"Comparing this anthology has made me realise that utopianism permeates literature far beyond the narrow boundaries of bibliographical classification."

"We all carry a utopia inside us... Utopia is where we store our hopes of happiness."

Carey suggests that you compare your own utopia with the dreams of humankind.
Some ideas from the *The Faber Book of Utopias* Introduction.

- Utopia means 'nowhere or no-place'.

- Utopian literature is a collection of humanity's desires and fears as recorded over the last two thousand years and more.

- Utopias build on universal human longing.

- Utopias aim at a new world, but in order to achieve this the old world must be destroyed. Therefore, utopias carry within them a potential for crushing or limiting human life.

- The imaginative excitement that comes from utopias comes from the recognition that everything inside our heads, and much outside, are human constructs and can be changed.
• To count as a utopia, an imaginary place must be an expression of desire.

• To count as a dystopia, it must be an expression of fear.

• Dystopia is merely a utopia from another perspective.

• With many utopias you cannot be sure whether their authors intended them to be utopias or dystopias. It is the divisiveness of utopian literature that has ensured the ongoing excitement and legacy of this genre.
Common utopian concerns, ideas and doctrines

- The human race and its composition
- Exclusion of lawyers from society
- Ideal citizens inhabit utopia - real people are excluded or eliminated
- Swift and severe punishment as a way of turning real people into utopians
- All citizens should be paid the same for their labour.
- The elimination of personal property
- Universal education for all (the educated mind would rise above crime)
- Ways of dealing with criminals - punishing, not punishing, exterminating
- The abolition of the family - children reared by the State who knows what is best for the child
- The role of eugenics (genetic engineering / control) in producing excellent offspring
- Alarm at population explosion - likely consequences such as war, famine, plague, disasters
- Defined by negatives - no sorrow, no pain, no taxes, no hard work etc
- Reformation of the world (working to change the world and the people in it) vs reformation of the self (labouring to put things right on earth is futile)
- Solitary utopias - Robinson Crusoe
- The new world is isolated, separated from the old world
- Nature is considered better than the unnatural.
- The importance of reason and justice
- Gender roles and limiting stereotypes
- The role of euthanasia in an ideal society
The Development of Utopian Literature

http://www.lukemastin.com/utopia/development.html