



Questions and Ideas for Consideration

The Future: Many popular contemporary YA texts paint a vision of a problematic future, offering a dystopia that critiques contemporary society. How does *Feed* fit in with this idea, and what elements of society does it critique?

Technology: How does the world of Feed relate to our own world and reliance on technology? What positive values of technology are complicated by the story?

Positive or Negative: How does portraying a protagonist who does not see the world as dystopia affect the story? Is Titus an unreliable narrator?

Relationships: Is *Feed* a love story? Why or why not? What messages does the text send in its depiction of Violet's relationship with Titus?

Gender: Why portray Violet as so different from the others? What role does she play in the story? What ideologies are presented in the fact that she is a female character? How does this fit with other dystopian fiction?

Commercialism: Consider the text's critique on commercial culture. What exactly is being subjected to satire here? Do you see our world in the text and how?

Hope: Does this story have a hopeful or hopeless ending? Why present it this way?

Daybook Possibilities

- Research other examples of dystopian adolescent fiction. How does *Feed* seem similar and in what ways is it distinctive?
- Visit MT Anderson's blog (<http://mt-anderson.com/>) and learn more about his other works. How do they compare, and what perspectives does he explore as an author?
- Watch a video advertisement for Google Glasses (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSnB06um5r4>), and write about your ideas, including how close you believe society to be to becoming a future similar to the one portrayed in *Feed*.
- Spend an entire day without using a mobile phone or similar technology that you use regularly. Write a diary about how this experience shapes your perspective about society's use of technology.
- Try to do a bit of writing in the style of Anderson's futuristic style of text (or how you imagine people would talk in the future). How does it shift what you are able to say and how you say it?
- Create a character sketch of Titus or another central character. What qualities does Titus possess? How do you know?

Suggested Critical Reading

“Monica Hughes, Lois Lowry, and Young Adult Dystopias” by Carrie Hintz

"Postmodernity, and Digital Memory versus Human Remembering in M. T. Anderson's *Feed*" by Carter F. Hanson

"Reading 9/11 from the American Revolution to US
Annexation of the Moon: M. T. Anderson's Feed and
Octavian Nothing" by Sara L. Schwebel

"Predicting a Better Situation? Three Young Adult Speculative Fiction Texts and the Possibilities for Social Change" by Abbie Ventura

Background and Context

In this 2002 dystopian text, MT Anderson critiques technology and commercial culture through the story of Titus, who longs to see his ability access an Internet-like system as quickly as thinking in a new way as he falls for the unique and counter-cultural Violet. Set in a future where most of the population has installed a computer network directly into their brains at birth, MT Anderson's *Feed* uses unique stylistic techniques to depict a world where technology at society's fingertips has some troubling results.