



# SPARKPOINT

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THE UNDISCOVERED  
COUNTRY

Inside:

Learn more about the human  
obsession with attempting to  
divine the future.

## Welcome

Churchills' impressive performance of *The Scottish Play* this week offered a chilling insight into the perils of attempting to discern what the future may hold for us – and the consequences of attempting to twist fate. This week's SparkPoint, therefore, looks at the remarkable efforts of humans, throughout history, to try to see beyond the horizon – with varying degrees of success!

## A Cold Night (extract)

The doubt of future foes exiles my present joy,  
And wit me warns to shun such snares as threaten mine annoy;  
For falsehood now doth flow, and subjects' faith doth ebb,  
Which should not be if reason ruled or wisdom weaved the web.  
But clouds of joys untried do cloak aspiring minds,  
Which turn to rain of late repent by changed course of winds.  
The top of hope supposed the root upheared shall be,  
And fruitless all their grafted guile, as shortly ye shall see.

he dazzled eyes with pride, which great ambition blinds,  
Shall be unsealed by worthy wights whose foresight falsehood finds.

The daughter of debate that discord aye doth sow  
Shall reap no gain where former rule still peace hath taught to know.

No foreign banished wight shall anchor in this port;  
Our realm brooks not seditious sects, let them elsewhere resort.  
My rusty sword through rest shall first his edge employ  
To poll their tops that seek such change or gape for future joy.

Queen Elizabeth I

## POEM OF THE WEEK

## prospicience

noun

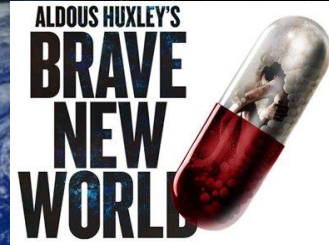
*The quality of having remarkable foresight combined with the wisdom of experience.*

## WORD OF THE WEEK

This 1984 classic from Boney M paints an interesting picture of the future from a decade that was rife with uncertainty and changing definitions of identity. Click the link to hear it.



## MUSIC OF THE WEEK



## 15 MINUTE CHALLENGE

### BRAVE NEW WORLD

George Orwell's 1984 is probably the most famous dystopian classic; but Aldous Huxley's take on where the future might be headed is an equally gripping read. Arguably more emotional in his study of the future than Orwell, Huxley looks at the breakdown in human relationships and the muting of emotion and feeling. Click the link to listen to an extract.



### THE PLAY'S THE THING

Drama has always been an incredibly powerful way for society to review itself in the mirror. In this article, Alexis Soloski explores 10 modern plays which have painted unusual and interesting forecasts for the future. The ability of playwrights to take themes prevalent in our society and then push them to their extremes in the safety of the imagined universe is not to be underestimated.



### NOSTRADAMUS

This French doctor and astrologer is probably the best known 'seer' in history. He is best known for the publication of a book containing 942 quatrains which allegedly predict future events. Click on the link to find out more about his prophecies and about the level to which some people consider them to be accurate.



Characterised by an obsession with speed, technology and destruction – the futurist art movement finds real expression in this piece by Luigi Russolo (1913) – entitled 'The dynamism of a car'.

## IMAGE OF THE WEEK