

Intermediate



B2 (Vantage)

R A I N B O W S

# 1984

George Orwell



edisco





R A I N B O W S

George Orwell

1984

Adaptation, dossiers and activities by  
Manuela Barbero



**edisco**

# 1984

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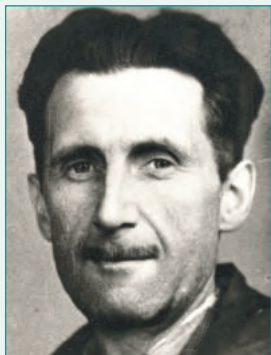
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# The Author

## George Orwell



**George Orwell**, the pen-name<sup>1</sup> of Eric Arthur Blair, was born on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1903 in eastern India, the son of a British colonial civil servant<sup>2</sup>. The following year, Eric Arthur was taken to England and brought up almost exclusively by his mother. He was a studious child and won a King's Scholarship<sup>3</sup> to Eton College in 1917.

In 1921, he passed the entrance examination of the Indian Imperial Police and was accepted into its Burma (present Myanmar) division. We have practically no information about his five-year experience in Burma; however, we know that it offered the material for two of his best-known essays, 'A Hanging' and 'Shooting an Elephant' and his first novel *Burmese Days* (1934). He left the job in 1927 and decided to become a writer.

In 1928, he moved to Paris where the lack of success as a writer forced him into a series of low jobs. He described his experiences in *Down and Out in Paris and London*, a book of memories published in 1933. He took the name George Orwell, which combined the name of the reigning monarch (George V) with a river flowing through the county of Suffolk in England.

The following years were an important period in Orwell's life: in 1935, he completed a second novel, *A Clergyman's Daughter*, while working in a bookshop in London. Here he met his first wife, Eileen O'Shaughnessy, and wrote a third novel, partly based on his book-selling experience, *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* (1936).

An anarchist in the late 1920s, by the 1930s he had begun to consider himself a socialist. In 1936, he wrote an account<sup>4</sup> of poverty among unemployed miners in northern England, which resulted in *The Road*

1. *pen-name*: a name used by a writer instead of their real name.
2. *civil servant*: a person who works for the government.
3. *scholarship*: an amount of money given by a school, college,

- university, or other organization to pay for the studies of a person with great ability.
4. *account*: a written or spoken description of an event.

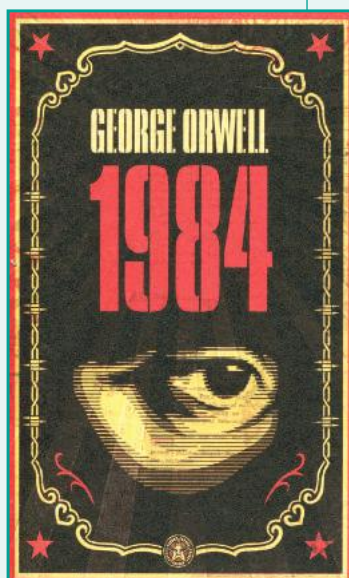
to *Wigan Pier* (1937). The crucial political experience of his life was the six months he spent in Spain, in 1937, as a Republican volunteer against Francisco Franco. Spain made Orwell “believe in Socialism for the first time”, as he wrote, while instilling a strong hatred<sup>5</sup> of totalitarian political systems. *Homage to Catalonia*, an account of his time in Spain, was published in 1938.

Between 1941 and 1943, Orwell worked for the BBC. In 1943, he became literary editor of the *Tribune*, a left-wing weekly magazine. By now, he was a prolific journalist, writing articles, reviews and books.

***Animal Farm***, his bitter satire of the Soviet experiment, was written by the middle of 1944. This political fable, based on Stalin’s betrayal<sup>6</sup> of the Russian Revolution, made Orwell famous and ensured he was financially comfortable for the first time in his life. Publishers’ timidity, and the pressure exerted by a Russian spy working for the Ministry of Information, delayed<sup>7</sup> the appearance of this allegorical short novel until August 1945. Five months earlier, Eileen had died during an operation. The couple had previously adopted a small boy, Richard Horatio Blair.

***Nineteen Eighty-Four*** was published four years later (1949). This book, which is set in an imaginary totalitarian future, made a deep impression. Its title and many phrases, such as, ‘Big Brother is watching you’, ‘newspeak’ and ‘doublethink’ entered popular use.

The enormous international success of this dystopian<sup>8</sup> novel came too late for its author. Orwell’s health was slowly deteriorating and shortly before his death, he made an unexpected second marriage to Sonia Brownell, the assistant editor of a literary magazine. He died of tuberculosis on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1950, aged 46.



- 5. *hatred*: hate; opposite of love.
- 6. *betrayal*: the act of ignoring your principles or beliefs in order to achieve something or gain an advantage for yourself.

- 7. *delayed*: made something happen at a later time than originally planned or expected.
- 8. *dystopian*: describing a negative society.





**BEFORE READING**

**1** *1984* is set over 30 years after it was written. What kind of future do you think it features?

- a. A happy, self-sufficient society living with nature. ☐
- b. A society of brainless humans controlled by alien beings. ☐
- c. A society of workers controlled by a totalitarian oligarchy. ☐
- d. A society of intelligent humans living in a scientifically advanced world. ☐

**2** Which aspects are typical of a democratic (D) or a totalitarian (T) government and society?

- a. There are several parties. ☐
- b. All decisions are made by the state. ☐
- c. Uniformity is welcomed. ☐
- d. Equality is at the basis of justice. ☐
- e. Wars are avoided at all costs. ☐
- f. One party dominates. ☐
- g. Well-being for everybody is promoted. ☐
- h. Justice is manipulated and follows ad hoc principles. ☐
- i. Decisions are made by the state and the individuals. ☐
- j. Differences are appreciated and welcomed. ☐
- k. A state of war is convenient. ☐
- l. Well-being is reserved for a restricted group of people. ☐

**3** Choose the correct definition and example for the word *paradox*. What are the other two definitions and examples for?

- a. Unnecessary use of two expressions with the same meaning. ☐
- b. Humorous use of an expression that has several meanings or that sounds like another one. ☐
- c. Statement that seems impossible because it contains two opposite ideas. ☐
- 1. Deep down, you're really shallow.
- 2. PIN number
- 3. You were right, so I left.



# 1984 Winston Smith

## Chapter 1

While the clock struck thirteen on a bright cold day in April, Winston Smith quickly entered his block of flats, Victory Mansions, to escape the wind and dust.

The hall smelt of boiled cabbage and was as dark and bleak<sup>1</sup> as the outside and the surrounding buildings. The sky was a perfect blue, but the only colour seemed to come out of the immense posters that were everywhere: near the useless lift (often broken, now with no electricity due to the savings for Hate Week), opposite every window, in every corner. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU was the caption under the sturdy<sup>2</sup> handsome face of a black-haired and black-moustachioed middle-aged man who pierced you with his eyes from every angle you looked at him.

In his blue overalls<sup>3</sup> – the uniform of the Party that everybody wore – which covered his weak and worn-out<sup>4</sup> body, Winston slowly climbed up to his flat only to be welcomed by the emotionless and constant voice coming out of the telescreen. That was the name for the ubiquitous<sup>5</sup>, flat appliance which broadcast images and sounds from the Party everywhere, day and night. Not only did it inform Party members about every single detail of the Ninth Three-Year Plan, the production of iron, the number of soldiers and prisoners from the war between Eurasia or Eastasia (apparently, when at war with one of these two powers, Oceania – their country – was at peace with the other), but it also transmitted every sound and picture it picked up to the Thought Police. And that was the real problem. The Thought Police. That's why you had to live assuming<sup>6</sup> that you could be heard and seen any moment.

Used to this, Winston set his face straight, took a glass of Victory Gin and turned to the window to look at Airstrip One. Had his city

1. *bleak*: cold and unpleasant.

2. *sturdy*: strong and solid.

3. *overalls*:



4. *worn-out*: extremely tired.

5. *ubiquitous*: seeming to be in all places.

6. *assuming*: believing that it is true without question or proof.

always been so grey, so poor, so miserable? He could not remember. Actually, he could not remember anything about his childhood, or youth, for that matter. Everything was a blur<sup>7</sup>; an indistinct mass of memories lost in time with just a series of flashbacks, assuring him that he did have a past after all, but nothing worth recalling.

The only buildings that stood out from the desolate and bombed buildings in front of him, were the four tall Ministries of Oceania: the Ministry of Truth (news, entertainment, education and the arts), the Ministry of Peace (war), the Ministry of Plenty (economy) and the most frightful of the four, the Ministry of Love (law and order – although which laws, you did not know, since they did not exist anymore), which Winston had never even dared<sup>8</sup> approach.

From where Winston stood, it was just possible to read the three slogans of the Party on the walls of the pyramidal structure of the Minitrue (Ministry of Truth in Newspeak, the official language of Oceania):

WAR IS PEACE  
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY  
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH.

Deep in thought, but keeping an impassive<sup>9</sup> face, Winston walked to the only corner of the room where he knew the telescreen could not see him. He was feeling both excited and scared at what he was about to do, and he knew he would be punished for it sooner or later. The Thought Police always got you in the end. Usually at night. They dragged<sup>10</sup> you out and with no trial, no report of the arrest, you simply disappeared, your whole existence was deleted, you were ‘vaporised’.

He had committed Thoughtcrime, the worst crime of all, which included all the others. There was no redemption or escape for that. The diary he was about to write, the beautiful book with

---

7. *blur*: something that you cannot see, understand or remember clearly.



8. *to dare*: to be courageous or silly enough to do something dangerous

or that you cannot do.


9. *impassive*: showing no emotion.

10. *to drag*: to make someone go somewhere they do not want to go.

**CRIMESTOP!**  
THINK UNGOOD THOUGHTCRIMES

DEPARTMENT OF  
**REEDUCATION**




THINKPOL MESSAGE IS A DOUBLEPLUS  
GOOD. IT CANNOT THINK FOR ITSELF. NO CHOICES TO BE MADE.

**FIGHT  
THOUGHT  
CRIME**



**JOIN THE  
COPIES**  
PROOF BY THOUGHT-REPEATING  
MINIPLAX FOR DOUBLEPLUS DETAILS

**BIG BROTHER IS  
WATCHING YOU**

**WAR IS  
PEACE  
FREEDOM IS  
SLAVERY  
IGNORANCE IS  
STRENGTH**

**LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE HAD A  
BIT TOO MUCH TO THINK**

*I'm making  
and buying*



**Buy VICTOR**

**EVER THERE!  
YOU'RE SAFE OVER HERE!**




**INGSOC**



**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL  
THOUGHT POLICE**  
Don't speak out or  
*Closed minds. STOP thought*

**BIG**

**BIG BROTHER  
IS WATCHING  
YOU**

**WAR IS PEACE  
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY  
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH**

**BROTHER IS  
WATCHING YOU**

yellowed pages he had bought on the free market and the pen he had managed to find were just open demonstrations of his crime.

With a twinge<sup>11</sup> of panic, he started writing,

*4<sup>th</sup> April 1984,*

but then he stopped. Was it really 1984? Time was blurred and meaningless. And, whom or what was he writing for? The future? What a paradox! Either it would be the same, and so nobody would even read it, or it would be different, and thus his diary would be useless. He started writing down something about the film he had watched the night before, and then, finally, the real reason which had made him start his journal came back to his mind.

It was something that had happened that morning at work, at the Records Department in the Minitrue. He was preparing for the Two Minutes Hate when two people had entered the big room where everybody was grouping the chairs in front of the telescreen.

The first was a good-looking girl of about twenty-seven, boldly wearing her Junior Anti-Sex League sash<sup>12</sup> around her slim waist. He knew she worked in the Fiction Department as a mechanic, but he had always hated her, and even suspected she might be a spy for the Thought Police. He hated her because she was beautiful and he wanted her, but knew he could not have her, nor could he tolerate her open and enthusiastic appreciation of the Party.

The second was O'Brien, whom Winston had rarely seen, but who, he knew, held an important and remote position in the Inner Party. His intimidating<sup>13</sup> appearance was softened by a certain look on his face which Winston had always been attracted to, maybe because of the intelligence it expressed. He had always believed, somehow, that O'Brien shared his own unorthodoxy, that he was an unbeliever like him, but he had never dared verify this.

On that particular morning, however, Two Minutes Hate had been an eye-opener for Winston. Everything had started as usual: the sheep-like face of Emmanuel Goldstein – the Enemy of the People – had filled the screen, his revolutionary words against Big

11. *twinge*: sudden, brief and painful feeling of an emotion.

12. *sash*:



13. *intimidating*: imposing, fierce, making you feel frightened.





"...and everyone started chanting "B-B! ... B-B! ... B-B!" over and over again."

Brother asking for freedom had blared<sup>14</sup> through the speakers and the rhythmic heavy steps of the soldiers' boots had accompanied his verbal attack upon the Party.

Goldstein, the one who had previously collaborated with Big Brother, had finally rebelled against him and was now conducting a personal battle against society through the Brotherhood, a secret society of fans who continued, incomprehensibly, to be convinced by his sweet oratory and who spread his beliefs through 'the book', wreaking havoc<sup>15</sup>, inspiring terrorism and criminals.

Winston alternated between moments of distaste and moments of respect and hope but he could not stop himself from joining the crowd of his fellow workers in loudly expressing his hatred for Goldstein. People threw objects at him, insulted him, shouted out loudly their desire to kill and torture him (but it could have been anything or anyone else), and even the young girl had thrown a dictionary and screamed at him (which had greatly bothered Winston), until the face of Big Brother substituted that of the enemy. Then, adoration swelled<sup>16</sup> in the hearts of everyone: love and gratitude for their saviour calmed everyone down, his quiet speech entranced<sup>17</sup> everybody into a sort of hypnosis and everyone started chanting "B-B! ... B-B! ... B-B!" over and over again.

14. *to blare*: to make an unpleasantly loud noise.

15. *to wreak havoc*: to create trouble and confusion.

16. *to swell*: to become larger, to increase in size and amount.

17. *to entrance*: to hold the complete interest and attention of someone.

Winston had joined the rhythmic and alienating chant, but, seconds before he fell under the spell<sup>18</sup>, ‘that’ thing had happened: a glance<sup>19</sup>. A stolen moment of recognition had passed between him and O’Brien: he had understood they were on the same side. That had been all. Was it true? Had he imagined it? He could only guess. But it had been enough to start a rebellious desire in him to write his journal.

He came out of his stupefied<sup>20</sup> state and realised he had unconsciously filled a page of his diary with DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER... he was doomed<sup>21</sup>, he thought, again. Sooner or later they would get him.

There was a knock at the door. ‘Were they here already?’, Winston thought, and, heavily, went to open it. It was his neighbour, Mrs Parsons, who, as usual, needed help with the sink.

“It’s just because Tom isn’t in, comrade.”

Sighing, Winston followed her into her bleak flat. A strong smell of boiled cabbage and sweat filled the room. Sports equipment, dirty dishes and brownish exercise books were everywhere; the thirty-year-old woman looked exhausted and almost dusty herself, and his colleague Parsons’s fanatical and bigoted<sup>22</sup> enthusiasm for the Party was visible all over the place.

Two young children, wearing the blue and grey uniform of the Spies, kept jumping around, protesting to their mother and asking to be taken to that night’s public hanging of the enemies from Eurasia. While Winston tried to remove what blocked the sink, the older boy, soon joined by his sister, threatened him with a toy pistol and a menacing look,

“Up with your hands! You’re a traitor, you’re a Eurasian spy! I’ll vaporise you!”

The two kids were so fierce and convincing in their game that it was rather frightening, as if it were real, had they not been aged nine and seven. Back home, Winston then realised, ‘it’s normal

18. *spell*: condition of being under the influence or control of some words that are thought to have some sort of power.

19. *glance*: quick, short look.

20. *stupefied*: very confused.

21. *doomed*: certain to fail, die or be destroyed.

22. *bigoted*: having strong and unreasonable beliefs.



“But it had been enough to start a rebellious desire in him to write his journal!”

for every parent nowadays to fear their own children sooner or later... They are little savages who love the Party and everything connected with it and who turn their ferocity against everyone else, including – and primarily – their parents. After all, newspapers are full of stories of children who have reported their parents to the Thought Police...’

Suddenly, a dream he had had seven years before came back to him. He was walking in a dark room and somebody – but he knew it had been O’ Brien – had told him very calmly, “We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness.” And he just knew that it would come true. He did not know whether O’ Brien was a friend or an enemy – and it was not important either at this point – but he knew there was a connection between them. It would happen, it was just a matter of time.

While the telescreen announced some of the usual news about the perpetual war, Winston’s mind continued working...

‘Newspeak, doublethink, the mutability<sup>23</sup> of the past, the principles of the Party, IngSoc... I am alone. The past is dead, the

---

23. *mutability*: fact of being able to change.



future is unimaginable. How am I to know that the Party won't rule forever?'

Then, he took a coin out of his pocket, and the face of Big Brother looked at him.

'These eyes... always watching us, this voice, always talking and listening to us; there's no way out. Nothing is our own any longer... only those few cubic centimetres inside our skull<sup>24</sup>...'

He looked at his diary again.

'Who am I writing this for? The diary will be burnt, and I will be vaporised, I will be erased from existence and memory... how can I appeal to the future if not even a written piece of paper can survive?'

When the clock struck the hour, he realised he had to go back to work, and he forced himself to find some energy.

'I'm a solitary ghost telling a truth nobody will hear, but, as long as I say it, in some way, I'll keep sane and preserve human heritage<sup>25</sup>.'

He knew he would die, but he realised he had taken a decisive step. He wrote, 'Thoughtcrime IS death' in his diary, then hid it and left.

The next morning, he was woken up at 7.15 by the long, piercing siren of the telescreen which announced the start of each morning's physical training.

A violent coughing fit<sup>26</sup> seized him and left him breathless. He had not completely recovered, when the unpleasant female voice of his instructress started with her usual routine,

"One, two, three, four, arms bent, arms stretched, come on! One, two, three, four. Thirty to forty group<sup>27</sup>, take your time by me. One, two, three, four!"

While repeating the rhythmic movements that made his whole body ache, Winston tried to recall the dream he had had that night, but it was mixed up with past memories so it was impossible

24. *skull*: the bone structure that forms the head and protects the brain.

25. *heritage*: features belonging to the culture of a particular society that were created in the past and have historical importance.

26. *coughing fit*: sudden attack of cough which cannot be controlled.

27. *thirty to forty group*: the author is making reference to the age group which is the target of the exercise.

to tell what exactly was true and what wasn't.

He had dreamed about his mother and his sister. They appeared to be sinking<sup>28</sup> down into green waters, looking up towards him. They could still see each other, and they all knew they were going to die, and all of them knew that it was because of him that they were dying, but they weren't blaming<sup>29</sup> him. It was just the order of things.

He then realised that his mother's death had been 'tragic', which was no longer possible today. His mother had loved him and died because she had loved him. Today, that would be impossible. Today, there was fear, hatred and pain, but no feelings of family, belonging or sacrifice.

He tried to remember something more about his childhood, but it was extremely difficult. Everything was blurred beyond the late fifties. When there were no records you could refer to, it became almost impossible to know the truth and even your own life lost its clarity. Things existed only in your own consciousness and even that would be destroyed, so...

Take the war for example, had Oceania always been at war with Eurasia? He was sure it had been at war with Eastasia four years ago, but since he could not prove it, then it wasn't true, and that



"He thought about his mother and his sister... towards him". Illustration by K. Pica (G. Orwell's 1984, REA, 2018)

28. *to sink*: to go down to the bottom of a liquid.

29. *to blame*: to believe that someone is responsible for something bad happening.



## AFTER READING • Winston Smith

## Chapter 1

1. Former supporter of the Party.
2. Member of the Inner Party.
3. Beautiful and slim.
4. Intelligent but intimidating.
5. Middle-aged clerk of the Records department.
6. Enthusiastic supporter of the Party.
7. Leader of the rebellion against the Party.
8. Imitators of the Thought Police.
9. Frustrated and depressed.
10. With black hair and black moustache.

## WORKING ON VOCABULARY

- 3 To modify the meaning of words, sometimes it is possible to add a prefix with a codified meaning. Choose the correct prefixes for the given meanings.

*re- • un- • im- • il- • mal- • over- • under- • ir- • out-*

- a. Too much .....
- b. Not enough .....
- c. Again or back .....
- d. Badly .....
- e. The opposite of (4x) ..... ..
- f. Away from, further .....

- 4 **FCE** Complete the sentences with the given words in the correct form. Use the prefixes from the previous activity.

- a. The party is trying to ..... society the way they want. BUILD
- b. Winston's job is to ..... news. WRITE
- c. The ..... Winston corrected was related to chocolate. QUOTE
- d. Winston considers the three slogans of the Party ....., RAGE
- e. The living conditions in Oceania are ....., SATISFY
- f. It is ..... to even think about a crime in 1984. LEGAL
- g. The ..... of goods is never used for the benefit of the population. PRODUCE
- h. It is very ..... to write a journal. RESPONSIBILITY
- i. Winston is so thin, we could say he's ....., NOURISH
- j. The fact that such a society could exist is ....., BELIEF

WORKING ON GRAMMAR

- 5 *Inversion.* Rewrite these sentences to give them particular emphasis.
- ▶ The Party will never tolerate such behaviour. → Under no circumstances will the Party tolerate such behaviour.
  - a. Winston changed the malquotation on chocolate and soon after the news was broadcast. → No sooner ..... than .....
  - b. I had never heard of such forms of control. → Never .....
  - c. The Two Minutes Hate had just begun when Winston noticed O'Brien. → Hardly ..... when .....
  - d. If you had heard the news, you would know about Comrade Ogilvy. → Had .....
  - e. You must control your thoughts and your expression must also be controlled. → Not only .....
  - f. The members of the Party will receive only 20 grams of chocolate. → Only .....

WORKING ON SKILLS

Listening



- 6 Listen to what Winston wrote on the first page of his journal and answer the questions.
- a. What is Winston talking about?
  - b. Describe the two scenes from the film Winston watched.
  - c. When does the audience express their appreciation of the film?
  - d. Would you say the reaction of the public meets today's social expectations? Why? Why not?
  - e. What's the reaction of the woman named by Winston?
  - f. What happens to the woman?
  - g. What differentiates the audience from the woman? How is that made clear?
  - h. What can we understand about the two classes of people in the cinema?

Speaking

- 7 IELTS Briefly talk about Winston’s job. Talk about:
- where he works
  - what he does there
  - a task he had to carry out.

Writing

- 8 What is the Two Minutes Hate? Answer using about 100 words.

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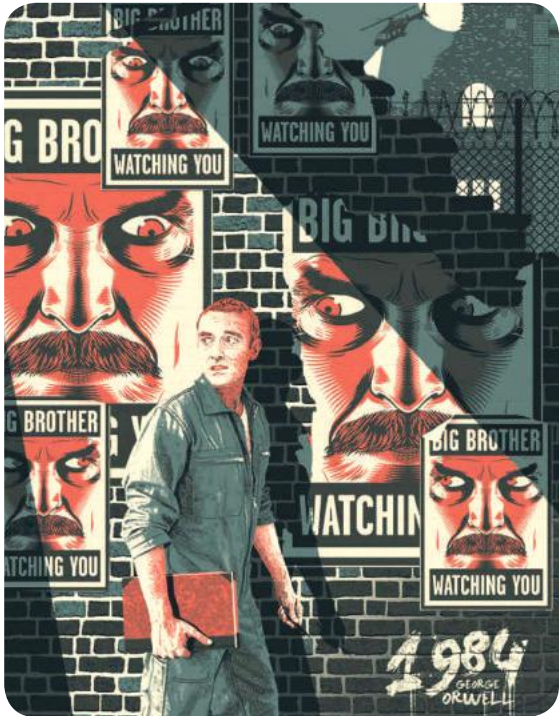
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## WHAT INFLUENCED ORWELL AND 1984

Orwell was deeply influenced by the political, historical and cultural events of his times when he wrote *1984*. However, it was the situation in Russia which mostly affected him.

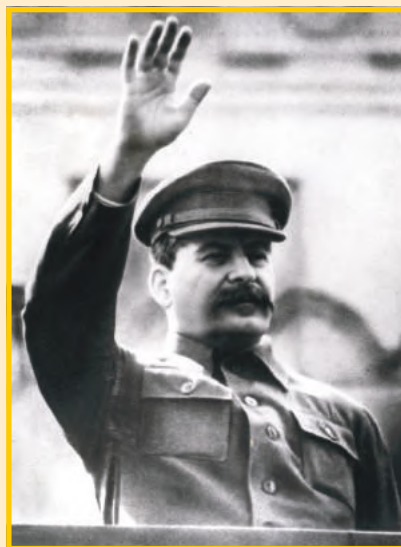
From 1922, when Lenin fell ill, until 1928 there was a power struggle between Leon Trotsky, Minister of War, and Joseph Stalin, then Secretary of the Communist party and an increasingly influential member of the Politbureau<sup>1</sup>, who, in his role, could control the purges designed to keep the party pure.

Stalin soon proved invincible by using the secret police to suppress all plots against him. Trotsky was forced to resign, and he was later expelled from the Politbureau, exiled from Russia, and eventually assassinated.

From 1928 until World War II, Stalin enjoyed supreme power. Among the changes he brought to Russian life were collective agriculture, industrialisation with forced labour, the creation of an authoritarian state and the annihilation<sup>2</sup> of all political opposition. 1928 saw the beginning of an era of the Five-Year Plans, each of which set ambitious goals for the following five years. The goals of the first Five-Year Plan were never reached, yet the government announced that they had been realised in 1932.

Changes were felt in Russian society as well. Freedom to choose one's job was non-existent; those who resisted were sent to labour camps, and the vast majority of unskilled workers became controlled by a minority of loyal skilled workers and bureaucrats who enjoyed privileges prohibited to the masses: a new elite was created.

To refute<sup>3</sup> contradictory information, Stalin had histories re-written to show that Lenin had favoured his accession to power. Also, he eliminated any critics during the Great Purges of 1934-1938, which



Joseph Stalin

1. *Politbureau*: small group of party bosses whose function was to manage the day-to-day activities of the Communist party.

2. *annihilation*: complete destruction.

3. *refute*: to prove that something is wrong or false.

destroyed all possibility of future conspiracies. By 1936, when Stalin proclaimed the constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) “the most democratic in the world”, this was hardly so.

Under Stalin’s dictatorship, the USSR had become a one-party state where elections were a mockery<sup>4</sup> and membership to the Communist party was, in fact, a privilege. The party was built upon a pyramidal structure with power and privilege for an elite few. At each level of the pyramid existed organisations to generate propaganda, train military personnel, and educate bureaucrats. All of these activities were designed to increase party loyalty and strength.

Stalin remained a dictator through World War II until his death in 1953.

Five books in particular seem to have had a direct impact on the creation of *1984*, too: Zamyatin’s *We* (1923) and its futuristic, anti-Utopian frame; Wells’s anti-Utopian satire *When the Sleeper Wakes* (1899); Huxley’s *Brave New World* (1932) and its regimented society set in the future; Koestler’s *Darkness at Noon* (1941), with its atmosphere of a totalitarian society; and Burnham’s *The Managerial Revolution* (1941), with its idea of a world controlled by super states.

Orwell was asked if his book should be interpreted as prophesy. He answered this question in a letter of June 1949:



George Orwell

I do not believe that the kind of society I describe necessarily *will*, but I believe (allowing of course for the fact that the book is a satire) that something resembling it *could* arrive. I believe also that totalitarian ideas have taken root in the minds of intellectuals everywhere, and I have tried to draw these ideas out to their logical consequences.

In 1949, some readers were also concerned that Orwell had set the novel in Britain. Orwell replied, “The scene ... is laid in Britain in order to emphasise that the English-speaking races are not innately better than anyone else and that totalitarianism, if not FOUGHT against, could triumph anywhere.”

*Adapted from: K. Brodeur, Max notes - George Orwell’s 1984 – REA, 2018*

4. *mockery*: an action or event that is without value.







# 1984

*1984 is a dystopian novel which follows the life of Winston Smith, a state clerk who is frustrated by the omnipresent eyes of The Party and its disquieting and omnipotent leader, Big Brother.*

*Orwell explores the themes of mass media control, government surveillance, totalitarianism and how a dictator can manipulate and control history, thoughts and lives in such a way that no one can escape it. The novel also coined many new words and phrases which regularly appear in popular culture, such as 'Big Brother', 'thoughtcrime', 'doublethink' and 'Newspeak'. The reader contains in-depth analyses of the major themes in 1984.*

## beginner

- **A1** (Breakthrough)

## elementary

- **A2** (Waystage)

## pre-intermediate

- **B1** (Threshold)

## ✓ intermediate

- **B2** (Vantage) .....

## post-intermediate

- **C1** (Effectiveness)

### Levels of accredited examination boards:

Cambridge English:	First
Trinity:	Grade 7, 8 / ISE II
City & Guilds (Pitman):	Intermediate
ESB:	Intermediate 2, 3
Edexcel:	Intermediate

Teacher's Resources available online:  
Answer Key, Audioscripts, Summing-up Activities.

[www.edisco.it/rainbows](http://www.edisco.it/rainbows)

