

1984

Photocopiable

While reading

Introduction

1 **Talk about this question with another student and write down your ideas.** Newspeak wants to destroy language in order to control people. But, is language necessary for thought? For example, could we imagine love if there was not a word for love?

Chapters 1–2

2 **Write the correct words in the spaces.**

It was a bright, (a) day in (b) and the (c) were striking (d) (e) Smith hurried home to (f) Mansions with his (g) down to escape the terrible (h)

3 **What do the words in *italics* mean?**

- a (page 3) '*It* burned him inside, but he felt more cheerful after.'
- b (page 3) '*It* was the only way of getting razor blades.'
- c (page 3) '*This* was not illegal.'
- d (page 10) '*This* happened every month or two and was a popular evening's entertainment.'
- e (page 10) 'About twenty or thirty of *them* were falling on London each week.'

4 **With another student discuss the physical and mental differences between Winston Smith, Big Brother, and Tom Parsons. What are the adjectives that you would use to describe each person? Write three lists.**

Chapters 3–4

5 **Match the Newspeak words (a–h) with the definitions (1–8).**

- a *speakwrite*
- b *vaporized*
- c *unperson*
- d *prole*
- e *thoughtcrime*
- f *ungood*
- g *face crime*
- h *ownlife*
 - 1) bad
 - 2) someone who doesn't exist
 - 3) a machine
 - 4) separation from other people

- 5) poor people who work
- 6) showing what one thinks
- 7) killed
- 8) thinking freely

6 **Answer these questions.**

- a Who lives in the area where Winston goes after writing in his diary?
- b Why is walking alone not a good idea?
- c Winston wears blue overalls. What does that mean?
- d Who does the man in the shop look like?
- e What surprises Winston about the room that the man shows him?

Chapters 5–6

7 **Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?**

- a The dark, pretty girl had hurt her leg when Winston saw her four days later.
- b Winston and the girl agreed to meet in Victory Square.
- c The girl's eyes are a beautiful green colour.
- d Winston is thirty-nine years old.
- e Julia likes Winston because he has a handsome face.
- f Julia says that it is safe to meet anywhere three times.

8 **In the directions that Julia gives to Winston the underlined words aren't right. Write the correct answer in the spaces.**

After a half-hour car (a) journey, turn left inside (b) the station. and walk two kilometres along the river (c) Then climb over a door (d) and take a path across a bridge (e)

9 **Discuss this question with another student.**

Julia thinks that 'life was quite simple. You wanted a good time; they (meaning the Party) wanted to stop you having it, so you broke the rules'. Do you break the rules in your own life?

Chapters 7–8

10 **Put these events in the right order to make a story, using numbers 1–5.**

- a Winston and Julia visit O'Brien.
- b A few careless people talked about his absence.
- c One morning he did not come to work.
- d Syme was vaporized.
- e Nobody talked about his existence.

1984

Photocopiable

11 Match a–e with 1–5.

- a Who had never existed?
 - b Who was helping to organize Hate Week?
.....
 - c Who had stopped drinking gin at all hours?
.....
 - d Who could turn the *telescreen* off?
 - e Who thought that everybody secretly hated the Party?
- 1) O'Brien
 - 2) Winston
 - 3) Parsons
 - 4) Julia
 - 5) Syme

12 Answer these questions about Goldstein's book.

- a How many groups does Goldstein's book say that there are in society?
.....
- b Which group sometimes has no aim?
.....
- c Which group wants equality?
.....
- d How many great countries exist in 1984?
.....
- e What are 85% of the population called?
.....

13 Correct the mistakes in these sentences about Goldstein's ideas.

- a The aims of the three groups are similar.
- b The Middle want to stay where they are.
- c The Low want to change places with the High.
- d Sometimes the High have no aims at all.
- e The Middle want to live in a world where all people are equal.
- f The High are made up of scientists, teachers, and journalists.

Chapters 9–10

14 Who is speaking? Match a–f with 1–6.

- a 'We were working on a poem and I didn't change the word "God"'.
- b 'Of course I'm guilty!'
- c 'No faces covered in the cells.'

- d 'Haven't I told you everything already?'
 - e 'What are you in for?'
 - f 'How many fingers am I holding up?'
- 1) Winston
 - 2) O'Brien
 - 3) Parsons
 - 4) a woman
 - 5) Ampleforth
 - 6) *telescreen*

15 Answer true (T) or false (F) to these statements of O'Brien to Winston.

- a Winston exists.
- b Big Brother exists.
- c The Brotherhood does not exist.
- d Julia has not changed.
- e Nobody knows what is in Room 101.

16 Write a confession with another student.

Take the role of Winston, Julia, Ampleforth, or Parsons and write a confession for the Thought Police. Tell them what you have thought or done (or dreamed!). Try to make the Thought Police have pity and decide not to *vaporize* you.

Chapters 11–12

17 Underline the wrong word in each sentence and write the correct word.

- a Goldstein wrote Goldstein's book.
- b The *proles* will soon attack the Party and criticize it.
- c The Party wants money.
- d O'Brien says that in the future there will be new art.
- e O'Brien says that the worst thing in the world is the same for every person.
- f Winston betrayed himself.

18 Discuss these questions with another student.

- a Is there any way that Winston could have escaped from O'Brien and the Thought Police?
- b Is there any kind of hope for a better future in 1984?
- c Does O'Brien really believe that two and two are five?
- d Would it have been possible for Winston not to have betrayed Julia?

19 You are O'Brien and you are writing your diary. Write about Winston and Julia and how you feel about capturing and punishing them. Do you really believe in Big Brother? Are you a happy man?

1984

Photocopiable

Chapters 1–2

1 Match these people (a–e), with their words (1–5).

- a Winston
 - b The girl with dark hair (Julia)
 - c O'Brien
 - d Mrs Parsons
 - e The Parsons boy
- 1) 'Pig! Pig!'
 - 2) 'You're a *thoughtcriminal*!'
 - 3) 'Down with Big Brother.'
 - 4) 'They wanted to see the Eurasian prisoners hang.'
 - 5) 'We shall meet in the place where there is no dark.'

2 Answer these questions about the book.

- a In what month does *1984* begin?
.....
- b Where does Winston live?
.....
- c Who are Winston's neighbours?
.....
- d Is Winston a happy man?
.....

Chapters 3–4

3 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a Winston works in the Ministry of Love.
- b Ogilvy had been a real hero.
- c Winston thinks that one of these days Syme will be vaporized.
- d Parsons is proud of his son.
- e In *1984* it was dangerous to do anything alone, even go for a walk.
- f Winston's friends were vaporized in the 1950s.
- g Katherine was the name of Winston's wife.
- h She had an interesting face, until you found out that there was almost nothing behind it.
- i The owner of the shop had hair that was black but his face looked surprisingly old.
- j There was no window in the room that the man showed to Winston.

Chapters 5–6

4 Choose words from box to complete the sentences.

message Big Brother Victory Mr Charrington
make-up prole Mansions money mask rat

- a Winston arrives at Square.
- b Julia gives Winston a

- c Julia is standing next to a picture of
- d Julia puts on
- e Julia throws a shoe at a

Chapters 7–8

5 Underline the correct name.

- a They vaporized *Mrs Parsons / Syme*.
- b Winston and Julia visit *O'Brien / proles*.
- c *Ampleforth / Mr Charrington* is a member of the Thought Police.
- d O'Brien gives Winston a book by *Goldstein / Mr Charrington*.
- e Winston talks about the book with *Julia / Syme*.

Chapters 9–10

6 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- a 'God' / poem / a / leaves / Ampleforth / in
.....
- b *thoughtcrime* / guilty / thinks / of / Parsons / is / he
.....
- c Julia / O'Brien / Winston / betrayed / that / says
.....
- d do not / our enemies, / their thoughts / We / destroy / we change /
.....
- e five / Two / make / two / and
.....

7 Write the correct names.

- a Who had a large weak body and nervous movements?
- b Who believes that he is guilty?
- c Who did they get a long time ago?
.....
- d Who said he was an East Asian spy and that he had murdered his wife?
- e Who betrayed Winston?

Chapters 11–12

8 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a Winston thought that O'Brien had the face of a strong, young man.
- b Winston knew that the rats would never reach his face.
- c Winston goes to the Chestnut Tree Restaurant.
- d Julia had become fatter when Winston saw her for the last time.
- e At the end of the novel Winston believes that 2 + 2 = 5.