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English 2 / 1984 by George Orwell

### English 2 Summer Reading 2015

**1984** by George Orwell

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*Last year, you read Animal Farm, an allegory of Stalinist Russia. This summer you will read Orwell's other famous novel, his prediction of what the world would be like in 1984. Once again, a totalitarian government rules, and its leaders are attempting to create an ideal utopian society. 1984 is a masterpiece of paranoia and fear of an overbearing government. Its world is a weird one—if it confuses you, take note of that confusion. It's not supposed to be a comfortable world. As you read, ask yourself whether or not the world Orwell envisioned bears any resemblance to our own society.*

### Summer Reading Objectives

Thorough and thoughtful completion of the study guide will prepare students to do the following:

1. review major literary elements to be covered throughout the year
2. participate in class discussions and activities related to the novel
3. understand and interpret complex literature and monitor their own comprehension
4. take a novel test over author information, characters, plot, setting, themes, and motifs

### Grading of the Study Guide

- I will collect the study guide on the first day of school.
- The study guide will count as a 100-point quiz grade.
- I am looking for thoughtful, thorough answers. Students are to do their own work—do not refer to Spark Notes, Cliff's Notes, etc. Do not work together. Do not use answers you got from any other student. I will know, and a zero/cheating offense is the worst way to start next year's class. **You will get *more* credit for a wrong answer that is your own than for a correct answer that is copied or re-hashed from another source, including your parents, friends, and online sources.**

### Further Activities/Assessments

During discussions and activities in class, students will

1. learn information about George Orwell and discuss how his background influenced his writing style
2. discuss totalitarian societies and compare/contrast the society in the novel to totalitarian societies in history and in Orwell's *Animal Farm*
3. compare/contrast the society in the novel to utopian societies in other novels they have read or films they have seen
4. analyze the mood and setting of the novel
5. analyze characters in the novel
6. analyze major themes and philosophical ideas of the novel
7. consider the implications of *1984* for our own society

Following discussions in class, students will take a test over the novel.

## **Instructions**

Type answers to all questions. Remember to answer thoroughly and thoughtfully (probably 1-3 sentences per question)!

### Part One

1. Who is Winston Smith?
2. Who is Big Brother?
3. What are the four Ministries, and what is the purpose of each?
4. What does Winston begin doing in Ch. 1 that could result in his death?
5. Who is O'Brien, and what is the memory/dream Winston has of him?
6. What is doublethink?
7. What is Winston's job, and why is it essential to the Party?
8. Who is the girl with the dark hair that Winston keeps seeing?
9. Describe the proles and the way they live.
10. Briefly summarize the history of the Party and the story of Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford (Ch. VII).
11. Who is Mr. Charrington? What does Winston buy on his second trip to Mr. Charrington's shop, and what is the significance of this item (what draws Winston to it)?
12. Ask Your Own Question! Come up with your own original discussion question that you feel is important for part one. Then, explain WHY it is an important question. (You must explain). Then, briefly answer it.

### Part Two

1. Briefly describe the events that follow Julia's confession of her feelings for Winston.
2. Briefly describe Julia's personality and political ideas.
3. What memory does Winston have of his mother and sister? What is the significance of this memory?
4. Why does Winston begin to envy the proles?
5. What does O'Brien do that shocks Winston and Julia when they first start talking to him at his house?
6. What are Winston and Julia trying to accomplish during their meeting with O'Brien? What do they promise to do?
7. What is Hate Week?
8. List three of the most important ideas in "*the book*" (the one O'Brien sends to Winston in Ch. IX)
9. How are Winston and Julia discovered?
10. Ask Your Own Question! Come up with your own original discussion question that you feel is important for part two. Then, explain WHY it is an important question. (You must explain). Then, briefly answer it.

### Part Three

1. What is the difference between the way the proles and the Party members behave in jail? What do you think is the reason behind this difference?
2. What role does O'Brien play in Winston's interrogation?
3. What does O'Brien say is wrong with Winston?
4. Briefly summarize what O'Brien says about power in Ch. III.
5. What is room 101? Describe what happens when Winston goes to room 101. Why is this significant?
6. How has Winston's life changed since his release?
7. Describe what happens when Winston and Julia see each other again.
8. What do you think the last sentence of the novel (before the appendix) means? What are the implications for Winston?
9. Ask Your Own Question! Come up with your own original discussion question that you feel is important for part three. Then, explain WHY it is an important question. (You must explain). Then, briefly answer it.