

1984 Reading Guide Questions

—
Before reading this book, please make sure you understand the following terms:

Dehumanization
Dystopia
Isolation/alienation
Repression
Social Class Disparity
Abuse of power

Questions to consider prior to reading:

- Does the government intrude upon the privacy of US Citizens?
- Can man create a perfect society?
- Is war necessary for the economy?
- Do governments control or change history?
 - Can history be rewritten?
- Why do some people rebel while others conform?

Book One, Chapters 1-2

1. What bothers Winston?
2. What is wrong with his society?
3. What are the three slogans of the Inner Party?
4. What are the four ministries?
5. How does the Two Minute Hate work?
6. What happens to Winston during the chant?
7. What happens between O'Brien and Winston?
8. What is "thoughtcrime"?
9. What are the Thought Police?

Book One, Chapters 3-4

1. What is Winston's dream about his mother? How does he feel about himself in that dream?
2. What is his dream about the "Golden Country"?
3. What does he know about the legends concerning Big Brother?
4. Describe Winston's job.
5. How is the past controlled?
6. How does Winston feel about his work? What sort of "creativity" is involved?

Book One, Chapters 5-7

1. What is the problem with obtaining razor blades?
2. Parsons brags about his children for doing...what?
3. What lies/half-truths does the Party teach about history?
4. Winston suspects that the Party lies about progress made since the war. What Party claims does he doubt?
5. What is the story of Aaronson, Jones and Rutherford? Why is this story so meaningful for Winston?

Book One, Chapter 8

1. What is life like in the Proles' end of London?
 2. What does Winston discover at Mr. Charrington's shop?
 3. What is Mr. Charrington like?
-

Book Two, Chapter 1

1. How does Winston react to the note from Julia before he reads it?
2. How does Winston react to the note after he reads it?
3. How do they manage to meet?

Book Two, Chapter 2

1. Why is Winston ill at ease once he is alone with Julia?
2. What does Julia bring with her that she has obtained on the black market?
3. What familiar sign does Winston find?

Book Two, Chapter 3

1. What is Julia's job?
2. What is her background?
3. What is her attitude toward the Inner Party?
4. Describe Winston's marriage.

Book Two, Chapter 4

1. What pleasures of the senses are mentioned in this chapter? What do you think is Orwell's point in mentioning them?
2. What is Winston's reaction to rats? Julia's reaction?
3. Winston sees the coral paperweight as a symbol of...what?

Book Two, Chapter 5-6

1. Describe the preparations for Hate Week.
2. In what ways does the Inner Party excel in building spirit?
3. What finally convinces Winston that O'Brien is a member of the Brotherhood?

Book Two, Chapter 7

1. What does Winston remember about his family and his relationship with his mother?
2. What does Winston realize about love and loyalty as a result of his dream?

Book Two, Chapter 8-9

1. How does O'Brien test Julia and Winston?
2. What information does O'Brien give them about the Brotherhood?
3. What are the ways in which the Inner Party builds spirit during Hate Week?

Book Two, Chapter 9, The Book

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?
3. Why do all three superpowers forbid their citizens from associating with foreigners?
4. What is the real "war" fought in each of the three governments? Your answer will explain

the party slogan, "War is Peace."

1984 Part 2, chapter 9 The main ideas of Goldstein's book are:

1. War is important for consuming the products of human labor; if this work were used to increase the standard of living, the control of the party over the people would decrease. War is the economic basis of a hierarchical society.
2. There is an emotional need to believe in the ultimate victory of Big Brother.
3. In becoming continuous, war has ceased to exist. The continuity of the war guarantees the permanence of the current order. In other words, "War is Peace"
4. There have always been three main strata of society; the Upper, the Middle and the Lower, and no change has brought human equality one inch nearer.
5. Collectivism does not lead to socialism. In the event, the wealth now belongs to the new "upper-class", the bureaucrats and administrators. Collectivism has ensured the permanence of economic inequality.
6. Wealth is not inherited from person to person, but it is kept within the ruling group.
7. The masses (proles) are given freedom of thought, because they don't think! A Party member is not allowed the slightest deviation of thought, and there is an elaborate mental training to ensure this, a training that can be summarized in the concept of doublethink.

Book Two, Chapter 10

1. What is the significance of the glass paperweight here?

Book Three, Chapter 1

1. Where is Winston? How is he treated there and why?
2. Which of Winston's acquaintances is in the same place and why?
3. What effect do the words "Room 101" have on the skull-faced man?

Book Three, Chapter 2

1. What sort of treatment does Winston receive?
2. What is O'Brien attempting to teach Winston?
3. What effect does the (painless) shock treatment have on Winston?
4. What questions does Winston ask O'Brien and what are the responses?

Book Three, Chapter 3

1. Who wrote Goldstein's book? Is what the book says true?
2. How does Winston feel about O'Brien? Why?
3. According to O'Brien, what are the three stages of Winston's reintegration?
4. What final question does Winston ask O'Brien?

Book Three, Chapter 4

1. How does Winston show that he is not entirely true to Big Brother?
2. How does Winston feel about Big Brother?

Book Three, Chapter 5

1. What happens in Room 101 and how does this "cure" Winston?

Book Three, Chapter 6

1. What is the setting?
 2. What is Winston's job? (Look up "sinecure" if needed)
 3. How is it evidence that Winston really is a different person?
 4. What is happening in the last two paragraphs of the book?
-