

1984, Book Two, Chapter 9, "The Book" (184-217)

Guided Reading Questions

Directions: Go back to the section (pages 184-217) that contains "The Book." Find the answers to the following questions using paraphrase and quotes from the text. Some questions will require far more detail than others; determining what the complete answer is, is part of the assignment. Page numbers are provided for some questions to help you situate yourself at the right starting point for an answer in the text; but that page may not have the whole answer to the question.

1. Why does Orwell include detailed passages from Goldstein's Book in 1984?
2. What is the purpose of war in the world of 1984? What is not the purpose? (185)
3. What are the two aims (goals) of the Party? (193)
4. What are the two problems with which the Party is therefore concerned? (193)
5. Why do all three superpowers forbid their citizens from associating with foreigners? (196)
6. The governments of the three superpowers are alike in essence even though their forms of government have different names. Identify these similarities and explain why they exist. (196)
7. What is the real "war" fought in each of the three governments? Your answer will explain the party slogan, "War is Peace." (197)
8. Notice that Orwell includes the first paragraph of Chapter 1 of "The Book" on p. 184 and then again on p. 201. Why might Orwell repeat this section in that way (for what purpose)?
9. What three classes of people have always existed? To what extent have they changed? (201)
10. What are the aims (goals) of the three groups? (201)
11. What changes in the pattern occurred in the nineteenth century? (202)
12. How did socialism change in the twentieth century? (202)
13. Why are the rulers in the 20th century better at maintaining power than earlier tyrants? (202)
14. What are the four ways an elite group falls from power? (207)
15. How does the Inner Party make certain it will not fall from power? (207)
16. How is a person's class determined in the 1984 world? How does this maintain the status quo? (208)
17. What is doublethink and what is its purpose to the ruling class? (210)
18. Why is the mutability (look it up!) of the past important to the ruling class? (212)
19. Why will this ruling class live on while earlier tyrants fell? (215)
20. What other significant points do you notice? Hint: population figures (208) and geography (187)