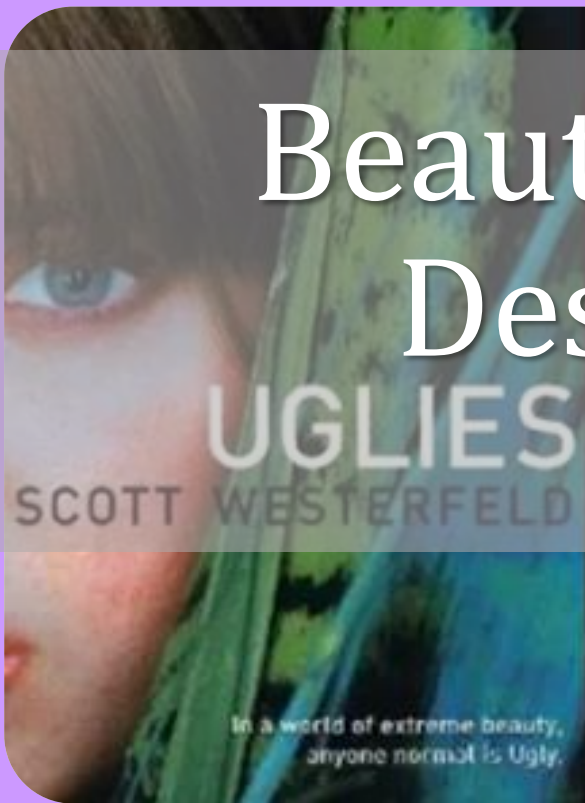


# Beauty as a Tool of Biopolitical Desire for Control in Scott Westerfeld's *Uglies*



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# *Uglies*' "Utopian" Society

- At age sixteen, citizens undergo "extensive bodily remodelling" into "pretties" (Donnelly 30)
- Natural human appearance is eliminated
- "Before the operation, there were wars and mass hatred with people killing each other over stuff like having different skin color" (Westerfeld 20)

# Indoctrination

- Beautification is framed as “the great social equalizer” (Barnes 212)
- Hedonism
- Identity and self-worth are shaped by technological and social conditioning
- Peer pressure and ugliness stigma

# Biopower and Docile Bodies

- Foucault's concept of docile bodies → state control over citizens
- The operation alters the citizens' brains, making them "docile" (Shetterly 206)
- "Chemical brain damage" reduces them to "empty-headed drones" (Blasingame 694)
- Memory erasure removes personal identity and resistance

# Segregation, Violence, and Hypocrisy

- Society is divided between uglies, pretties, and Specials
- “Special Circumstances” act as spies, soldiers, and enforcers (Shetterly 204)
- Rebels are punished by death or forcibly operated on
- Even pretties are divided by age and hierarchy
- The regime condemns the past but employs similar forms of control and destruction

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**Thank you for your attention!**