

**Arrowhead Union High School  
Language Arts Department  
Book Rationale**

<b>Book Title and Author</b>	<i>1984</i> by George Orwell
<b>Course</b>	Honors English 10
<b>Teachers</b>	Rayen Elmergreen and Carol Whitehaus

<b>How is this book particularly appropriate for the students in this course?</b>	<p>It is a novel by a prominent British author and serves as an opportunity for students to decipher a classic science fiction, dystopian novel.</p> <p>Students will read <b>excerpts</b> from this novel for targeted skill practice rather than reading the full text.</p>
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<b>How is this book especially pertinent to the objectives of this course and/or unit of study?</b>	<p>This novel is about a public subjected to constant surveillance. Given the prevalence of technology and the fast pace in which privacy expectations are changing in society, this novel is just as significant now as it was in 1948.</p> <p><b>ENGAGING WITH TEXTS (Reading):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>1.1</b> Close, critical reading of complex literary and nonfiction texts leads to a deeper understanding of the explicit and implicit meaning of the works. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>LO 1.1A</b> Analyze a wide range of texts for multiple meanings</li> <li>● <b>LO 1.1C</b> Use a repertoire of active reading strategies appropriate to the text and task.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>1.3</b> Analyzing literature is a complex task that includes making inferences, examining an author's use of literary and stylistic elements, and drawing conclusions about the meaning of the work as a whole. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>LO 1.3A</b> Analyze how literary elements interact to develop the central ideas of a work of literature.</li> <li>● <b>LO 1.3B</b> Analyze how the writer's use of stylistic elements contributes to a work of literature's effects and meaning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>1.4</b> A text may be read in conversation with other texts or in the broader context in which it was written or read. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>LO 1.4A</b> Explain the relationship between a text and its historical or cultural context.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<b>Identify any special problems that might arise and list activities/lessons that will address these issues.</b>	<p>In order to address the lack of individuality in this dystopian society, their sex/personal intimacy is used as a metaphor. The references to sex are necessary to indicate the severity of the loss of privacy in this novel. In addition, the protagonist experiences harsh physical punishment for his rebellion against the government.</p> <p>See Common Sense Media review for more information:  <a href="https://www.common sense media.org/book-reviews/1984">https://www.common sense media.org/book-reviews/1984</a></p>
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<b>Provide a summary of the book.</b>	<p><i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>, often published as <i>1984</i>, is a dystopian novel by English author George Orwell published in 1949. The novel is set in Airstrip One (formerly known as Great Britain), a province of the superstate, Oceania in a world of perpetual war, omnipresent government surveillance and public manipulation, dictated by a political system euphemistically named English Socialism (or Ingsoc in the government's invented language, Newspeak) under the control of a privileged elite of the Inner Party, that persecutes individualism and independent thinking as "thoughtcrime." The tyranny is epitomised by Big Brother, the Party leader who enjoys an intense cult of personality but who may not even exist. The Party "seeks power entirely for its own sake. It is not interested in the good of others; it is interested solely in power." The protagonist of the novel, Winston Smith, is a member of the Outer Party, who works for the Ministry of Truth (or Minitrue in Newspeak), which is responsible for propaganda and historical revisionism. His job is to rewrite past newspaper articles, so that the historical record always supports the party line. The instructions that the workers receive specify the corrections as fixing misquotations and never as what they really are: forgeries and falsifications. A large part of the ministry also actively destroys all documents that have been edited and do not contain the revisions; in this way, no proof exists that the government is lying. Smith is a diligent and skillful worker but secretly hates the Party and dreams of rebellion against Big Brother.</p>
<b>List awards or other accolades the book has received.</b>	<p>Winner of Prometheus Hall of Fame Award</p> <p>Written in 1948, <i>1984</i> was George Orwell's chilling prophecy about the future. And while 1984 has come and gone, Orwell's narrative is timelier than ever. <i>1984</i> presents a startling and haunting vision of the world, so powerful that it is completely convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the power of this novel, its hold on the imaginations of multiple generations of readers, or the resiliency of its admonitions—a legacy that seems only to grow with the passage of time. - Barnes and Noble</p> <p>It is probable that no other work of this generation has made us desire freedom more earnestly or loathe tyranny with such fullness. <i>1984</i>, the most contemporary novel of the year and who knows of now many past and to come, is a great examination into and dramatization of Lord Acton's famous apothegm, "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely." — <i>Books of the Century</i>; <i>New York Times</i> review, June 1949</p> <p>As literary political fiction and dystopian science-fiction, <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> is a classic novel in content, plot and style. Many of its terms and concepts, such as <i>Big Brother</i>, <i>doublethink</i>, <i>thoughtcrime</i>, <i>Newspeak</i>, <i>Room 101</i>, <i>telescreen</i>, <i>2 + 2 = 5</i>, and <i>memory hole</i>, have entered into common use since its publication in 1949. <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> popularized the adjective <i>Orwellian</i>, which describes official deception, secret surveillance and manipulation of recorded history by a totalitarian or authoritarian state. In 2005, the novel was chosen by <i>Time</i> magazine as one of the 100 best English-language novels from 1923 to 2005. It</p>

	was awarded a place on both lists of Modern Library 100 Best Novels, reaching number 13 on the editor's list, and 6 on the readers' list. In 2003, the novel was listed at number 8 on the BBC's survey The Big Read.
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