# 1984 BY GEORGE ORWELL

PART I CHAPTER REVIEW

#### 1.1 CHAPTER PREVIEW

 We are introduced to Oceania in April, 1984.
 Society is under the control of the Party and Big Brother (who is always watching you). Our protagonist, Winston Smith, begins to keep a diary to capture his thoughts.

#### **PLACES**

- · London, Airstrip One, Oceania
- Victory Flats
- Ministries: of Love, Truth, Peace, Plenty
- Eastasia and Eurasia (the other two super-states along with Oceania)

#### **FACES**

- Winston Smith: Outer party member; protagonist
- Dark-haired girl: works in Minitrue in the fiction dept.;
  outer party member
- O'Brien: Inner party member; shares a glance with Winston
- Goldstein: Traitor and enemy of the party

# ITEMS/IDEAS TO KNOW

- Telescreen
- Newspeak
- Thought Police
- Big Brother
- Hate Week; the 2 minutes hate
- Minitrue
- 3 Slogans
- Doublespeak/doublethink
- Junior anti-sex league
- Goldstein, the brotherhood, and the book
- Mass conformity
- Thoughtcrime

### QUOTES

- "BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU"..."DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER"
- "You had to live...in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and except in darkness, every movement scrutinized."
- "[Goldstein] was the primal traitor, the earliest defiler of the Party's purity."
- "The horrible thing about the 2 Minutes Hate was not that one was obliged to act a part, but that it was impossible to avoid joining in."

### 1.2 CHAPTER PREVIEW

 We're introduced to the Parsons, Winston's neighbors in Victory Mansions. Pay attention to HOW the children act toward their mother and Winston. Winston recounts a dream regarding O'Brien, and he continues to write in his diary.

### CHAPTER 1.2 REVIEW

 Winston opens his door to Mrs. Parsons. He was tormented by the Parsons children who accuse him of thoughtcrime. The children are angry because they cannot see the hangings. Winston remembers a dream about O'Brien and writes in his diary that his thoughtcrime makes him a dead man.

### **PLACES**

- The Parsons' flat
- Winston's flat

#### **FACES**

- Mrs. Parsons Wife of Tom (will be introduced later); mother of two; breaks off her thoughts midsentence.
- The Parsons' children
  - Son 9; daughter 7
  - Both dressed in the uniform of the Spies
  - Disappointed that they could not witness hangings
  - Ironically call Winston a "traitor" and "thought-criminal"

### ITEMS/IDEAS TO KNOW

- Party sponsored organizations (i.e. Youth League and Spies)
- Family dynamics Parsons' children are barely their children
- "Link" between O'Brien and Winston
- Connection to future

### QUOTES

- "Parsons was...one of those completely unquestioning, devoted drudge on whom more even than the Thought Police, the stability of the party depended."
- "Nearly all children nowadays were horrible."
- "We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness."
- "He wondered again for whom he was writing the diary.

#### 1.3 - CHAPTER PREVIEW

 We see a series of dreams and memories of Winston's. There is one of his mother; there is one of the Golden Country; there is one of a nuclear bomb attack and a rush to the Tube Station for shelter.
 Winston is lost in a reverie throughout his morning exercise, wondering about what is real externally and what is real internally with his memory.

### 1.3 CHAPTER REVIEW

Winston is dreaming. He is dreaming of his mother and sister, and he remembers how they died. He thinks it was his fault they were dead. He starts to dream of the "Golden Country" with the dark haired girl stripping. Winston has to exercise in the morning and almost gets caught because his exercise instructor catches him.

#### **FACES**

- Exercise instructor
- Dark-haired girl appearing in his dream of the Golden Country
- Winston's mother sacrificial feeling

# ITEMS/IDEAS TO KNOW

- Golden Country
- Memory and the past
- Controlling the past, present, and future
- Continuous war
- Written records

### QUOTES

- "Today, there were fear, hatred, and pain, but no dignity of emotion or deep or complex sorrows."
- "[The dark-haired girl's gesture] was a gesture belonging to the ancient time."
- "Who controls the past, controls the future: who controls the present controls the past."
- "The past, he reflected, had not merely been altered, it had been actually destroyed. For how could you establish even the most obvious fact when there existed no record outside your memory?"

### 1984 READING QUIZ - CH 1 - 3

# Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- 1. Where does Winston live? (Start as broad as possible and narrow to specific as possible.)
- 2. Why is it difficult for him to get up the stairs? Why doesn't he take the lift?
- 3. Analyze how the Parsons children similar to children today.
- 4. What country is Oceania at war with at this time?
- 5. Analyze the actions of the party: How could the 2 Minutes Hate be detrimental to the Party's reign?
- 6. In what ways could a person commit thoughtcrime?

# CHAPTER 4

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#### CHAPTER PREVIEW

 Winston works at his job and BB sends him a message to alter 4 documents. The last document was an article where BB was giving praise to Comrade Withers. Withers has been vaporized so he rewrites history to make up a man named Comrade Ogilvy.

### THEMATIC ELEMENTS/IDEAS

- Reliability of facts, figures, and newspapers
- Unpersons, those who have been "vaporized"
- Tech: speakwrite, memory holes

### QUOTES

• "...it was not even forgery. It was merely the substitution of one piece of nonsense for another."

"Winston's greatest pleasure was his work."

• "Withers, however, was already an unperson. He did not exist; he had never existed."

# CHAPTER 5

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#### CHAPTER PREVIEW

In chapter five, Winston goes to lunch and meets a friend where they talk about how much rations like tobacco, chocolate and razor blades have decreased because they cannot buy as many of these things. The language of Oldspeak decreases to the ultimate decrease of Newspeak. Any nervous tick or suspicious face is "facecrime." Mr. Parsons talks about his children and brags about them and how he is proud of their violent behavior. Parsons' daughter followed a suspicious man in the woods; Parsons calls her SMART.

### **CHARACTERS**

- Winston
- Mr. Parsons Loves his children, thinks they're amazing party mem bers

### THEMATIC ELEMENTS/IDEAS

- The power of language; links to thought (i.e. if there is no word to express something, can that thing still exist?)
- Destruction of words to eliminate thoughtcrime
- Chocolate ration
- Facecrime

### QUOTES

- Don't you see the that the whole aim of newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end, we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it."
- "The revolution will be complete when the language is perfect."
- "The proles are not human beings."

# CHAPTER 6

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### **CHAPTER SUMMARY**

• Winston confesses that he visits a prostitute. He thinks of his wife, Katherine. Katherine loved the party and saw sex as her duty. Due to her love of the party she and Winston split. This chapter is about sex and how the party tries to make it a bad thing but does not have full control over it as it is an instinct.

# FACTS/IDEAS

 Sex, the act versus the instinct. The party tries to make it seem like a dirty thing

### QUOTES

- "Tacitly the party was even inclined to encourage prostitution, as an outlet for instincts which could not altogether be suppressed.
- The party's real, undeclared purpose was to remove all pleasure from the sexual act.

# CHAPTER 7

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#### CHAPTER PREVIEW

 Winston spends this chapter writing in his diary and focuses on two main ideas: the proles and the past. He believes the proles have the power (and numbers) to rebel, but he wonders how to inspire them. As for the past, Winston wonders how you can keep a grasp on reality when you don't have anything to compare it to (records, history, etc.) Winston remembers sitting at the Chestnut Tree Café and seeing three men that had been eventually vaporized. At his job Winston once came across a photo of these men and learned they were forced to confess. Winston threw the photograph into the memory hole out of fear. Winston realizes he's writing the diary for O'Brien. He finishes this diary entry with the line "Fréedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows." Hope for overthrowing the party lies in the proles – 85% of the population.

# ITEMS/IDEAS TO KNOW

- Power and inability of the masses to rebel (keep them happy, dumb, and content)
- The importance on external records to validate your own memory and existence
- Facts v. ideas v. claims (can the Party claim 2+2=5 and be correct?)

### **PLACES**

- Winston's flat
- Chestnut Tree Café
- Minitrue

#### **FACES**

- "Capitalists" the Party paints a picture of capitalists begin horrible monsters
- Proles 85% of the population, but they're treated like animals.
- Jones, Aaronson, Rutherford the original revolutionaries that were eventually "proven" to have committed treason; they spent time at Chestnut Tree Cafe

### QUOTES

- "If there is hope, it lies in the proles."
- "So long as [the proles] continued to work and breed, their other activities were without importance."
- "Proles and animals are free."
- "Everything faded into mist. The part wa was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became truth."

### QUOTES CONT'D...

- "I understand HOW: I do not understand WHY."
- "In the end, the party would announce that two and two made five, and you would believe it."
- "If both the past and the external world exist only in the mind, and if the mind is controllable – what then?"

### QUOTES CONT'D...

- "The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final most essential command."
- "Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two makes for. If that is granted, all else follows."

#### IMPORTANT EVENTS

- Proles are not smart. Party doesn't think they're worth brainwashing.
- Winston remembers a time when he had proof that the party was changing history. He had proof that certain people that the Party deemed never existed had actually existed, but...
- He destroyed the proof.
- Winston ends thinking that he should give the diary to O'Brien.

# CHAPTER 8

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#### **CHAPTER REVIEW**

• Winston wanders through a prole section of town. He envies the life of the ignorant proles. He buys an old man a beer and asks about the days before the revolution. The old man is too incoherent. Winston passes the antique store where he bought his diary and we meet Mr. Charrington, the shop owner. Winston purchases a glass paperweight containing pink coral and likes it because he thinks it's a link to the past.

### CHAPTER REVIEW CONT'D...

 Chatting with Mr. Charrington, Winston is then led upstairs to a room where there is no telescreen. Winston likes the idea of privacy so much that he considers renting the room. On his way back home, he sees a Party worker (overalls) and realizes that it's the dark haired girl and fears she is spying on him. (He briefly thinks about murdering her with the paperweight in his pocket.) At the end of the chapter he's home and restless and tries writing in his diary but only manages to write the Party slogans.

### **PLACES**

- Pub
- Mr. Charrington's antique store
- Churches named in a song
- Winston's flat

#### **FACES**

- Old man in the pub Winston tries to talk to the main about pre-revolutionary time, but is not successful
- Mr. Charrington sells Winston the paperweight and shows him the upstairs room which Winston thinks of renting
- Dark-haired girl sees Winston outside of Charrington's shop; Winston freaks out and thinks about killing.

#### IDEAS TO REMEMBER

- Pre-revolutionary perspectives
- Rhyme about churches a snippet from the past that intrigues Winston
- Glass paperweight an object from a different era

### QUOTES

- "What appealed to him about it was not so much its beauty as the air it seemed to posses of belonging to an age quite different from the present one."
- There was no doubting any longer that the girl was spying on him."
- "Nobody ever escaped detection, and nobody ever failed to confess. When once you had succumbed to thoughtcrime it was certain that by a given date you would be dead."