

Submit your answers to the daily reading questions on a piece of paper or in Canvas.

**1984 by George Orwell**

**Part One:** Chapter 1 (pages 1-20)

*Day 1*

1. What impression do you have of this world? Describe, based on descriptions so far of technology, architecture, clothing, names, etc.
2. What type of government is in place? (INGSOC stands for English Socialism, page 2.)
3. What seem to be the four most important buildings in London?
4. Winston lives in "Victory Mansions," drinks "Victory Gin," smokes "Victory Cigarettes," hears "strident military music" in a city with "bombed sites" and sees "All war films." What does this imply to readers? (pgs. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8)
5. Describe Winston Smith, the novel's protagonist. What does he look like? What type of person is he? What is his personality? Is he happy? What is his life like? What does he think about? What does he do?
6. How would you describe Winston's diary entry? Consider the subject, the words, tone, etc. What does this tell us about him? "Prole" is short for proletarian, which means a member of the working class or a worker. (9)
7. Describe Emmanuel Goldstein and the Brotherhood. (11-16)
8. "Two Minutes Hate." (9) How is this used to manipulate people's emotions? How does Winston react?
9. Describe O'Brien. (10, 11, 17)
10. What is your opinion so far of the novel? Are you interested to read more?

**Appendix:** The Principles of Newspeak (pages 299-312)

*Day 2*

1. What is "newspeak?" Describe a bit. What is it doing to language?
2. How long does the appendix imply that Oceania and Ingsoc survived? *1984* is a bleak and dark dystopia, but phrases such as "For the future, for the unborn" (7) can offer a bit of hope. Margaret Atwood, author of *The Handmaid's Tale*, says that the appendix to *1984* is hopeful and a glimmer of optimism. Analyze.
3. Tell a bit about the "A vocabulary." (301-303)
4. What is "B vocabulary?" (303-309)
5. What do you think of "newspeak?"

**Part One:** Chapters 2 & 3 (pages 20-37)

*Day 3*

1. Describe the building in which Winston lives.
  2. What are kids like in this world?
  3. Does Winston have any privacy? Explain.
  4. What does Winston dream, and what does he remember of his family & childhood? What might it mean for Winston that "his memory was not satisfactorily under control?" (34)
  5. What are "Physical Jerks?" How is Winston's physical health?
- Note: Rage Against the Machine's song "Testify" uses, "Who controls the past, controls the future: who controls the present, controls the past." (34)

Chapters 4 & 5 (pages 37-63)

*Day 4*

1. Winston works in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth (Minitrue Recdepe). What does he do? Does he enjoy his work?
2. "The great purges" (44) and "The two of them must evidently have been swallowed up in one of the first great purges of the Fifties" (29) might refer to what?
3. Describe Syme. He is first introduced on page 48.
4. Describe Tom Parsons. Mrs. Parsons mentioned him in Chapter 2, and he appears starting on page 55.
5. Is there any truth in the phrase "our new, happy life" (58) for Winston? Explain.

Chapters 6 & 7 (pages 63-81)

*Day 5*

1. How are Party members supposed to view sex?
2. Who is Katharine? She is first mentioned on page 64.
3. What is the difference between Party members and proles? Which group is larger?
4. What is the Party description of Capitalism?
5. Who are Jones, Aaronson & Rutherford, and what happened to them? They are first mentioned on page 75.

Chapter 8 (pages 81-104)

*Day 6*

1. Why is individualism (*ownlife*) discouraged?
2. What happens when a “steamer” roars into the street?
3. Why does Winston go into a pub to buy an old man beer?
4. Describe Winston’s experience in the little junk shop.
5. What does Winston briefly consider doing after he sees the dark-haired girl? What does he do instead?

**Part Two:** Chapter 1 & 2 (pages 105-126)

*Day 7*

1. Winston has a strange encounter with the dark-haired girl. What happens?
2. How have his thoughts & feelings about the dark-haired girl changed? What does he now think of her?
3. Where do they meet on Sunday?
4. Describe the girl. What is she like? What is her name? Do you think Winston can trust her?
5. How do they spend the afternoon?

Chapters 3 & 4 (pages 126-147)

*Day 8*

1. What is “talking by installments?” (128)
2. Out in public, they managed a kiss once. How?
3. Describe the church hiding place where they are able to meet.
4. Winston learns much more detail about Julia; summarize.
5. Winston’s thought can be very brutal and violent. What does he wish he had done to Katharine, his wife?
6. Winston has created a hide-out in the city where he & Julia can meet. Describe.
7. How does Winston react when Julia sees a rat?
8. Why does Winston like the glass & coral paperweight so much?
9. Why does Julia not know what a lemon is & only vaguely can describe an orange?
10. The rhyming song Winston first heard from Mr. Charrington on page 98 appears again in this chapter. What do you think is its significance to the story? Why is Winston so interested in learning all of it?

Chapters 5, 6 & 7 (pages 147-167)

*Day 9*

1. When we first met Syme, Winston thought, “One of these days... Syme will be vaporized. He is too intelligent. He sees too clearly and speaks too plainly. The Party does not like such people. One day he will disappear. It is written in his face.” (53) Now, on page 147, what appears to have happened to Syme?
2. As Hate Week approaches, what is the situation with the rocket bombings?
3. What does Winston want to talk about, and how does Julia react? How do their views on the Party differ?
4. Describe Winston’s encounter with O’Brien in Chapter 6.
5. Describe Winston’s dreams & memories of his mother & little sister.

Chapters 8 & part of 9 (pages 167-185)

*Day 10*

1. How do members of the Inner Party, like O’Brien, live (especially in comparison to Winston & the proles)?
2. What does O’Brien tell Julia & Winston about the Brotherhood?
3. How will Winston receive a copy of Goldstein’s book?
4. What happened during the last days of Hate Week that caused Winston to work 90 hours in five days?
5. What book is Winston reading?

Chapter 9 continued (pages 185-201)

*Day 11*

Write a brief summary of Chapter 3 “War Is Peace” of Goldstein’s book.

Chapter 9 remainder (pages 201-218)

*Day 12*

Write a brief summary of Chapter 1 “Ignorance Is Strength” of Goldstein’s book.

Chapter 10 (pages 218-224) and **Part Three**: Chapter 1 (pages 225-239)

*Day 13*

1. A prole woman often sings while hanging the laundry in the yard below their room. What does Winston think of her now? What happens to the woman doing laundry in the yard?
2. How are Julia & Winston captured? What role has Mr. Charrington apparently played in this?
3. What was it like in the first place he had been taken to after his arrest? Where is Winston now?
4. Who are Winston’s cell mates? What are their stories?
5. Who finally arrives in Winston’s cell?

Chapter 2 (pages 239-260)

*Day 14*

1. What does O’Brien say is wrong with Winston?
2. What torture devices are used against Winston in this chapter?
3. What do you think “Room 101” means?
4. What is O’Brien trying to do with Winston?
5. Do you think Winston has a chance at survival?

Chapters 3 & 4 (pages 260-282)

*Day 15*

1. What does O’Brien reveal about Goldstein’s book?
2. What does O’Brien say is the relationship between power and the Party?
3. What does O’Brien say about Earth’s history and place in the universe?
4. What does “solipsism” mean?
5. What does Winston see in the mirrors? How does he feel?
6. By Chapter 4, how have Winston’s treatment and health improved?
7. What does Winston think about Julia?
8. What is Winston’s state of mind during this time?
9. How does Winston believe he will die? What does he hope he will be thinking at his moment of death?
10. Where is O’Brien taking Winston? Why?

Chapters 5 & 6 (pages 282-298)

*Day 16*

1. What does O’Brien have prepared for Winston in this new cell?
2. O’Brien’s comment on rats on page 285 is very similar to what Julia said about rats on page 144. Why, do you think, did Orwell make this connection? What could it mean or reveal?
3. Describe Winston’s reunion with Julia.
4. What is Winston like now? Describe his daily existence.
5. What does Winston remember? What does he wish for?

Extra Credit: Identify Themes and Categories of Science Fiction that describe *1984*.