/Snowman is being assimilated or finding his own ways

Jan 31, 2023

**17:00-19:00**

- Began the first draft of the term paper, typed about 400 words

Feb 5, 2023

**15:30-17:00**

- Finished the first draft of the term paper, about 1000 words

Feb 12, 2023

**20:30-21:00**

- Began work on the second term paper draft, focused on the narrator's struggles as opposed to his "assimilation" since the term is rather broad

Feb 14, 2023

**16:50-18:15**

- Continued 2nd draft, 400 words
- Notes to self
  - Second draft should be an alternative interpretation (assimilation vs. progress, solace vs. purpose)
  - Following drafts should explore more + types of evidence to enrich argument, and the essay could use more concrete examples

Feb 16, 2023

**16:50-18:30**

- Finished writing 2nd term paper draft

- Main points are completely reversed from the first draft to adhere to the novel timeline

Feb 21, 2023

**20:45-21:45**

- Began work on 3rd draft; took 2nd draft and made amends to include more evidence/examples/explanations to prove my points and some clarity enhancements

Feb 28, 2023

**22:00-22:50**

- Worked on 3rd draft by reviewing my edits from the last day, and further clarifying my thesis/experimenting with the overall effect of scientific progress (Identity? Purpose? Consolation?). Did a final read check and concluded that it still needs work to meet the clarifications above.

Feb 28, 2023

**15:50-16:20**

- Continued work on 3rd draft to eliminate any possible syntax/grammar errors, and began thinking about sophistication.

**18:00-20:20**

- Finalized 3rd draft, tried to better relate points to the novel and fix some awkward sentence structures.

March 5, 2023

**11:00-12:30, 16:00-18:00**

- Worked on 4th draft (final) to fix everything

March 7, 2023

**18:00-20:00**

- Worked on 5th draft (final final) to fix everything