



1984
by George Orwell

Teacher's Guide
Written By Mary Ellen Snodgrass

LIVING
LITERATURE
SERIES

A Perma-Bound Production

This guide was prepared using the Signet Classic edition ©1977. Other editions may differ.

Synopsis--by parts and chapters

Part 1, Chapter 1

At age 39, Winston Smith, a contemplative, sickly, solitary Londoner, lives in Airstrip One, a segment of Oceania, which was once Great Britain. He works as an Outer Party member in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth. Wearing his blue overalls at lunch, April 4, 1984, a cold spring day preceding Hate Week, he enters Victory Mansions, a ramshackle apartment building built in the 1930s. A giant poster features the image of a 45-year-old man and the slogan, "Big Brother Is Watching You." Overhead, a police helicopter spies on citizens.

Like other people's residences, Smith's eighth-floor flat, a kilometer from the massive, pyramidal Ministry of Truth, or Minitrue, is equipped with a two-way telescreen which allows government agents to watch his every move. So dominant is the Party that every aspect of civil life falls under the control of the ministries of truth, peace, love, and plenty. Summarizing state philosophy are three slogans: "War Is Peace," "Freedom Is Slavery," and "Ignorance Is Strength."

The atmosphere of suspicion causes Winston to fear the authorities, who could at any time punish him for the smallest infraction. In defiance of petty bureaucracy, he skips lunch, gulps down gin, and hides out of range of the screen to begin writing a journal in a blank book purchased from an antique store in the free market sector of town. His actions, which constitute "thoughtcrime," are punishable by death or twenty-five years at hard labor. Unable to think of a suitable entry from the thoughts that have haunted him for years, he scribbles about an evening of war movies.

He recalls a recent "Two Minutes Hate," a morning ritual instituted to inspire negative emotions toward Emmanuel Goldstein, the nation's enemy. Two associates, a lovely 27-year-old woman and a mysterious, brutal-looking Inner Party official named O'Brien, whom he suspects of disloyalty, appear in Winston's reverie. Strengthened by hope that others share his hatred of oppression, Winston jots "Down with Big Brother" in capital letters repeatedly down half the page of his diary. A rap at the door interrupts him. He blunders toward it, expecting to be arrested and vaporized for sedition.

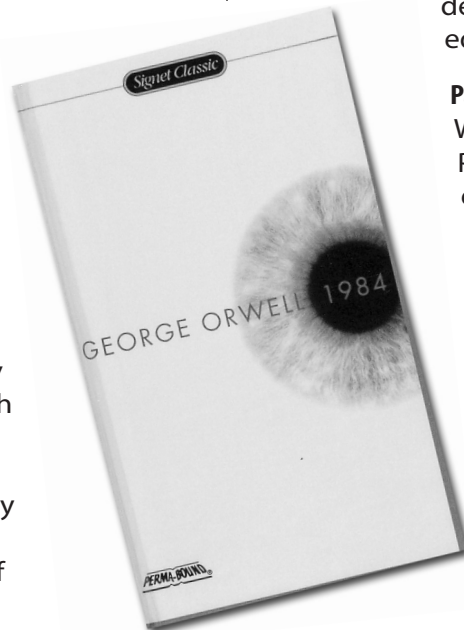
Part 1, Chapter 2

Winston is relieved to find Comrade Parsons, wife of Tom, a fellow worker at the Ministry of Truth who witlessly follows the Party line. She is the mother of a sinister nine-year-old boy and seven-year-old girl who enjoy spying on disloyal citizens and who whine to be taken to the hanging of some political prisoners. Winston accompanies her to her apartment to remove hair from the drain of the kitchen sink. As he's walking away, the boy strikes Winston by hurling a missile from his slingshot.

Winston returns to his journal. Snatches of a fantasy return to him in which O'Brien promises to meet him in "the place where there is no darkness." Winston, believing that the dream is prophetic, fears that he will be executed for thought crimes. Before he must return at fourteen-thirty, he scribbles, "To the future or to the past, to a time when thought is free . . . greetings!" He washes away traces of ink before leaving for work.

Part 1, Chapter 3

Deep in sleep, Winston recalls being ten years old when his baby sister and mother were killed with his father during the purges of the 1950s. He feels responsible for their deaths. Winston summons an idyllic setting where a dark-haired female bureaucrat in her mid-20s strips off her clothes and



approaches him. The dream, a rebellion against the Party's dictum against sex, ends as sirens wail, summoning him to join the Physical Jerks, a televised exercise regimen. As he clumsily performs the activity, he recalls an atomic bomb falling on Colchester and ponders "doublethink," a policy of lies and deliberate deception, and "newspeak," the Party language. The calisthenics leader rebukes Winston for laxness. He responds by reaching down to touch his toes.

Part 1, Chapter 4

At the beginning of the work day, Winston, seated in a windowless cubicle opening onto an oppressive hallway, dictates into his speakwrite as he goes about contradicting published data to accommodate Inner Party propaganda. Pleased with his tedious job, he is an intelligent wordsmith skilled at rephrasing the history of Oceania's continuing series of aggressions against Eastasia and Eurasia. The target of his prose shifts is realignment of Big Brother's predictions with actual events. Winston must account for a speech which lionizes Withers, a Party faithful who went sour and was vaporized, just like Winston's parents and at least thirty other people Winston once knew. Winston replaces Big Brother's words with a speech lauding Ogilvy, a fictional war hero.

Part 1, Chapter 5

At the ministry canteen, Winston is in line for his stew when he encounters Syme, a fanatical Party man and philologist from Research who destroys words. Syme takes pride in his work on the eleventh edition of Newspeak, a language the Party developed to override logic. Syme's enthusiasm for his part in the eradication of independent thinking leads Winston to observe that the Party will probably execute Syme because he knows enough to threaten the operation and because he frequents the Chestnut Tree Café along with painters and musicians.

Tom Parsons, Winston's neighbor, sits down at their table and collects a "voluntary subscription." Tom's mindless loyalty and the fervent announcement from the Ministry of Plenty deepen Winston's gloom. Dismayed by grime, dilapidation, and the unappealing meal, Winston looks up to find the unnamed dark-haired woman watching him. He fears that she is a spy.

Part 1, Chapter 6

Winston's next journal entries focus on sex. He confesses following a prostitute to a dim basement room three years earlier to end two years of celibacy. He ponders his wife Katharine, an ignorant Party loyalist who left him in 1973. Their dismal, mechanical relationship foundered because they were childless. Their marriage was doomed from inception because the Party, in order to avoid emotional entanglements, encourages mating between people who share little in common. Cut off from sexual release, Winston despises the Party for forcing him to rebel in order to express normal passion. He longs to shout dirty words.

Part 1, Chapter 7

Winston concludes that civilization's only salvation lies in the revolt of the proletarians or "proles," comprising the 85% of the population who are allowed independent thought. Because they are poor and work at manual labor, the Party allows them to mate like animals. Winston tries to recall capitalism, the system under which he lived before the Party took control. He remembers how during the mid-1960s textbooks were purged and revolutionaries eliminated; by 1970, Big Brother had seized power. Winston thinks on Emmanuel Goldstein, an outlaw and former loyalist who has sunk to the level of anarchist as leader of the Brotherhood, the Party's major rival.

In 1973, Winston gained a single bit of proof that the Party lies: a picture of Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford taken in New York about 1963, the time they were accused of leaking Party information in Eurasia. These three traitors emerged alive after the purges. They supposedly underwent brainwashing, but the authorities later rounded them up and murdered them. Winston notes that he knows how the Party distorts truth, but he does not know why. He comments in his journal that he hopes O'Brien will one day discover Winston's musings on personal freedom.

Part 1, Chapter 8

Winston ambles among the proles after a rocket bomb falls. He overhears men discussing the Lottery. He pursues an old man into a bar and questions him about life before Big Brother. The man replies with details of class conflict, but little about capitalism itself. Winston finds himself at the antique shop where Mr. Charrington sold him the notebook. For four dollars, Winston purchases

a glass paperweight encasing a piece of coral. The shopkeeper escorts Winston upstairs to a room he once shared with his wife. Winston enjoys the freedom of privacy and plans to return to rent the room the following month. Departing the shop, he spies the young woman, whom he suspects of following him. Fearful that he will be tortured and executed, he elects not to murder the girl because he is too depressed.

Part 2, Chapter 1

Winston eventually meets the young woman in the hall of the Ministry, where she falls on her arm, which she carries in a sling. He assists her; she slips a love note into his hand. Winston suspects that she may share his distaste for totalitarianism. For days, he tries to get a word with her and at week's end meets her during lunch. At nineteen hours, they arrive in Victory Square near the monument. As Asian prisoners march past, the couple secretly touch hands for an instant. She directs him to a spot for a second meeting the next Sunday.

Part 2, Chapter 2

On May 2, following the woman's directions to a rural meeting spot, Winston arrives ahead of her and picks bluebells. She gestures for him to remain silent and to follow her to a hillside beyond a fallen tree. She introduces herself as Julia and confesses that she, too, is a rebel against the Party. In order to defy authority, she has experienced scores of sexual liaisons. Just as Winston dreamed, they make love as a political act of defiance against oppression.

Part 2, Chapter 3

In spite of Winston's 60-hour work weeks, the affair continues, with Julia arranging their trysts, once in a bombed-out belfry. She divulges that she has worked for Pornosec and had her first affair at age sixteen. She confesses that she is not literary and openly opposes political invasion of her privacy as a game of nerves. Winston, depressed by his failed marriage, recalls a time when he could have pushed Katharine over a cliff. He declares that he will never find happiness. Julia refutes his logic by urging him to enjoy life and love while he can.

Part 2, Chapter 4

In June, Winston, berating himself for his folly, prepares to meet Julia in the room above the antique shop, which Mr. Charrington gladly rents so that the couple may share time alone. For Winston, the liaison, spurred by the resurgence of his desire, carries strong political overtones which exhilarate

him, despite fears that they will be discovered, tortured, and executed. Julia enlivens their meetings by donning makeup and perfume and treating him to real sugar, coffee, tea, white bread, and jam, delicacies which are usually reserved for Inner Party members. When Julia spies a rat, Winston becomes irrationally frightened, then relaxes by gazing into the glass paperweight.

Part 2, Chapter 5

Before Hate Week, distressing events unsettle Winston. Syme disappears; events whip the proles into a patriotic frenzy. In a time of impermanence, only the room over the shop seems safe. Winston tries to instruct Julia about the past, but she takes no interest in political shifts in Oceania's ongoing power struggle. Only Winston possesses the insight to realize how vulnerable people become when they lose touch with their past.

Part 2, Chapter 6

At work, O'Brien acknowledges Winston's concern for Syme. O'Brien passes along his address so that Winston can pick up the tenth edition of Newspeak dictionary to expedite his work. Winston, thrilled in his assumption that O'Brien is a conspirator, has a momentary vision of a damp grave.

Part 2, Chapter 7

During a visit with Julia, Winston recalls 1955, when he spent time in a center for homeless children. He reflects on the dissolution of his family, particularly his sister, whose chocolate he snatched. He fears that his mother disappeared so that she wouldn't burden her son. Winston, resentful of the Party for destroying his family, resolves to join the Brotherhood. He is certain that he and Julia will suffer for their revolt. They exchange vows that they will never betray their love, which they believe is invulnerable to the tortures of the Ministry of Love.

Part 2, Chapter 8

Julia and Winston visit O'Brien's apartment, where he blanks out his screen for short periods and introduces them to Martin, his confederate, who poses as a servant. After the visitors announce their intentions to join the Brotherhood, O'Brien offers them wine, toasts Emmanuel Goldstein, and explains the group's methods of foiling the Thought Police. Julia and Winston promise to remain true to the group and to commit heinous acts to undermine the Party. O'Brien offers to procure a copy of Goldstein's book for Winston and to

pass it to him through an exchange of briefcases. Separately, Julia and Winston depart from O'Brien's home with no guarantee that they will ever meet him again.

Part 2, Chapter 9

At a Hate Week assembly, Winston observes an Inner Party member debasing Eurasia. As the crowd responds, the speaker changes tactics and begins castigating Eastasia. The crowd instinctively follows his lead. The next week, Winston's assignment is to make similar substitutions of "Eastasia" for "Eurasia" in his work. His task complete, he waits for Julia in their special room and reads Goldstein's book, *The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism*, a three-part work refuting one of the Party's slogans. Julia enters; Winston reads aloud to her. The book corroborates Winston's suspicions about the Party: its perpetual aggressions are intentional as a means of employing the people and using up surplus goods. Before Winston can read the justification of totalitarianism, Julia falls asleep. He, too, sinks into sleep murmuring "Sanity is not statistical."

Part 2, Chapter 10

After their nap, Winston and Julia awaken in a cold room. He goes to the window, where a prole hangs up freshly washed diapers. Her vigor leads him to conclude that working class people have the most logical lifestyle and that people like him and Julia exist to keep alive independent thinking. His comment, "We are the dead," resounds in Julia's voice and in a sound from the picture hanging over the bed. The picture falls and unmasks a television screen which echoes their words. Under the leadership of a rejuvenated Mr. Charrington, Thought Police brutalize Julia and arrest them.

Part 3, Chapter 1

Separated from Julia, Winston and ten or fifteen other criminals, occupy a gleaming white, windowless cell in the Ministry of Love. He fantasizes suicide with a razor blade. Other prisoners enter the cell: Ampleforth, Tom Parsons, whose daughter betrays him for saying "Down with Big Brother" in his sleep, a woman, and a starving man named Bumstead, who, like Ampleforth, is escorted to Room 101. When Winston remains alone, O'Brien enters. A guard strikes Winston on the elbow with a truncheon.

Part 3, Chapter 2

For months, Winston suffers torture, including drugs, beatings, electric shock, sleep deprivation, and interrogation. The sessions conclude with O'Brien's attempts to agree that two plus two equals five. Winston cooperates by confessing to false accusation. Mentally unhinged, he accepts the assertion that O'Brien's four fingers equal five. O'Brien contends that Winston is the flaw in the Party's pattern, that he must be expunged. He asserts that Julia has been rehabilitated. Winston questions O'Brien about Room 101 and receives the cryptic reply that he already knows its hidden terrors.

Part 3, Chapter 3

O'Brien guides Winston through reintegration, a form of brainwashing. He explains that the Party must have power in order to survive and to inflict pain. "God," he claims, "is power." Winston remains adamant in his belief in human rights. O'Brien defeats him by having him stand before a mirror. Winston realizes that his body has shrunk to a wretched skeleton. He believes that he has been spared the worst—betrayal of Julia.

Part 3, Chapter 4

After Winston recovers, he accepts O'Brien's friendship. Winston tries to force his mind to accept O'Brien's perversions of logic. In his sleep, he calls to Julia. As a punishment for hating Big Brother, O'Brien dispatches Winston to Room 101, the repository of his worst fears.

Part 3, Chapter 5

Room 101 contains the most virulent fear of the individual prisoner. For Winston, the direst punishment is rats. His head immured in a cage, he pleads with O'Brien not to release the rats: "Do it to Julia! Do it to Julia! Not me!" At Winston's betrayal of his beloved, O'Brien realizes that the captive has broken.

Part 3, Chapter 6

After his release, Winston sits before an empty chessboard drinking gin at the Chestnut Tree Café. In March, he reunites with Julia in the park. Devoid of love, they confess their mutual betrayals, then deliberately drift apart in the crowd. Alone once more, Winston sobs. News of Oceania's victory over its enemies summons evidence of his complete destruction: he has learned to love Big Brother.

Timeline of the Action

1800s	Socialism is formulated.
1900	Socialism begins to mutate.
1914	The first world war changes Europe.
1920	Capitalism enters its last phase.
1930	Victory Mansions are built.
1940	Capitalism ends.
1945	Winston Smith is born in London.
1955	Winston and his mother play Snakes and Ladders.
later	The Smith family hover in bomb shelters during the bombardment of Colchester. Winston's family disappears; the boy is sent to a center for homeless children.
1957	Julia is born.
1960	The term "Ingsoc" is introduced in Oceania.
1960s	Textbooks are purged and revolutionaries eliminated.
1963	Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford are photographed in New York but are later accused of leaking Party secrets in Eurasia.
1965	Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford are arrested. Julia's grandfather is vaporized.
1968	After his arrest, Winston claims to have spied for Eastasia in 1968.
1970	Big Brother seizes power in Oceania.
1971	Julia has her first affair.
1972	Winston marries Katharine.
1973	Katharine leaves Winston fifteen months after their marriage because she is childless. Winston finds a picture of Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford that definitely places them in New York.
1977	O'Brien begins watching Winston.
1979	Winston enters a period of celibacy.
1981	Winston accompanies a prostitute to her basement room.
1984	
April 3	Winston attends war films.
April 4	During Hate Week, Winston begins writing his journal.
late April one week	Winston receives a love note from Julia.
later	Winston meets Julia in Victory Square.
May 2	Julia and Winston meet on a hillside on the outskirts of London.

later in May	The couple make love in a bombed-out belfry.
June	Julia meets Winston in the rented room above Charrington's antique shop, where he recoils from a rat.
Hate Week	Winston observes how the system manipulates people to stop hating Eurasia and to begin castigating Eastasia. Winston and Julia are arrested and separated.
that winter	O'Brien tortures Winston in order to rehabilitate him.
1985	
March	Winston, addicted to gin, reunites with Julia. They drift apart. Winston weeps, then accepts his love of Big Brother.
2050	Party leaders predict that by this date, Oldspeak will vanish.

Orwell's Life and Works

A significant anti-intellectual English journalist, essayist, and novelist who developed his talent and philosophies toward a crowning achievement, *1984*, George Orwell added the terms "doublethink" and "Big Brother" to the language. The master writer who composed gripping opening lines—for example "As I write, highly civilized human beings are flying overhead, trying to kill me" and "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen"—did not reach his zenith until months before his death. Trapped in his younger years by England's intense class consciousness, he thought of himself as "lower-upper-middle class" because he grew up among snobs and social climbers.



Orwell, a pseudonym for Eric Arthur Blair, was born on July 23, 1903, in Motihari, Bengal, India, while his father, Eric Blair, Sr., served in the opium division of the Indian Civil Service. In 1907, accompanied by their mother, the boy and his two sisters journeyed to Eastbourne. He entered St. Cyprian's, an English boarding school. A student body composed of scions of wealthy families made his life miserable; pretentious faculty heaped guilt on him for imagined rule infractions. In order to prep for prestigious schools, he accepted a reduced tuition based

on his scholastic promise, enrolled at Wellington, then entered Eton at age 14 on full scholarship.

Entering his teens at the beginning of World War I, Orwell began to shake off shyness and to enjoy reading and debate, especially anti-war and socialist topics. Later, tarred with the leftist brush, Orwell proved instead to be anti-political, a stance that earned him a fair share of fans and enemies. Upon graduation, he chose to follow his father's profession and for six years was assigned to the Indian Imperial Police of Burma as a sergeant.

Characterized by his master essay, "Shooting an Elephant," the onus of imperialism became his personal burden and caused him intense discomfort among native Burmese.

By age 24, Orwell was so dismayed with civil service work that he resigned and drifted about England and France under the alias of George Orwell, which he adopted from an English river. He worked in restaurant kitchens, slept in barns and flophouses, and tramped about Kent with hop-pickers. Influenced by *The People of the Abyss*, a social treatise by Jack London, Orwell channelled his experiences among lower class people into *Down and Out in Paris and London*, which he published under his pseudonym. He followed the next year with his first novels, *Burmese Days*, *A Clergyman's Daughter*, and *Keep the Aspidochelone Flying*.

Earning only a moderate amount from these publications, Orwell settled into teaching at Hawthorne High School for Boys in Hayes, Middlesex, from 1932 to 1933. The next year, he worked for a bookseller. In 1936, he married Oxford-educated journalist and teacher Eileen O'Shaughnessy, and for four years operated a small bar and grocery store in Wallington, Hertfordshire, which later served as the setting for *Animal Farm*. While gathering material for a book, he allied himself with socialism and, drawing on his diaries, composed his first social treatise, *The Road to Wigan Pier*, based on a study of the unemployed and financed by the Left Book Club.

Drawn to the Spanish Civil War, Orwell became a frontline journalist. He joined a Marxist-Trotskyite Party and fought for the Republican cause against Franco, a fascist general. After assignment to the Aragon front in January 1937, in June, he sustained sniper fire to his throat. Following recuperation, he found political conditions unfavorable to his beliefs. Out of fear of communist reprisals, he and Eileen escaped across the Pyrenees Mountains into France. This intensely anti-communist period he

chronicled in *Homage to Catalonia*.

Returned to his former writing style, Orwell published his first successful fiction, *Coming Up for Air*. At the beginning of the Hitler-Mussolini regime, he abandoned pacifism and tried to enlist in the army, but was unfit because of tuberculosis. He opted for a post in the national militia and broadcast anti-totalitarian messages for the BBC's overseas service. A humanist rather than a politician and an admirer of Churchillian patriotism, he once scribbled:

"Which will sound better in the days to come, 'Blood, toil and sweat' or 'Kiss the Nazi's bum.'"

This period saw publication of intense essays in "As I Please," his column for the *London Tribune*. He issued freelance pieces for *New Leader*, *Partisan Review*, *Observer*, and the *Manchester Evening News*, as well as in to essay collections, *Inside the Whale* and *The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius*. Because he refused to capitulate to passing political loyalties, he remained outside elite circles and generally went broke rather than cozy up to party loyalists.

Orwell began his most lasting and most lucrative creative efforts in the mid-1940s with the writing of a dystopian beast fable, *Animal Farm*, an international bestseller. So trenchant was his Swiftian satire that it required a year of selling before before he located a publisher willing to accept his anti-totalitarian novel. Much sicker from tuberculosis, in March 1945, he also suffered the unexpected death of his wife during an emergency hysterectomy.

Left to raise his adopted infant son Richard, Orwell and his sister moved to Barnhill on Jura, Argylls, a bleak, isolated isle in the Inner Hebrides on Scotland's windswept west coast. Frequently hospitalized, he poured his remaining energies into *1984*, which he finished in January 1949, shortly before his admission to a sanitarium in Gloucestershire, England. The following year, he composed a scathing essay, "Such, Such Were the Joys," recounting his misery in English boarding school. In 1949, he married Sonia Mary Brownell and tried to upgrade his health. On January 21, 1950, he succumbed to exhaustion and lung disease and was buried at Sutton Courtenay. At his passing, admirers compared him to Swift, Kipling, and Dickens and proclaimed Orwell one of the most honest and noble spirits of a troubled age.

Orwell and the Critics

Critics hailed *1984* as a major contribution to world literature. Praised by V.S. Pritchett, Lionel Trilling, and Alfred Kazin as Orwell's most germane, insightful, compassionate effort, *1984*, an instant success, riveted audiences throughout the world with its warnings of encroaching political manipulation, particularly through the subversion of language. As noted in a review for *Time* magazine, "Reading him today is like taking a guided tour through the seven circles of the political hell that Western Europe built for itself." At times challenged for pessimism based on his dismal early school career and failing health, the work weathered a trickle of negative reviews to become a world classic in the dystopian genre. Succeeding generations of readers have responded according to the tenor of the era, at times finding deep psychological significance and at others applying the novel's themes to all leaders who attempt to crush individualism.

Orwell's Published Works

Down and Out in Paris and London (1933)
Burmese Days (1934)
A Clergyman's Daughter (1935)
Shooting an Elephant and Other Essays (1936)
Coming Up for Air (1939)
Keep the Aspidochelone Flying (1936)
The Road to Wigan Pier (1937)
Homage to Catalonia (1938)
Inside the Whale, and Other Essays (1940)
The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius (1941)
Animal Farm (1945)
 "Politics and the English Language" (1946)
Dickens, Dali and Others: Studies in Popular Culture (1946)
The English People (1947)
1984 (1949)
 "Such, Such Were the Joys" (1950)
The Orwell Reader: Fiction, Essays, and Reportage (1961)
The Collected Essays, Journalism and Letters of George Orwell (1968)
Orwell: the Lost Writings (1988)

Bibliography

Boerst, William J. *Generous Anger: The Story of George Orwell*. Greensboro, N. C.: Morgan Reynolds, 2001.
 Bowker, Gordon. *Inside George Orwell*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

Gibson, William. "The Road to Oceania," *New York Times* (25 June 2003): A25.
 Hitchens, Christopher. *Why Orwell Matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2002.
 Larkin, Emma. *Finding George Orwell in Burma*. New York: Penguin, 2005.
 McNulty, Charles. "Where Big Brother Lurks," *Los Angeles Times* (28 February 2006): E3.
 Meyers, Jeffrey. "Orwell on Writing," *New Criterion* 22, no. 2 (1 October 2003): 27-34.
 Miller, Stephen. "Orwell Once More," *Sewanee Review* 112, no. 4 (fall 2004): 595-618.
 "Rethinking the Ministry of Truth," *British Heritage* 24, no. 3 (May 2003): 4.
 Rodden, John. *Scenes from an Afterlife: The Legacy of George Orwell*. New York: Intercollegiate Studies, 2003.

Media Versions of 1984

Audiocassette (abridged)

1984, Books on Tape, 2001

Audiocassette (unabridged)

1984, Blackstone, 1991

Audio Download

1984, Blackstone, 1991

DVD

1984, MGM, 1984

Large Print

1984, Ulverscroft, 1985

Video

1984, Movies Unlimited, 1956

General Objectives

1. To isolate moments of despair and periods of triumph
2. To characterize dystopian literature
3. To assess the author's dependence on grim, foreboding images and negative vocabulary
4. To study the importance of understanding the past
5. To note the effect of rumor and surveillance on morale
6. To narrate examples of giving and self-sacrifice
7. To discuss the importance of integrity
8. To list self-defensive and survival techniques
9. To consider the significance of work, love, and trust
10. To contrast character responses to pain, fear, isolation, desire, and deprivation

Specific Objectives

1. To analyze Orwell's objectivity toward science and technology
2. To point out examples of chance, such as the rocket bomb and the Lottery
3. To account for Big Brother's rise to power
4. To explain O'Brien's insistence on "rehabilitating" Winston
5. To contrast the settings of work, the canteen, the holding cell, the belfry, antique shop, outdoors, a proletarian pub, and Room 101
6. To comprehend the background of the war years, the rise of fascism and Communism, and their aftermath
7. To contrast Winston's various relationships with women
8. To explain important symbols, particularly clogged drains, the monument in Victory Square, Julia's sash, coral, and the varicose ulcer on Winston's leg
9. To analyze subtle foreshadowing, such as the smashing of the glass paperweight
10. To note why Winston blames himself for his mother's death

Related Reading

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*
 Ray Bradbury, "There Will Come Soft Rains" and *Fahrenheit 451*
 Karel Capek, *R. U. R.*
 Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
 Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
 John Gardner, *Grendel*
 William Golding, *The Lord of the Flies*
 Robin Graham, *Dove*
 Theodora Kroeber, *Ishi*
 Ursula LeGuin, "Sur" and the *Earthsea* series
 Herman Melville, *Typee* and *Moby Dick*
 George Orwell, *Animal Farm*
 Marge Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time*
 Ayn Rand, *Anthem*
 William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
 Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*
 H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine* and *The Island of Dr. Moreau*
 William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming"
 Evgeny Zamyatin, *We*

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of George Orwell's narrative style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

Dystopia: an imaginary or futuristic world in which the desire for perfection produces wretched or tortuous consequences. The repressive environment of *1984* ostensibly generates standard opinions and beliefs among citizens of Oceania. By manipulating news and past history, authorities control emotions and loyalties. The parade of Asian prisoners of war and the activities of Hate Week offer physical involvement that moves beyond telescreens and print to living examples of loyalty to the regime. Those people who refuse to accept demonstrations of the regime's success are vaporized.

Literary Foils: characters whose presence in a literary work enhance contrasting traits. In *1984*, Winston Smith's observation of proles reminds him that 85% of Oceania is comprised of laboring-class people who exist free of restrictions on their beliefs and lives. In contrast to his celibacy and loneliness, proles seem sexually and socially fulfilled.

The Importance of Setting

The milieu of George Orwell's *1984* contrasts a totalitarian state with the freedom of nature. Under the eye of Big Brother, Winston Smith lives in London at Airstrip One, a segment of Oceania, which was once Great Britain. The text follows him to Victory Mansions, a ramshackle apartment building built in the 1930s that smells and looks dismal. At his eighth-floor flat, a kilometer from the Ministry of Truth or Minitrue, he avoids a two-way telescreen that allows government watchers to observe his every move. By sitting out of range of the screen, he can compose in a journal that he bought at an antique store in the town's free market sector. An intrusive siren forces him to join in the *Physical Jerks*, a televised exercise regimen.

Winston's work station epitomizes the dehumanization of Oceania. At his cubicle in a hive-like office of the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth, he occupies a windowless space that faces an oppressive hallway. A ministry canteen offers an unappealing meal of stew and conversation

with two Party loyalists, Syme and Tom Parsons, Winston's neighbor. Once more outdoors, Winston ambles among the proles and interviews an old man in a bar about the pre-dystopian past. At Mr. Charrington's antique store, Winston locates an upstairs room that offers a respite of privacy.

Winston's love affair with Julia begins in an ominous location—Victory Square near a war monument and a parade of Asian prisoners. The next Sunday, the couple move to an outdoor setting dotted with bluebells and screened from prying eyes. They retreat to the upstairs room for encounters that reacquaint them with human affection. At their visit to O'Brien's apartment, they join a conspiracy against Big Brother in a room devoid of authoritarian spying. The idyll of revolt ends in the rented room, where the duplicitous Mr. Charrington and Thought Police arrest the couple.

Crucial to Orwell's dystopian novel is the falling action, which takes place out of sight of nature in windowless cell in the Ministry of Love. Under torture by rats in Room 101, a torture chamber, Winston's commitment begins to crumble. Orwell returns Winston, sapped and hopeless, to the Chestnut Tree Café and the park, where he and Julia confess their mutual betrayals. Meanwhile, in distant lands, the perpetual warring continues.

Cross-Curricular Sources

For more information about George Orwell, dystopian fiction, brainwashing, totalitarianism, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

Audiocassette

"1984: Are Orwell's Predictions Coming True?,"
National Public Radio

The Time Machine, H. G. Wells, Tantor

The War of the Worlds, H. G. Wells, Listening Library, 1997

Books

Anthem, Ayn Rand

The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

We, Yevgeny Zamyatin

A Wizard of Earthsea, *The Farthest Shore*, and *The Tombs of Atuan*,
Ursula K. LeGuin

CD-ROM

Poe's Tales of Terror, Teacher's Discovery

Game

The Propaganda Game, Bright Ideas

Internet

Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion
<http://www.aaas.org/spp/dser/>.

Plays

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Samuel French

R. U. R., by Karel Capek

Poems

"Departmental," by Robert Frost

"The Second Coming," by William Butler Yeats

Reference Books

The Dictionary of Imaginary Places, by Alberto Manguel and
Gianni Guadalupi

The Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature, by Mary Ellen
Snodgrass

Short Fiction

"The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg," Mark Twain

"There Will Come Soft Rains," Ray Bradbury

Software

World War II, Knowledge Master

Videos/DVDs

Black Robe

A Clockwork Orange

Fahrenheit 451

The Handmaid's Tale

1984

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in George Orwell's *1984* should include these aspects:

Themes

- despair
- world war
- terror
- impersonal orders
- isolation
- love
- group mentality
- individuality
- escapism
- torment
- defeat

Motifs

- coping with regret and protracted violence
- understanding the various psychological states of oppressed people
- assuming the role of rebel
- coping with a sense of impending doom

Words in Context

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from the book. Explain each in context. Part, chapter, and page numbers pinpoint each entry so that you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH. (Part I, Chapter 1, p. 4)
(Orwell depicts a social order controlled by manipulated language. The totalitarian state diminishes the range of human thought and speculation to create the reality that manipulators want. Newspeak also provides expression for doublethink, a mental process that accommodates opposing ideas at the same time.)
2. The little sandy-haired woman had flung herself forward over the back of the chair in front of her. With a tremulous murmur that sounded like "My Savior!" she extended her arms toward the screen. (Part I, Chapter 1, p. 16)
(The ecstatic woman demonstrates the effectiveness of mass conditioning. Brainwashed by the face of Big Brother on the screen, she and others react to Two Minutes Hate, with its shifting scenes of violence and the beloved leader.)
3. DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER
DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER
DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER
DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER (Part I, Chapter 1, p. 18)
(Winston Smith reacts to doublethink by reversing loyalties. His thoughts can cause his torture or vaporization by the Thought Police, but he is beyond self-control. Writing in his diary, he proclaims silently the beginnings of revolt.)
4. In his waking thoughts he called it the Golden Country. (Part I, Chapter 3, p. 30)
(Winston dreams of an idealized past—a pasture dotted with rabbits, trees, and a stream. His idyll reveals his motivation for rebelling against the Party. Cursed by guilt, he blames himself for the deaths of his mother and infant sister, whom he envisions sinking into deep water.)
5. I went with her through the doorway and across a backyard into a basement kitchen. . . His teeth were set on edge. He would have liked to spit. (Part I, Chapter 6, p. 64)
(Orwell pictures political fanaticism as a perversion of normal sexuality. The Party tries to subvert human libido because authorities perceive sexual expression as an ecstatic release of tensions that might challenge or replace Party loyalty.)

6. A rat. I saw him stick his beastly nose out of the wainscoting. (Part II, Chapter 4, p. 144)
(The rat is the source of Winston's abject terror. Julia, who has no rat phobia, throws a shoe at it, but the presence of a rat nearly causes Winston to swoon. The incident prefigures his eventual breakdown under torture in Room 101.)
7. "Winston, Winston!" his mother called after him. "Come back! Give your sister back her chocolate!" (Part II, Chapter 7, p. 163)
(The corruption of the individual takes shape in Winston's recall of stealing chocolate from his starving baby sister. Scarred by guilt, he blames himself for killing his mother, an unforgivable act of inhumanity.)
8. "Meanwhile I shall send you a copy of the book—" even O'Brien, Winston noticed, seemed to pronounce the words as though they were in italics. (Part II, Chapter 9, p. 177)
(A demonstration of political allegory, the reference to Goldstein's book indicates the elevation of truth to print seems to deify the work as though it were scripture. Orwell alludes to the writings of Karl Marx.)
9. "Do it to Julia! Do it to Julia! Not me! Julia! I don't care what you do to her. Tear her face off, strip her to the bones. Not me! Julia! Not me!" (Part III, Chapter 5, p. 286)
(Winston betrays Julia at the height of his subversion to Party beliefs. Broken forever, he symbolically kills the one thing that he loves. A mere shell of a man, he empties his mind of real thought and fills it with propaganda that makes him love Big Brother.)
10. He had won the victory over himself. He loved Big Brother. (Part III, Chapter 6, p. 297)
(The conclusion to the novel pictures the effectiveness of O'Brien's dialogue with Winston. Punished with the extreme fear of rats, Winston is bled dry of willpower. Passively, he becomes a zombie devoid of human feeling—the perfect tool of the state.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the novel.

Action

1. How do Julia and Winston Smith rebel against Big Brother?

(The two characters approach revolt from different points of view. Julia rebels on the physical level. Prior to her relationship with Winston, she has numerous clandestine affairs in defiance of the rule of celibacy. She also procures forbidden delicacies such as chocolate and coffee from the black market. For her, freedom lies in amorous adventures in the countryside out of view of Big Brother.)

Winston, in contrast, rebels on the intellectual level. Belabored by his job altering truth to cant, he defies the Thought Police to escape to “the future or to the past, to a time when thought is free, when men are different from one another and do not live alone—to a time when truth exists and what is done cannot be undone.” For his revolt, he is more in danger of punishment than Julia. When Mr. Charrington and the Thought Police arrest them, she is incapable of maintaining ideology or of clinging to abstractions. Physically and spiritually weak, she quickly betrays her lover.)

Contrast

2. What are proles?

(A laboring class within the social order, the proles comprise 85% of the population of Oceania. Unlike the closely scrutinized people like Julia and Winston Smith, the proles are unthinking peons who live apart from Party attention and hold no positions of power. Treated like beasts, they function on a primitive level, enjoy pornography, and reproduce freely. Thought Police vaporize the most dangerous workers, most of whom the Party hierarchy holds beneath contempt.)

Character Development

3. What does Winston learn about Julia?

(Winston determines that Julia, who is 26 years old, is a voluptuous woman who yearns for physical intimacy. She was only 16 when she had the first of a series of sexual liaisons. A dark-haired beauty, she lives in a hotel, works at novel writing, and enjoys manual work. Neither clever nor bookish, she hates the Party and avoids Newspeak. In the past, she was hockey team captain and leader of a Spies troop. She earned a trophy for gymnastics and pretends to support the Junior Anti-Sex League and Pornosec.)

Suspense

4. How does Orwell use the character of Mr. Charrington?

(Mr. Charrington, whose name suggests the burning of books and artifacts, appears to be kind and eager to help. An elderly antiques dealer, he rents an upstairs room to Winston and pretends that he is too poor to afford a telescreen. Charrington cites a children’s rhyme that captures the beauty of London’s church bells before the totalitarian state ended beauty and individual freedoms. At the end of Part II, Winston realizes that Charrington has duped him with his gentle demeanor and love of England’s past. After the arrest of Winston and Julia,

Charrington abandons his disguise and reveals his work for the Thought Police. Only 35 years old, the real Charrington presents a cold, alert, and inhumane face capable of betrayal.)

Theme

5. What does the author reveal about totalitarianism?

(Orwell speaks through O’Brien the seven humanistic expressions that Winston will lose from torture and breakdown. After torment in Room 101 with cages of rats, Winston is no longer capable of love, friendship, laughter, curiosity, courage, integrity, or normal joy in living. The list comprises the human elements that tyranny suppresses.)

Interpretation

6. Why are the headquarters of the Thought Police and the Party’s repressive machinery located in the Ministry of Love?

(The ironic name “Ministry of Love” epitomizes doublespeak for circumventing the true meaning of love. Winston experiences only a perversion of love in the ministry after the embrace of Big Brother and the propaganda machine replaces Winston’s human soul. By making Winston amenable to the Party’s regimentation, the seven years of spying and tormenting equate with the Party’s method of “loving” its wayward citizens back to the fold. Through Big Brother’s love, Winston is no longer able to stray from Party dictates or to fall into thoughtcrime.)

Conflict

7. Why does Orwell represent a society that fights interminably without achieving victory?

(According to Goldstein’s book, *The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism*, war provides a psychologically acceptable means of destroying surplus goods that might make life too comfortable for citizens. By maintaining an atmosphere of want and anxiety, the Party keeps followers fanatical and hysterical. Therefore, “War Is Peace,” because a state of constant war assures economic and political stability. The ruling classes of each of the three superstates decide that wars can go only to the brink of destruction. Without reaching cataclysm, international violence stabilizes and unifies people, who have no hope of a conclusive victory.)

Symbols

8. What is the function of technology?

(Science and technology involve the creation of newer, more destructive weapons and means of thought control. With enormous resources poured into projects, objective science vanishes, along with art. The aim of scientists is to kill millions of people in a few seconds with no advance warning and to tap into human thought against the will of the individual. The Party’s efforts fail in both areas, but authorities strive toward success.)

Author Purpose

9. Why did Orwell write his dystopian classic? *(Despite the common interpretation of 1984, Orwell did not predict a future shift by the year 1984. His choice of a date reverses the final numbers of 1948, a time that he perused for elements of perverse science and coercive government. His dystopian classic predicts totalitarianism, fascism, and the manipulation of language to alter human perceptions. As a warning to readers, he hopes to forestall the regression of humankind to barbarism.)*

Satire

10. How does the novel satirize Communism? *(Orwell claimed to devote his efforts from the mid-1930s to the overthrow of totalitarianism. He despised Communism, particularly the Stalinist variety that threatened the stability of Spain. In his novel, which he originally entitled The Last Man in Europe, he satirized absolutism for its endangerment of democracy. A skeptic at heart, he doubted that people could sustain any form of supreme power and control. Instead, he proposed checks and balances as a more reliable method of assuring individual freedom.)*

How Language Works

Orwell composed speeches for his character to reveal their foibles and failings. For example:

1. The child snoop who stalks Winston reveals totalitarian fanaticism as it is fostered in the young: "You're a traitor! . . . You're a thought-criminal! You're a Eurasian spy! I'll shoot you, I'll vaporize you, I'll send you to the salt mines!"
2. Syme is an older, more brutal version of the taunting boy. Syme states to Winston, "It was a good hanging . . . I think it spoils it when they tie their feet together. I like to see them kicking. And above all, at the end, the tongue stiking right out, and blue—a quite bright blue."
3. The prole in the alley speaks the vivid, vigorous working-class *patois* of London: "Steamer! . . . Look out, guv'nor! Bang over-'ead! Lay down quick!"
4. The soothing commentary of Mr. Charrington refers fondly of the past: "There's a lot of [churches] left, really. . . though they've been put to other uses."
5. Julia, a free spirit, contrasts Winston's anxieties: "There's no hurry. We've got the whole

afternoon. Isn't this a splendid hide-out? I found it when I got lost once on a community hike."

6. The coercive O'Brien assaults Winston's mind like a jackhammer: "You understand well enough how the Party maintains itself in power. Now tell me why we cling to power. What is our motive?"
7. Still believing he can rebel and survive, Winston states, "It is impossible to found a civilization on fear and hatred and cruelty. It would never endure . . . It would have no vitality. It would disintegrate. It would commit suicide."

Across the Curriculum**Social Studies**

1. Divide the class into small groups to research world events of the 1930s and 1940s. Prepare a timeline of parallel happenings in different countries. Explain how powermongers, such as Tojo, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Tito, Mao, Trotsky, and Franco, used violence and propaganda to victimize much of the world. Compose a chart to show what each participating nation won or lost, including freedoms, religion, culture, lives, casualties, missing persons, territory, supplies, and status.
2. Discuss the long-range effects of militarism in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Palestine, Myanmar, Korea, Afghanistan, Sudan, and Northern Ireland. Explain why constant military occupation and threats of violence and arrest sap a nation of its resources, creativity, and hope.
3. Create a bulletin board illustrating the political framework of Oceania and its various ministries. Parallel the structure with the divisions of American government—executive, legislative, and judicial.

Science

1. Compare the destructive capability of the V-2 rocket and "Little Boy" and "Fat Man," the two atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with the rocket bombs which fall on prole neighborhoods. Compose an essay delineating Orwell's attitude toward mechanized warfare. Extend your thinking to include Patriot missile, dirty bombs, and smart bombs.

Geography

1. Make a bulletin board that identifies the approximate locations of Airstrip One, Oceania, Eurasia, and Eastasia. Create a legend to clarify map symbols. Write in the names of real places, such as 'Yde Park, Stepney, Saint Pancras Station, St. Martin's, Old Bailey, Shoreditch, London, Siberia, Manchuria, Australasia, Mongolia, Tibet, Portugal, Bering Strait, Tangier, Brazzaville, Darwin, Hong Kong, Congo, Persia, Java, Ceylon, Indian Ocean, Malabar, Hampstead, Kent, Paddington Station, Colchester, and St. Clement's Dane.

Language

1. With a group, compile an Orwellian glossary including oldspeak, crimestop, doublethink, unperson, Hate Week, Ingsoc, antefiling, vaporize, thoughtcrime, prole, pornosec, speakwrite, and plusgood. Define each with episodes and outcomes from the novel. Pose a parallel of current media terms that mask terror and totalitarianism, such as collateral damage, friendly fire, insurgency, and war of liberation.
2. Contrast the style of language used in the prole pub, at the Ministry of Truth, at the boarding house, and in conversations between Winston and O'Brien or Julia. Note differences between Cockney, newspeak, and standard English.

Journalism

1. Write several broadcasts for the book, including Hate Week propaganda, Physical Jerks sessions, warnings of rocket bombs, and the announcement of victory in the final chapter. Underline facts that may be subject to rewriting.
2. Listen to recordings of speeches and commentary about World War II, including news dispatches by Edward R. Murrow and Fred Friendly, predictions of technological dangers by Winston Churchill, warnings of racial corruption by Adolf Hitler, and the future world peace as summarized by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Explain how these comments reveal the influence of dictators and propagandists.

Drama

1. Prepare a dialogue dramatizing Winston Smith's early conversations with Mr. Charrington at the antique shop. Note artifacts and memories of the past that each enjoys, such as writing paper, architecture, churches, frame art, furniture, and church bells.
2. Draw stage settings for a dramatization of Winston's work at the Ministry of Truth, Julia's fall in the hallway, Mr. Charrington's renting the upstairs room, the chess game at the Chestnut Tree Café, the visit to O'Brien's apartment, love-making in the belfry, a hallway attack on Winston by a vicious child, and discussions at the prole pub.

Art

1. Design a war memorial for Victory Square that creates a positive outlook toward Big Brother and invites citizens to congregate and admire national militarism. Write or quote a dedication that will encourage Party loyalty.

Literature

1. Explain to a small group what survival techniques keep Julia and Winston alive. Discuss why other characters, such as the Smith family, Syme, and Withers, become unpersons.
2. Describe aloud Winston Smith's reasons for risk-taking. Explain why he pushes the limits of the Thought Police and why he believes arrest is inevitable. What does the throbbing varicose lesion symbolize?
3. Compare Orwell's bleak dystopia with the atmosphere of other works in this genre, notably *Fahrenheit 451*, *Woman on the Edge of Time*, *We*, *R.U.R.*, *Herland*, *Animal Farm*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Anthem*, and *Brave New World*.
4. Organize a discussion of the term "dystopia" as Ray Bradbury depicts it in "There Will Come Soft Rains." Compare George Orwell's negative view with that of H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine* and *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, particularly in regard to Proles, Morlocks, and altered animals. Explain the writers' purpose in warning of future dangers.

Speech

1. Lead a debate about whether or not Winston Smith is capable of crime. Consider whether he should have pushed Katharine over the cliff. Discuss other instances of his urge to commit violence, particularly the night that Julia follows him from the antique shop. Explain his response to being hit by the boy's catapult missile and to O'Brien's increase of torture.

Health and Psychology

1. Discuss Winston's mental and physical condition when he reunites with Julia. Characterize elements of ongoing stress. Explain why the two are unable to resurrect love for each other.
2. Explain in a short speech the effect of catastrophe, regimentation, phobia, imprisonment, interrogation, death threats, torture, terror, shock, alienation, loneliness, separation, loss, hunger, disease, pain, uncertainty, guilt, and fatigue on Winston. Sample psychology books that describe how people cope with each. Discuss the survival instinct, which causes him to cling to sanity during O'Brien's extended torture sessions.
3. Using incidents from the book, comment on the effect of love and freedom on Winston and Julia. Why are Julia's pro-Party behavior and her Anti-Sex League uniform ironic?

Cinema

1. View the films *Fahrenheit 451*, *Water World*, *War of the Worlds*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *THX-1138*. Compare the dystopian themes in each movie. Discuss why personal freedom is important to the heroes of each. What are escapees willing to risk to free themselves from mental and physical coercion?

Composition

1. Compose a series of epitaphs for victims of the war, particularly Winston Smith's mother and sister, proles killed by rocket bombs, Syme, and Withers.
2. Describe Winston's need for a black book and the privacy to compose a journal. What function does writing the truth serve against

overpowering totalitarianism? What is the tone of his journal entries?

3. Explain in a theme how the author manipulates the atmosphere to enhance despair, terror, diffidence, anxiety, and insecurity.

Alternate Assessment

1. Compose a scene in which artists capture on canvas the nature of Oceania. Describe details from the following scenes which they would include:
 - a. Victory Square
 - b. a prole pub
 - c. the view from the rented room
 - d. the clearing where Winston waits for his first meeting with Julia
 - e. Mongolian prisoners being transported
 - f. Room 101
 - g. the communal cell in the Ministry of Truth
 - h. Charrington's antique shop
 - i. Winston's apartment house
 - j. the skies over London
2. Make a thorough list of items essential to a movie version of the book, for instance a notebook, paperweight, cage, rats, sash, top hat, catapult, spanner, briefcase, book, photo, newspeak tube, tray, gin glass, chessboard, monument, poster, coffee, chocolate, Snakes and Ladders, helicopters, bed, steel engraving, loose-strife, and pyramidal building. Beside the items, explain how they fit into the action. For example, describe how Winston sees a severed hand after a rocket bomb falls on a prole neighborhood and the ear trumpet Tom's daughter uses to spy on people.
3. List examples of foolishness, cruelty, duplicity, immorality, addictive behavior, or pride in various characters, for example, the boy's discharge of a catapult, Julia's frequent love affairs, O'Brien's torments, Mr. Charrington's trickery, Winston's addiction to gin, the proles' freedom from coercion, and Syme's pride in party loyalty.

Vocabulary

Locate in each line below a synonym for the first term. Place your answer in the blank at left:

- _____ 1. below the skin: varicose, tic, insemination, neurotic, tremor, spasm,
hypodermic, relic
- _____ 2. wrench: kilo, nipper, spanner, tube, queue, pannikin, Cockney, boozier
- _____ 3. bedspread: lackey, farthing, wainscoting, counterpane, hoarding
- _____ 4. sexual license: collectivism, socialism, totalitarianism, oppression,
promiscuity, Bolshevism, capitalism
- _____ 5. without prejudice: axiom, bourgeoisie, reclamation, empirical, objective
- _____ 6. empty job title: stratosphere, inquisitor, martyrdom, sinecure, ruffian
- _____ 7. common: aristocracy, pre-industrial, proletarian, hierarchical, hereditary,
oligarchical
- _____ 8. loyalist: zealot, eccentricity, collation, ideology, jargon, hybrid, voluntary
- _____ 9. behavior: subscription, inertia, demeanor, hypocrite, solidarity, treachery
- _____ 10. lying: sabotage, espionage, racketeering, prevarication, metaphysics,
solipsism
- _____ 11. dream state: reverie, heretic, palimpsest, frontispiece, caricature
- _____ 12. whip: catapult, canteen, truncheon, pillory, cat-'o-nine-tails, tableaux
- _____ 13. uplifted: edified, cadging, driveling, sniveling, iron-shod, impounded,
illicit
- _____ 14. rude: collaborated, insidious, consigned, desultory, infallible
- _____ 15. height: loose-strife, gateleg, apex, effigy, purge, philology

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Quotation Completion (30 points)

Supply a word to complete each of the following statements. Choose your answers from the list that follows. Place them in the blanks provided at left.

agents, bed, bells, cage, chestnut tree, chocolate, coffee, doublespeak, fiction, gin, ignorance, journal, Ministry of Love, orthodox, paperweight, phobia, proles, rat, rocket bombs, Room 101, sash, sling, telescreen, thoughtcrime, Thought Police, ulcer

1. He had walked several kilometers over pavements, and his varicose _____ was throbbing.
2. "Steamer" was a nickname which, for some reason, the proles applied to _____.
3. "What are you in for?" said Winston. " _____!" said Parsons, almost blubbing.
4. The instrument (the _____, it was called) could be dimmed, but there was no way of shutting it off completely.
5. How often, or on what system, the _____ plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork.
6. WAR IS PEACE. FREEDOM IS SLAVERY. _____ IS STRENGTH.
7. Give your sister back her _____!
8. His eye fell on the fragments of the glass _____.
9. She had even (an infallible mark of good reputation) been picked out to work in Pornosec, the subsection of the _____ Department which turned out cheap pornography for distribution among the proles.
10. Oranges and lemons, say the _____ of St. Clements.
11. As the _____ rose in him he belched through purple lips.
12. The _____ of Goldstein had been at work!
13. Of all the horrors in the world—a _____!
14. But if there was hope, it lay in the _____.
15. In an intellectual way, Syme was venomously _____.

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- ___ 1. Goldstein once was a war hero in Siberia.
- ___ 2. Winston and Julia touch hands briefly in Victory Square.
- ___ 3. The windows of the Ministry of Love look out on St. Martin's Church.
- ___ 4. Winston eventually parts with Julia and loves Big Brother.
- ___ 5. Mrs. Parsons betrays her husband to the Thought Police.
- ___ 6. In the alcove of his office, Winston begins writing a journal.
- ___ 7. O'Brien produces the photo of Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford.
- ___ 8. Bumstead is beaten for offering bread to a starving man.
- ___ 9. Among the Mongolian prisoners Winston sees Syme.
- ___ 10. Goldstein's book explains that Big Brother is not a real person.

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| A. Syme | F. Thought Police |
| B. Tom's son | G. Tom's daughter |
| C. O'Brien | H. Julia |
| D. Winston | I. Winston's sister |
| E. Martin | J. Big Brother |

- ___ 1. stares down at Winston from a poster
- ___ 2. introduces Winston and Julia to wine
- ___ 3. hits Winston with a projectile from his catapult
- ___ 4. wears the sash of the Anti-Sex League
- ___ 5. enters the rented room and brutalizes Julia
- ___ 6. disappears from the Ministry of Truth
- ___ 7. hears Tom talking in his sleep
- ___ 8. follows a prole into a pub
- ___ 9. is near starvation
- ___ 10. looks carefully at Julia and Winston so that he will remember them

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain how Winston survives Room 101.
2. Describe how Winston is different from the proles.
3. Explain how Julia communicates with Winston the first time.
4. Account for the destruction of the Smith family.
5. Predict how Julia and Winston will go about their jobs in the future.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Match the following quotations with names of speakers from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| A. Winston | F. Syme |
| B. Charrington | G. Tom's wife |
| C. telescreen | H. Goldstein |
| D. Tom | I. O'Brien |
| E. Julia | J. Ampleforth |

- ___ 1. We're getting the language into its final shape—the shape it's going to have when nobody speaks anything else.
- ___ 2. I allowed the word 'God' to remain at the end of a line.
- ___ 3. We are not dead yet.
- ___ 4. Until they become conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled they cannot become conscious.
- ___ 5. Do you think you could come across and have a look at our kitchen sink?
- ___ 6. 6079 Smith W! Hands out of pockets in the cells!
- ___ 7. To our Leader: To Emmanuel Goldstein.
- ___ 8. As we have seen, the mystique of the Party, and above all of the Inner Party, depends upon doublethink.
- ___ 9. I don't bear her any grudge for it. In fact I'm proud of her.
- ___ 10. There's been no paper like that made for—oh, I dare say fifty years.

Part II: Sentence Completion. (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase from the list below to complete each of the following statements.

- Proles differ from Party members in that they (**work outside of London, enjoy normal family life, fight wars in Eurasia.**)
- Goldstein's book (**confirms what Winston already knows, puts Winston immediately to sleep, floats down the tube into the furnace.**)
- Before he meets Julia, Winston (**lives a celibate life, has sex with a prostitute, pushes Katharine over a cliff.**)
- Syme concentrates on (**rewriting history, composing fiction, removing words from the language.**)
- Without (**freedom, sex, writing**), Winston feels no reason for living.
- Long before 1984, (**totalitarianism, the Labour Party, socialism**) began to change in England.
- As Winston looks back over events in his life, he has an indistinct memory of (**love, time, the number of people in his family.**)
- In the cell in (**Room 101, Victory Mansions, the Ministry of Love**), a woman suggests that she might be Winston's mother.
- To get Winston's attention, Julia pretends to (**slip him a photo of Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford, become an unperson, fall on her injured arm.**)
- Martin poses as (**O'Brien's servant, a teacher of Physical Jerks, an antique dealer.**)

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Short Answer (30 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to each of the following questions. Place your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. Into what instrument does Winston dictate his work?
- _____ 2. Who hangs up clothes behind the antique shop?
- _____ 3. What lies inside the glass paperweight?
- _____ 4. In what nation is Airstrip One?
- _____ 5. What nationality are the prisoners in the truck?
- _____ 6. Who offers the starving prisoner a piece of bread?
- _____ 7. Who adjusts the dials on the torture equipment?
- _____ 8. Where were Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford when they were accused of conspiring with the enemy?
- _____ 9. What is behind the steel engraving?
- _____ 10. Where do Winston and Julia meet before they begin using the rented room?
- _____ 11. What part of Julia's uniform denotes membership in the Anti-Sex League?
- _____ 12. Where does O'Brien fasten the cage?
- _____ 13. Who lives in a center for homeless children?
- _____ 14. In what is Goldstein's book delivered to Winston?
- _____ 15. What does Winston drink at the Chestnut Tree Café?

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Compare Winston's work with that of Syme and O'Brien.
2. Discuss the importance of newspeak to the Party.
3. Explain why Winston weeps after parting with Julia.
4. Discuss a pervasive atmosphere of unease and guilt in Winston's daily life.
5. Explain Mr. Charrington's methods of tricking Winston.

Answer Key

Vocabulary

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. hypodermic | 6. sinecure | 11. reverie |
| 2. spanner | 7. proletarian | 12. cat-'o-nine-tails |
| 3. counterpane | 8. zealot | 13. edified |
| 4. promiscuity | 9. demeanor | 14. desultorily |
| 5. objective | 10. prevarication | 15. apex |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Quotation Completion (30 points)

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. ulcer | 6. ignorance | 11. gin |
| 2. rocket bombs | 7. chocolate | 12. agents |
| 3. thoughtcrime | 8. paperweight | 13. rat |
| 4. telescreen | 9. fiction | 14. proles |
| 5. Thought Police | 10. bells | 15. orthodox |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T |
| 2. T | 7. T |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. F | 10. F |

Part III: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. J | 6. A |
| 2. C | 7. G |
| 3. B | 8. D |
| 4. H | 9. I |
| 5. F | 10. E |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. C |
| 2. J | 7. I |
| 3. E | 8. H |
| 4. A | 9. D |
| 5. G | 10. B |

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

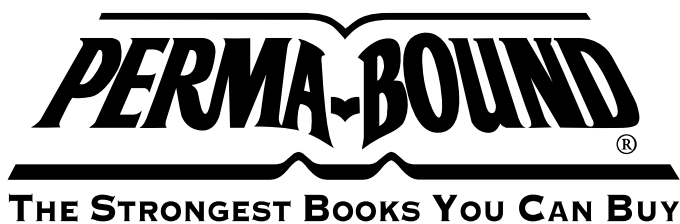
- enjoy normal family life
- confirms what Winston already knows
- had sex with a prostitute
- removing words from the language
- freedom
- socialism
- time
- the Ministry of Love
- fall on her injured arm
- O'Brien's servant

Part III: Short Answer (30 points)

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. speakwrite | 6. Bumstead | 11. sash |
| 2. prole woman | 7. O'Brien | 12. Winston's head |
| 3. coral | 8. New York City | 13. Winston |
| 4. Oceania | 9. telescreen | 14. briefcase |
| 5. Mongolian | 10. belfry | 15. gin |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



Perma-Bound

617 East Vandalia Road • Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
Toll Free 1-800-637-6581 • Fax 1-800-551-1169
E-Mail: books@perma-bound.com

Perma-Bound Canada

Box 868, Station Main • Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7A2
Toll Free 1-800-461-1999 • Fax 1-888-250-3811
E-Mail: perma-bound.ca@sympatico.ca

Visit us online at www.perma-bound.com