

## 1984

By George Orwell

\*\*\*\*Please complete the reading guide questions in **Part One, Chapters 1-4**. You may read ahead, answering the other questions as you go, but be sure to show up the first day of school with the Part One, Chapters 1-4, of the reading guide filled in. We will have a short *quiz* and then discuss the questions and vocabulary. (I'm not kidding!)

### Part One, Chapters 1-4

1. Describe the government of Oceania. (What are the Ministries of the government? What are the different branches of the Party? etc.)
2. Why does Winston keep a diary?
3. How does the diary function as a literary device?
4. What is the purpose of the Two Minute Hate?
5. How does Winston react to the Two Minute Hate?
6. How does his momentary eye contact with O'Brien affect Winston?
7. Who are the Parsons and what do they represent?
8. What is the significance of Winston's dream in which a voice speaks to him about meeting a place where there is no darkness?
9. Why does Winston place a speck of dust on the cover of the diary?

10. Why does Winston choose dust as his means of detecting whether or not anyone has disturbed his diary? What is symbolic about dust in 1984?

11. What do Winston's dreams about his mother, the golden country and the dark-haired girl reveal about him?

12. What are the physical jerks?

13. Explain the meaning of doublethink.

14. Describe Winston's job.

15. Does Winston like his job?

**Part One, Chapters 5-8**

1. What is revealed about Party philosophy in the discussion between Winston and Syme?

2. What do Winston's memories of Katharine and his visit to the prostitute reveal about attitudes toward sex in Oceania?

3. Why was the photograph of Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford important?

4. How does Winston treat the proles?

5. What does Winston think about after his conversation with the old man in the pub?

6. What does Winston discover at Mr. Charrington's shop?

7. What does Winston think when he sees the dark-haired girl outside Mr. Charrington's shop?

## **Part Two, Chapters 1-5**

1. How does Winston react to the note from Julia, before reading it and after reading it?
2. What does Winston think when he sees the place Julia selects for their rendezvous?
3. What does Winston mean when he says that he loves Julia all the more because she has had scores of previous sexual encounters?
4. What is the significance of the song the woman in the courtyard sings while Winston waits for Julia?
5. How does Winston react when Julia tells him about the rat she has seen in the room?
6. Why does Winston say that Julia is “a rebel only from the waist down?”

## **Part Two, Chapters 6-10**

1. What finally convinces Winston that O'Brien is a member of the Brotherhood?
2. What does Winston realize about love and loyalty as a result of the dream about the paperweight?
3. How does the dream about the paperweight affect Winston's attitude toward the Party and the proles?
4. Why do Winston and Julia visit O'Brien at this apartment and how does O'Brien test them?
5. What is the significance of the wine which O'Brien serves Winston and Julia?
6. Why are Winston and Julia convinced, after meeting with O'Brien, that his is a member of the secret Brotherhood?

7. Why does 1984 contain long passages from “the book?”
  
8. According to “the book” what is the actual, although unstated, purpose of evidence of endemic war between the three super-states?
  
9. What is the meaning of the party slogan “War is Peace?”
  
10. Why don't Julia and Winston realize they overslept?
  
11. Summarize the elements of symbolism and irony in the arrest scene.

**Part Three, Chapters 1-6**

1. Why are the common criminals and political prisoners treated differently in the temporary lock-up?
  
2. What symbolic meaning can be drawn from the fact that the Ministry of Love has no windows is artificially illuminated all the time?
  
3. Compare Ampleforth's and Parson's reactions to their arrests.
  
4. When does Winston first realize that O'Brien is directing his torture?
  
5. How does Winston react to the first pain he suffers?

6. Why does O'Brien wish to convince Winston that  $2 + 2 = 5$  ?
  
7. What reason does O'Brien give for Winston's being brought to the Ministry of Love?
  
8. Why doesn't the Party simply liquidate rebellious members?
  
9. What effect does the machine attached to Winston's temples have on his brain?
  
10. How do O'Brien and Winston each define existence?
  
11. Summarize the three stages of treatment at the Ministry of Love.
  
  
12. What does Winston find in room 101?
  
13. What does the scene of Winston in the Chestnut Tree café reveal about him?
  
14. What happens when Winston and Julia accidentally meet?
  
  
15. How does Winston react to the news of Victory in Africa?