

1984 – Part One Study Guide: To help you understand all aspects of the novel, answer the following questions for Part One. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper using complete sentences.

Chapter One

1. Discuss the message conveyed by the Big Brother posters hanging in apartment buildings. How would this message differ if the posters only hung in public places?
2. Examine the Party's three slogans: "War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength." At this point in the novel, what do you think they mean?
3. Summarize Winston's feelings about O'Brien.
4. Describe the Two Minutes Hate and its purpose.

Chapter Two

1. Interpret the comment that O'Brien says in Winston's dream and predict how it will reoccur in the novel.
2. Name and explain the three principles of INGSOC.
3. Explain Winston's comment, "Thoughtcrime does not entail death: thoughtcrime IS death."

Chapter Three

1. Describe Winston's dream about the Golden Country.
2. Explain the Party's approach to Airstrip One's history.
3. What is doublethink and why is it necessary in order to survive under Big Brother's control?
4. Do you think that Big Brother truly exists or is he just a symbol of the Party? Explain the connotation of the term "Big Brother."

Chapter Four

1. Explain what a speakwrite is and how it works.
2. Describe the process that Winston undertakes to change historical records.
3. Identify what types of media the Party produces and why they produce them.
4. Describe what happens to citizens after they are arrested.

Chapter Five

1. Contrast Syme's opinion of public hangings to Winston's.
2. Tell how citizens react to any government news about rations or production, and explain why it is an odd reaction.
3. Summarize why Winston believes that some citizens will be vaporized and others will not be.
4. Give an example of facecrime.

Chapter Six

1. Explain why the Party does not allow people who are physically attracted to each other to marry.
2. Describe Winston's relationship with his wife, Katharine.
3. Explain Winston's belief that, "The sexual act, successfully performed, was rebellion. Desire was thoughtcrime."

Chapter Seven

1. Quote Winston's thoughts on why the proles do not rebel against Ingsoc.
2. Describe how the Party utilizes history as propaganda.
3. What is the Party's essential command?
4. Interpret Winston's axiom, "Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows."

Chapter Eight

1. Define *ownlife*.
2. Infer why Winston checks for telescreens at the pub and in the room over Mr. Charrington's shop.
3. Where does Winston return, and what does he purchase?
4. Describe the picture on the wall and how it is mounted in the room.
5. Who does Winston see in the street, and what does he think she is doing?