

***1984***

by

**George Orwell**

**Reflections**

by the

**Class 3AB**

**June 2017 – HN**

## Topic

Since the beginning of the book the reader knows that Winston Smith didn't think like most of the people around him. In fact: he was a "Thought-Criminal". Winston could still remember the past and because of that he had to be very careful. But his attention to the Party wasn't the same in every chapter. The development of Winston's attention can be shown in a diagram.

## Important quotations

*"Now that he had recognised himself as a dead man it became important to stay alive as long as possible."*

- Part One, Chapter Two, p. 28

*"Never show resentment!"*

- Part One, Chapter Three, p. 35

*"He stopped, turned aside and pressed a switch on the wall. There was a sharp snap. The voice had stopped."*

- Part Two, Chapter Eight, p. 153

Explanation for the last quotation: O'Brien turned off the telescreen. After that Winston thought everything he will say, wouldn't be heard from the proles. He fully trusted O'Brien from this moment, only because the telescreen was turned off.

## Diagram



## Conclusion

At the beginning Winston was very careful not to stand out. Then he began to write in his diary. When the woman over the telescreen called his name in chapter three, he was a little shocked and was more careful. In chapter nine he met Julia and with her they took many risks. And in chapter eight they met O'Brien, trusted him on their fullest and this was the big mistake. In part three Winston was in prison and obeyed the rules, so he didn't get in more trouble. After that you can't say how much attention he gave to the proles because O'Brien was already changing him and Winston started to forget the past and the truth.

## Winston's most important attachment figures

### Big Brother...

..... is the symbol of Oceania and the Party. As Oceania's **supreme leader** he controls Winston and every other citizen day and night and is omnipresent through telescreen projections. Winston hates Big Brother and the Party, feels suppressed as well. But there is also a lot of fear, especially at the beginning of the book. But at some point, he triumphs over his fear by setting the pen to paper in the essential rebellion that contains all other crimes (thoughtcrime):

*"His eyes re-focused on the page. He discovered that while he sat helplessly musing he had also been writing, as though by automatic action. And it was no longer the same cramped, awkward handwriting as before. His pen had slid voluptuously over the smooth paper, printing in large neat capitals - DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER" (Part 1, Chapter 1)*

### Emmanuel Goldstein...

..... is the **legendary leader of Brotherhood**. As symbol of the resistance he earns a lot of devotion and admiration from Winston. For the Party, he is the most dangerous and treacherous man in Oceania. Just like Big Brother he never really appears in the book:

*"The next moment a hideous, grinding speech, as of some monstrous machine running without oil, burst from the big telescreen at the end of the room. It was a noise that set one's teeth on edge and bristled the hair at the back of one's neck. The Hate had started. As usual, the face of Emmanuel Goldstein, the Enemy of the People, had flashed on to the screen." (Part 1, Chapter 1)*

### O'Brien...

..... is a prominent **member of the Inner Party**. Even though O'Brien is an enemy Winston feels a strange bond because he is convinced that O'Brien will understand him without explanation. He is full of strange contradictions. On one hand, he is fatherly and tender on the other he expresses his fanatical devotion to the party by torturing Winston. O'Brien about Winston's view on the Party:

*"You believe that reality is something objective, external, existing in its own right. You also believe that the nature of reality is self-evident. When you delude yourself into thinking that you see something, you assume that everyone else sees the same thing as you. But I tell you, Winston, that reality is not external. Reality exists in the human mind, and nowhere else. Not in the individual mind, which can make mistakes, and in any case soon perishes: only in the mind of the Party, which is collective and immortal. Whatever the Party holds to be the truth, is truth. It is impossible to see reality except by looking through the eyes of the Party. That is the fact that you have got to relearn, Winston. It needs an act of self-destruction, an effort of the will. You must humble yourself before you can become sane." (Part 3, Chapter 2)*

### Julia...

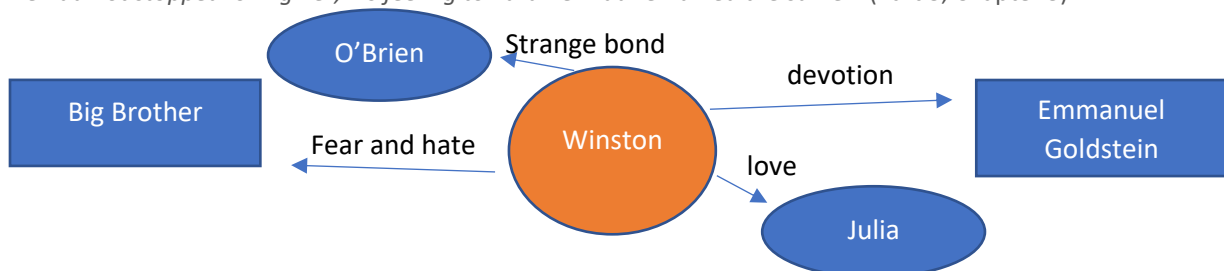
..... is **Winston's big love**. I am not sure whether Julia has as strong feelings for Winston as he has for her. She sees life simple and is interested in her survival and personal rebellion against the party. Despite prolonged torture, Winston's final act of rebellion is to hold on to his private loyalty to Julia; he refuses to betray her:

*"O'Brien: "Can you think of a single degradation that has not happened to you?"*

*Winston had stopped weeping, though the tears were still oozing out of his eyes. He looked up at O'Brien.*

*"I have not betrayed Julia," he said [...].*

*He had not stopped loving her; his feeling toward her had remained the same." (Part 3, Chapter 3)*

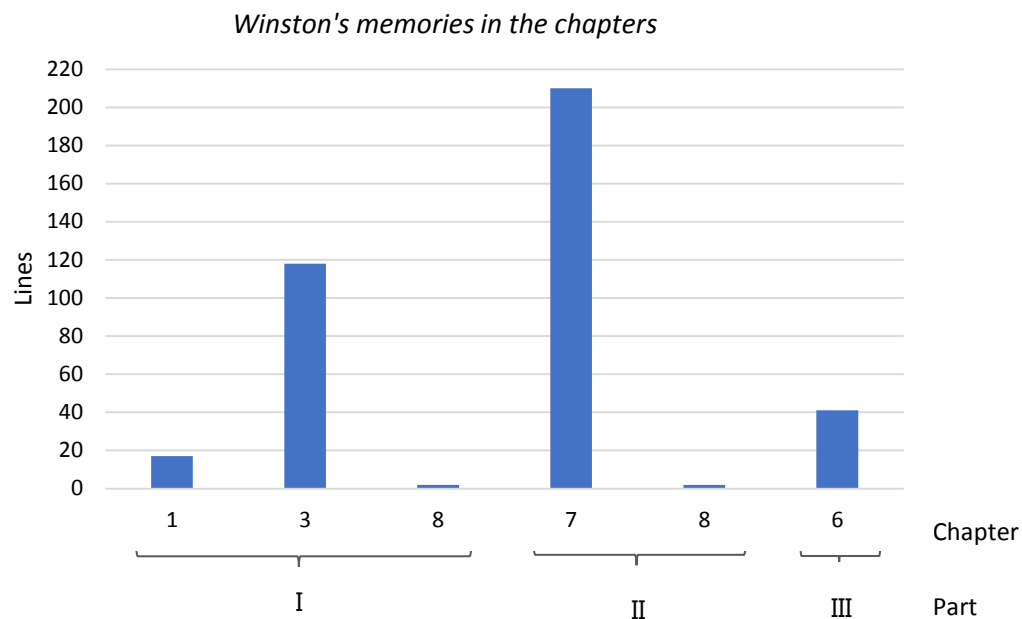


In my opinion, these are Winston's most important attachment figures because they had a huge influence on Winston's mind and personal view.

## 1984 – Winston's memories of his childhood

In the book 1984 the protagonist Winston remembers from time to time of his childhood. We'll examine in which situations he remembers and if there are any relationships.

In every part of the book Winston has some memories of his childhood. Sometimes he remembers very shortly (just around two lines in the book) and another time very long (more than 200 lines). This we can see on the following diagram:



In chapter 3 (part I) and in chapter 7 (part II) Winston dreams of his mother and his sister. These memories are the most lengthy. In the first dream Winston sleeps alone in his apartment and he sees his mother with his sister in her arms deep down beneath him. After standing up Winston has to do morning workout. In the meantime he can remember that there had to be a fairly long interval of peace during his childhood, because one of his early memories is of an air raid which surprised everyone. In the second dream (chapter 7, part II) Winston sleeps above Mr Charrington's shop beside Julia and he can remember his last glimpse of his mother.

Some other memories are combined with associations. So in the chapters 1 (part I) and 8 (part I). In chapter 1 Winston looks through the window and he examines London with his rotting nineteenth-century houses. That's why he tries to squeeze out some childhood memory that tells him whether London has always been quite like this. In chapter 8 Winston goes for a walk and he smells roasting coffee. For two seconds he is back in the half-forgotten world of his childhood.

But there are some spontaneous memories too. In chapter 8 (part II) some pictures of the dark bedroom where Winston's mother spent her last days come into his mind. In chapter 6 (part III) Winston sits in the Chestnut Tree Café and remembers how he played with his mother and how they were laughing.

To sum up we can say that there are three situations in which Winston remembers of his childhood: dreams, associations and spontaneity. But most importantly are the dreams.

## Technological Progress in the World of „Nineteen Eighty Four“

First of all, it is necessary to determine the time the story actually takes place in. This isn't an absolute clear thing to say because not even the protagonist is aware of the present date of the year. The year he thinks it is, according to his calculations, would be 1984<sup>1</sup>. But he can only guess so because he knows that he was born around 1944 or 45 and he guesses to be 40 to 41. But for the further studies, this date will be considered as the true one.

How precise did George Orwell predict the technological standard current in the book? What has actually been invented and what not? Is his prediction about science and technology below or above the actual stand in real 1984?

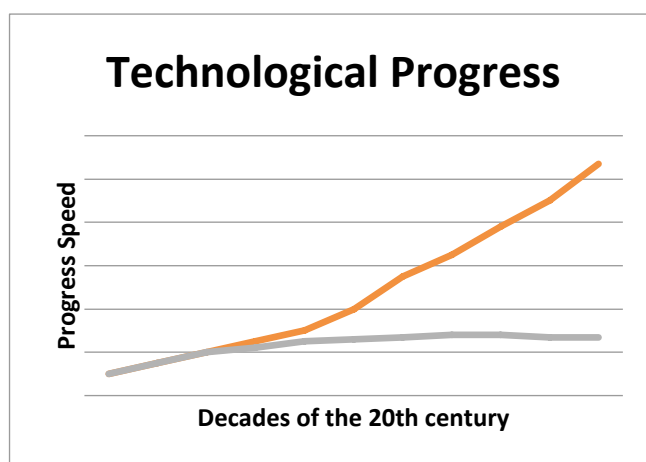
### Real 1984:

The years around 1980 are today known to have inherited the change from the industrial age to the information age. In 1984 the computer had been invented for over ten years already, people were playing games on Nintendo, writing messages via the internet and heating their food in microwaves while they were listening to Michael Jackson from a boom box.

Technology has made a big leap forward in only a few years: genetically modified plants were harvested, the "Concorde" supersonic plane could link Paris and New York with three hours of flight and astronomers managed to take pictures of Jupiter and Saturn.<sup>2</sup>

### Fictional 1984:

No significant steps forward have been made recently. The progress in daily life technology has practically been standing still for ages. Things for normal life such as medicine or public transport are still on a standard comparable to the 40ies, when the



book was actually written. Though mentionable is the so called "Speakwrite", which can record one's voice and produce a printed text out of it. The only thing that is actually developed is warfare and techniques that help oppress and cheat the society. Self-propelled projectiles, floating war fortresses and fighter helicopters are being built, and books and songs are being produced artificially. Scientist try to synthesize biochemical weapons, torture machines that use hypnosis, sunray guns and even machines that create earthquakes by tapping the earth's center.<sup>3</sup>

### Conclusion

George Orwell could of course not know what the technology and the progress would be like in 1984, 39 years later. He could only guess. Atomic bombs for example became more and more important after WWII and helicopters gained influence in warfare, which he correctly postulated. But Orwell didn't have to be able to predict any advantages or mention significant changes due to the "Principles of Ingsoc", which he created in the novel. The Party is interested in holding the daily life standard as low as possible to keep the people under their power. Progress is prohibited on purpose and only weapons and propaganda supporting devices are being developed: "(...) Technological progress only happens when its products can in some way be used for the diminution of human liberty. In all the useful arts the world is either standing still or going backwards. The fields are cultivated with horse plugs while books are written by machinery."<sup>4</sup> This is the reason why only few progress had been made, so the author could omit the danger of any false prediction, which gives him more freedom in describing a fiction world in future.

<sup>1</sup> pg.10, prg.17 "Nineteen Eighty Four"

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980s#Automobiles> 25th July 2017

<sup>3</sup> pg. 175, prg.7-29 "Nineteen Eighty Four"

<sup>4</sup> pg. 174, prg.29 ff. "Nineteen Eighty Four"

With this handout, I want you to get some information about Big Brother and his role in the book and the various parts of the novel chronologically. After a short conclusion of the passages I bring a short interpretation and questions which are still to answer about this suspicious person and his role.

Already in part 1 chapter 1 we get to know that there's an absolute party which observes all the people in Oceania (England). The ultimate leader of this ruling party is called Big Brother (BB). Everywhere in the town are images of the leader, on which is written „Big Brother is watching you“. Sometimes there are so called „Two minutes hates“ which function is to spread propaganda and to degrade the enemies of the party.

*It's very suspicious, because for the reader there is no more information about this person, only that he must obtain the doubleplusgood ☺ power of the entire system.*

Later in part 1 chapters 3-7 we sometimes get hints and information that Winston, the main character of the novel, hates the system and the culture of BB. He has sexual imaginations and an own mind, which is a crime in the view of the party.

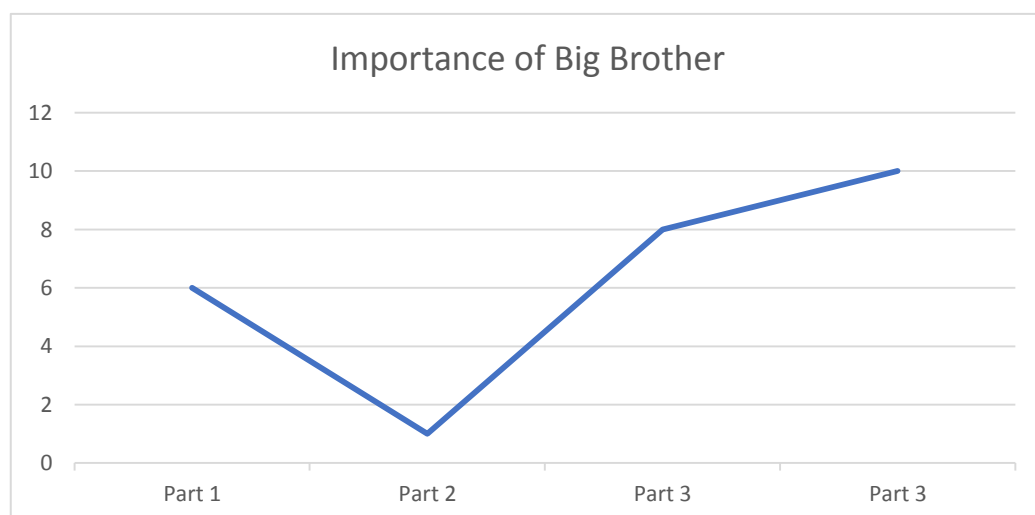
*We don't get direct information of BB. Like who he really is, what his age or personality is. He's just there and everybody seems to love him.*

In the following parts of the novel BB fades in the background and the story contains without any following marks or information about him till in part 2 chapter 8&9. He gets the book of O'Brien who seems to be part of the „Brotherhood“ (The opponents of the system). In the book, we get some interesting information about BB. About this book there are three supernations each of which is ruled by a similar totalitarian system. There's a ruling main class which dominates all the other people and workers, on the top of which a fictitious dictator is, because the people might better cope with a person as a leader as a system.

*What we get to know on these pages is mind-blowing and gives us another view of the system and the role of BB. It sounds all so logical for the reader, but can we really believe this information? This question is still to answer at this point of the story.*

In part 3 everything changes another time. Winston got caught from O'Brien, who is somehow a member of the party and who wants to negate the enemy of the system in their beginning. So, he got tortured and finally he believes, that he loves Big Brother and the entire system.

*For the reader, its plottwisting again. Now we get to know the whole power of BB and his system of war, ignorance and slavery.*



## Comparison between Syme and Winston

The ministry of truth is the place where the government produces all the propaganda. Syme and Winston both work for them, but they have completely different jobs. In the following few paragraphs we will take a look at their work.

### Syme

Syme is a true expert in Newspeak. His job is to develop the Newspeak Dictionary as far as possible. He thinks, that the new language will be spoken all around the world once the dictionary is completed.

He tries to make Newspeak as simple as possible. Therefore, he invented words like “ungood” instead of bad or “doubleplusgood” instead of splendid.

“We are getting the language into its final shape-the shape it’s going to have when nobody speaks anything else. When we’ve finished with it, people like you will have to learn it all over again. You think I dare say, that our chief job is inventing new words. But not a bit of it! We’re destroying words-scores of them, hundreds of them, every day. We’re cutting the language down to the bone.”

-Syme, page 48, line 4-10

### Winston

Winston’s job is to change the past. He has to edit articles for newspapers and make things seem different than they actually were. Therefore, he has to destroy pictures of thought criminals and exchange them with pictures of soldiers that died in the war. He invents completely new stories and gives them new names.

“Withers, however, was already an unperson. He did not exist: he had never existed. Winston decided that it would not be enough simply to reverse the tendency of Big Brother’s speech. It was better to make it deal with something totally unconnected with its original subject.”

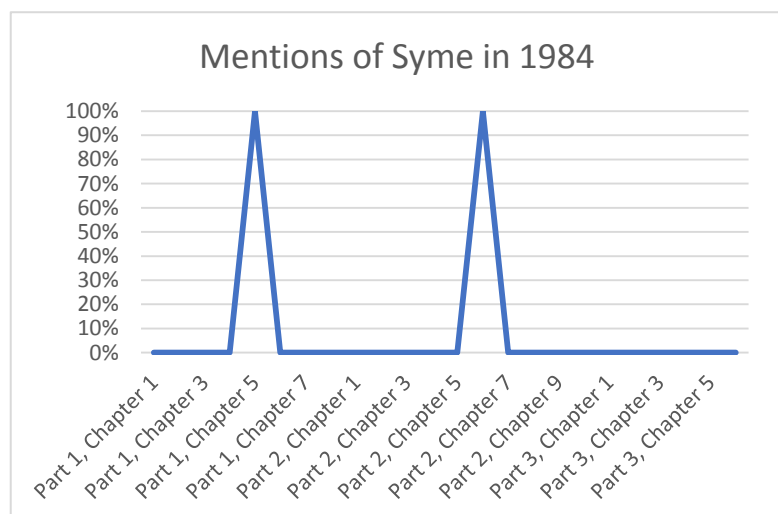
-Page 43-44, line 35-3

### Mentions of Syme

Syme was only mentioned twice in the whole book.

First in chapter 5 of part one where they explained his function for the ministry.

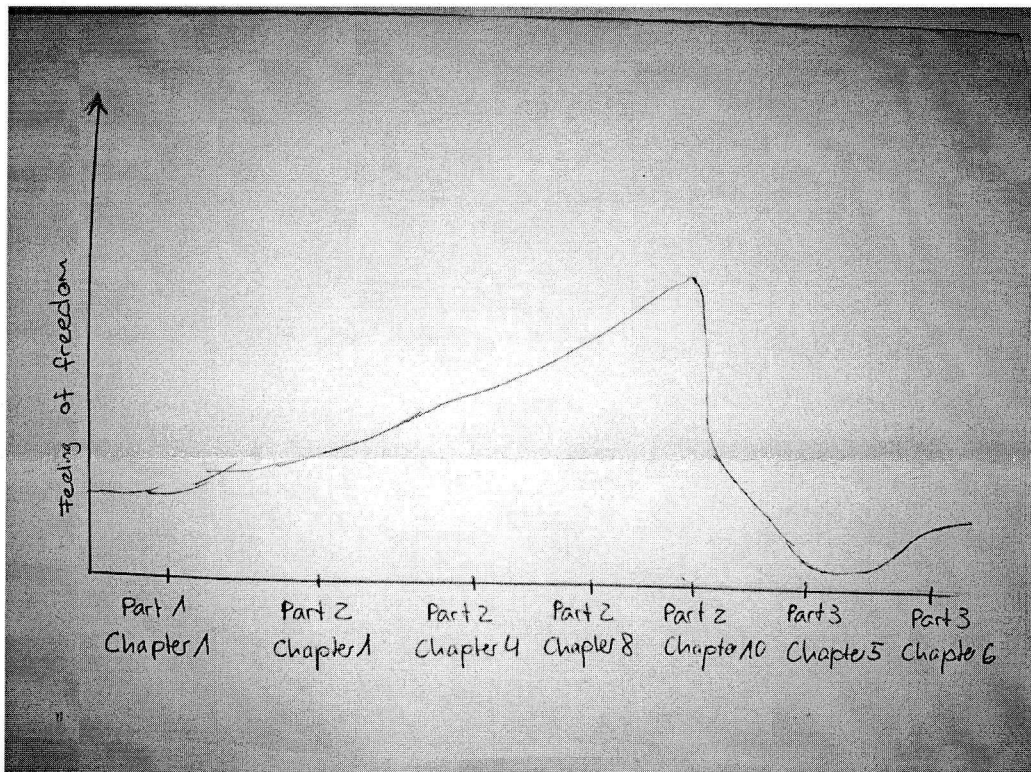
The second time was, when the reader heard about him being an unperson in chapter 6 of part 2. He disappeared.



# 1984 by George Orwell

## Freedom

Winston's feeling of freedom change during the book. At the beginning he can't see any freedom at all. But there are some moments where he gets more and more freedom and he believes that he could be a free man one day. The reader has the same feeling like Winston. This feeling stays till the moment we realize that this freedom was only a feeling and that it wasn't real.



P1, C1: Winston gets the small book. He uses this book as a diary in which he can write what he wants as long as nobody can see it

P2, C2: Winston gets the message "I love you". This isn't allowed and he feels free because he gets it anyway.

P2, C4: Winston and Julia rent the small apartment which isn't monitored and so they are free in it.

P2, C8: They enter into "Brotherhood" which is an Organisation against Big Brother.

P2, C10: The whole freedom turns out to be a lie, Winston gets arrested.

P3, C5: The room number 101, where every resistance gets broken.

P3, C6: After the brain wash Winston believes his love to big brother is real and he accepts the system.



# Goldsteinism in 1984

Laura Stein

## Introduction

Emmanuel Goldstein is the principal enemy of the state Oceania. He is always the subject of the daily “Two Minutes Hate”, to which all citizens must partake.

Besides he is said to be the head of the mysterious organization called “The Brotherhood” and he also wrote the book “The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism”.

## Textwork

At the beginning of the novel, Goldstein is first mentioned relating to the “Two Minutes Hate” in part 1, chapter 1. We learn that he “had been one of the leading figures of the Party (...) and then had engaged in counter revolutionary activities” (p. 14, line 10-13).

From all enemies Goldstein is the most hated one but “his influence never seemed to grow less” (p. 15, line 28).

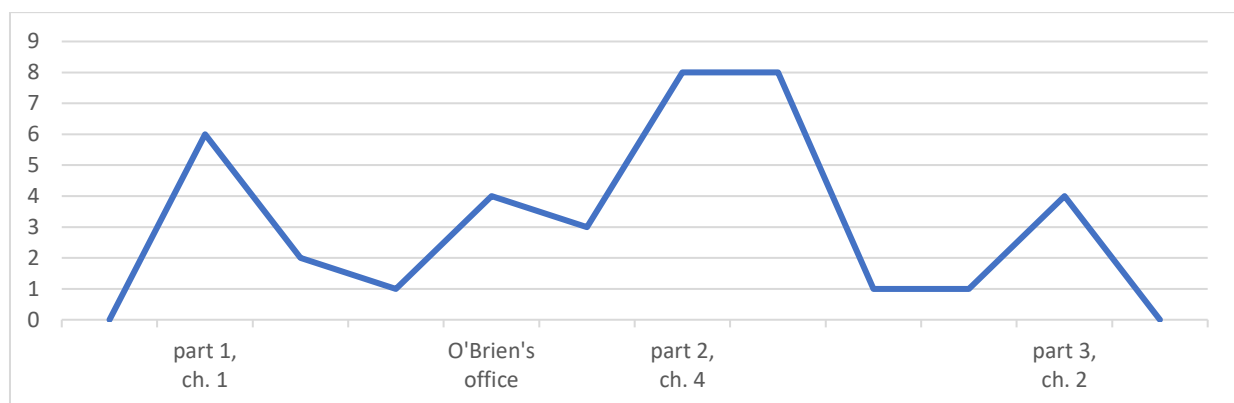
During the novel, this topic is not much treated. The personal revolution of Winston Smith stands in the foreground. But after Winston’s and Julia’s visit at O’Brien’s office Smith starts reading the book he got. It is the famous book of Goldstein: “The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism”, in which slogans “Ignorance is Strength”, “War is Peace” and other topics of the leadership are explained. This is the longest period in the novel where Goldsteinism is treated.

Only in the third part, there is a scene, where Winston asks O’Brien if “The Brotherhood” really exists (page 235):

Winston: Does the Brotherhood exist?

O’Brien: That, Winston, you will never know (...) As long as you live it will be an unsolved riddle in your mind.

## Development



## Conclusion

We never know for sure if Emmanuel Goldstein and “The Brotherhood” really exist or if they are a product of the Inner Party. Maybe the book is also written by a Party Member or even by O’Brien to reveal revolutionists. The scene on page 235 shows this question really good.

Personally speaking I think it is an invention of the leaders of Oceania in order to unite the citizens by giving them a reason for example their bad food situation or the miserable living situation.

# Handout 1984

## Winston Smith

Winston is a 39 years old person. Because of his health he's not a very active man. Although he smokes regularly and suffers from heavy fits of coughing. Almost every day he also indulges in a glass of gin from the party. Even if Winston not really supports the party he can't let somebody show that. Because in that case the thought police would come and pick him up. So, Winston lives a life isolated and begins more and more to break the rules.

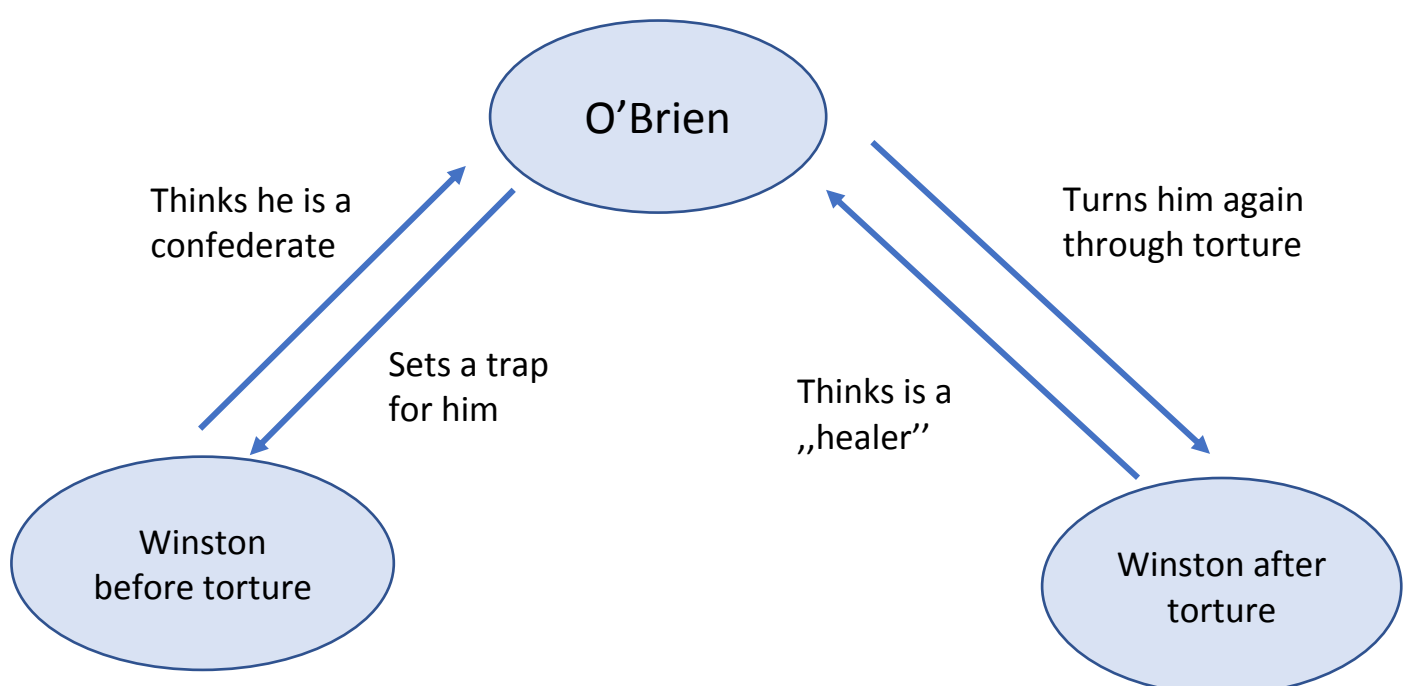
## O'Brien

O'Brien is a member of the inner Party and works in the ministry of love. He has a good position in the ministry, better than Winston's position. Winston describes him as a very strong and big person. He has a special impression of Winston, that makes him seem like a very intelligent person.

## Relationship between Winston and O'Brien

A big problem of Winston is that he doesn't know if there is anybody out there in that world who shares his opinions of Big Brother. And I think in that moment while a two minutes hate when O'Brien give him a short look, Winston see a confederate in him. After that Winston dreams of him he is reinforced in his opinion that O'Brien is a good person and also an adversary of the party.

But then comes a big change and we experience that O'Brien actually is a member of the thought police and it's his job to trace traitors. In room 101 O'Brien tortures Winston with the purpose to turn him in a „normal” person. O'Brien reaches he's goal with the torture and at the end Winston actually loves and supports Big Brother again.



## Introduction

This Handout is about the measures that are used by the government to control the population of Oceania.

## Quotations and Chart

Posters of big Brother saying "Big Brother is watching you"
Thought police
Telescreen
Newspeak
Fake articles/overwrite articles to delete the existence of specific people
Punishment for thoughtcrime

- "It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the exes follow you about when you move. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption beneath it ran." (p.5)
- "Only the Thought Police mattered" (p. 6)
- "Thoughtcrime does not entail death: thoughtcrime IS death" (p. 28)
- "Inside the flat a fruity voice was reading out a list of figures which had something to do with the production of pig-iron. The voice came from an oblong metal plaquw like a dulled mirror which formed part of the surface of the right-hand wall. Winston turned s switch and the voice sank somewhat, though the words were still distinguishable. The instrument (the telescreen, it was called) could be dimmed, but there was no way of shutting it off completely." (p. 5)

## Conclusion

The Party or government has several ways to control their citizens. They want to control the thoughts and bodies of every individual and try to reach this in a way that destroys every kind of physical and mental opposition against them.

They control the minds by observing every little movement and listen to every word the people say and by punishing everything that's against the party. I think the Physical control is not god enough so they decided to destroy mental opposition first so the physical opposition will completely disappear. With newspeak, Thought police and the Telescreen they destroy every kind of individualism and way of expressing feelings so every human being is the same and the government rules on top.

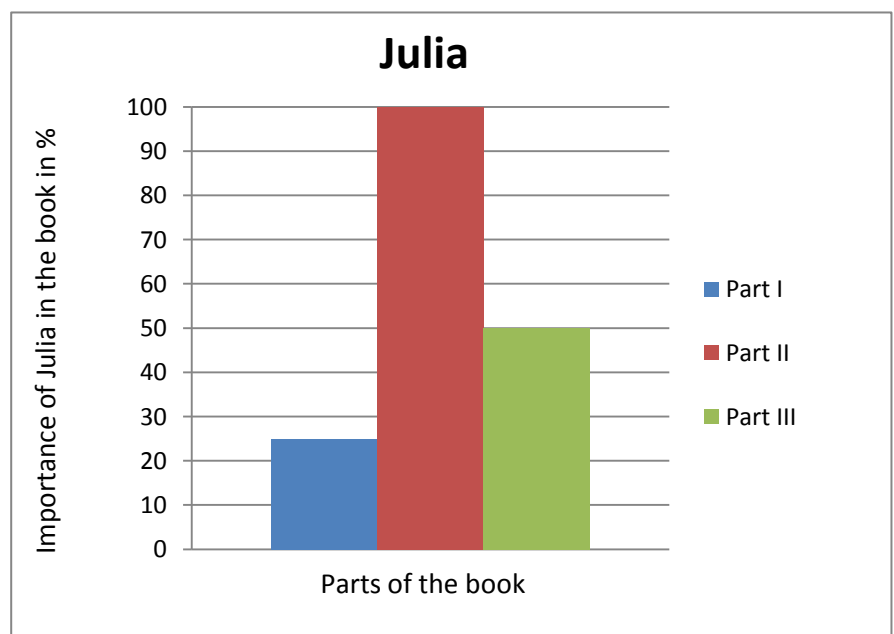
The subject of this handout is the meaning of the character Julia in the book “1984” written by George Orwell which was published in 1949. The question is about how important Julia is in the book and does she appear often or is she just an underpart? Below you will find the answer to this question.

Julia is a major character in the story and was born in Oceania in 1958 after the revolution. So she lived at the time when Big Brother ruled over the place. She had a close relationship with her grandfather who was vaporized (for unknown reasons) when Julia was eight years old. In the book Julia appears as a young woman with an age of 26 and has dark hair. She is a member of the junior anti-sex league but doesn't follow it in her personal sexlife. With the age of sixteen she had her first affair with Party members. Julia is also against the Party (government). Her working place is in the fiction department of the ministry of trust as a mechanist. When Winston saw Julia the first time he thinks about murdering and raping her but has also fear that she is a member of the thought police. Julia falls in love with Winston. They have an affair in secret so that no one knows about their relationship. They meet each other in the undercover place where no one sees them. After a certain time Winston rents a room where they could meet without a problem with any one. However the police finds it out and both get arrested. Winston and Julia get tortured and brainwashed for months in the ministry of love till both reveal each other. After the release they don't have a bond anymore and have no feelings. So they decide not to see each other again and go their own ways.

In part I Julia appears in smaller sections but she doesn't seem to be an important character in the book.

In part II Julia becomes more important. There the reader understands that she is a major personality. We can read about the connection between Winston (the main character) and Julia. During the whole part she is mentioned and she also gets relevant for Winston.

In part III Julia becomes less significant because she isn't mentioned for about six months in the book. We see her when Winston and she have their brain washed and they see each other for the last time.



In summary we can say that Julia's life was very turbulent and she is one of the primary characters. Without her in the story a key part would be missing.

## The past of Winston

Dreams, wishes and memories are in the story „1984“ of George Orwell of prime importance. Although his memories are blurred and vague, the protagonist Winston is caught up a few times by his past. Only fitfully he remembers at his childhood. During the story the reader is faced several times with the past of Winston

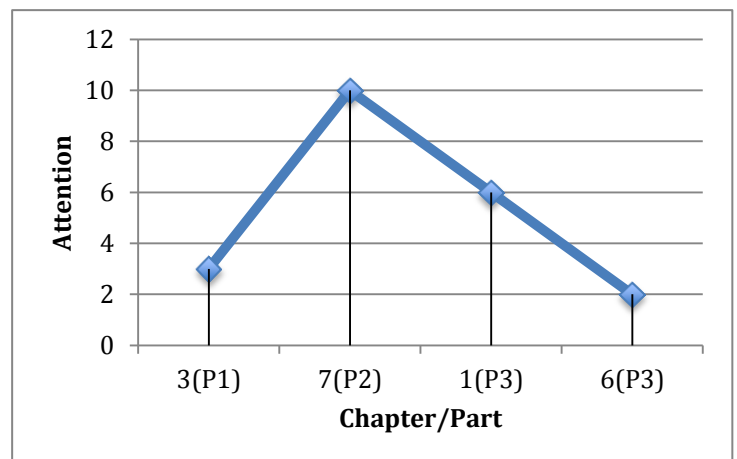
### Important quotations

#### Part 1

- *“He was out in the light and air while they were being sucked down to death, and they were down there because he was up here”. –Chapter 3, p 29*
- *“He could not remember what had happened, but he knew in his dream that in some way the lives of his mother and his sister had been sacrificed to his own.” –Chapter 3, p.29*
- *“His mother’s memory tore at his heart because she had died loving him, when he was too young and selfish to love her in return”. - Chapter 3, p 29*

#### Part 2

- *“Do you know” he said, “that until this moment I believed I had murdered my mother.” - Chapter 7, p. 145*
- *“I didn’t murder her. Not physically” - Chapter 7, p. 145*
- *“His mother drew her arm round the child and pressed its face against her breast. Something in the gesture told him that his sister was dying.” - Chapter 7, p. 148*
- *“He never saw his mother again.” - Chapter 7, p. 148*
- *“To this day he did not know with any certainty that his mother was dead.” - Chapter 7, p. 148*



#### Part 3

- *“Thass funny. My name’s Smith too. Why, she added sentimentally, I might be your mother.” – Chapter 1, p. 207*
- *“She was about the right age and physique, and it was probable that people changed somewhat after twenty years in a forced-labour camp. - Chapter 1, p. 207*
- *His mother was sitting opposite him and also laughing. It must have been about a month before she disappeared. - Chapter 6, p. 266*

### Interpretation

In Part One Winston describes his last confrontation with his mother and sister on a sinking ship. His mother and sister were in the saloon of the ship, looking up at him through the darkening water. Winston was out in the light and air while they were sinking down, being sucked down, down to death. George Orwell uses this scene as a metaphor to show the reader the behaviour of Winston during his childhood. Out of Winston’s memories we know that he, his mother and sister were starving and living in terrible conditions. Into the bargain, Winston was very selfish and always demanded the largest share of food. There was no food and he asked his mother over and over again for more food, he shout and storm at her. His mother was quiet ready to give him all what they have, but however much she gave him he invariably demanded more. The effects of Winston’s egoistic behaviour was the slow „sinking“ of his mother and daughter.

Furthermore you can say, that the mother of Winston represents the better pre-Party days when life was safe and wasn’t in the hand of Big Brother. For the reader it’s apparent that Winston wishes the old days back. On one hand because life was better and on the other hand because he wants turn back the clock and change his selfish behaviour.

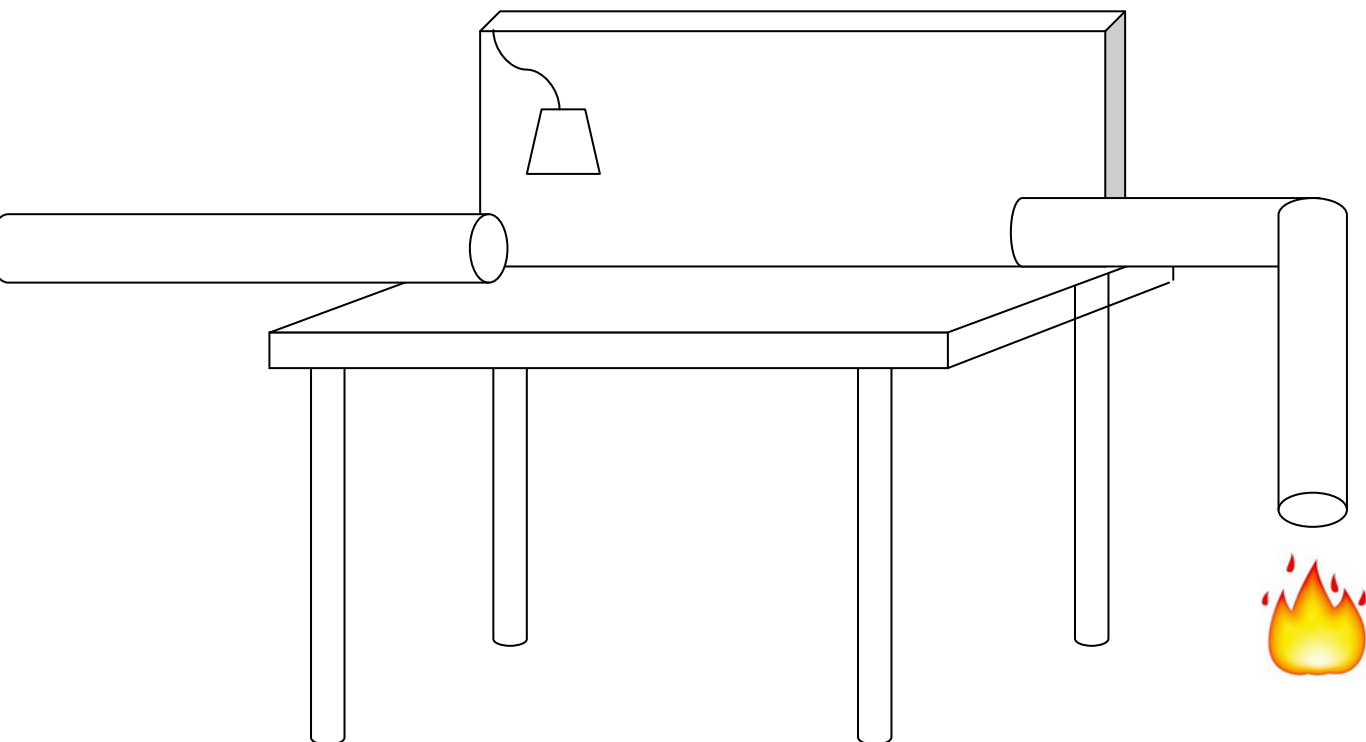
## Nineteen eighty-four – Winston's work

As we all know, Winston works in the Ministry of Truth. Its building is a 300m high pyramidal structure of glittering white concrete and it contains over 3000 rooms above ground. This section that goes by the nickname "Minitrue" is responsible for the propaganda by any necessary falsification of historical events. Following departments of the Minitrue are mentioned in the text: Records Department, Fiction Department, Tele-programmes Departments and Pornography section – for Prole consumption only. This ministry is also responsible for creating the new language "Newspeak".

Winston's duty at the Ministry of Truth, more specifically at the Records Department, includes forging documents in a way that they agree with the Party's statements and the history. He does that by first locating the documents which contradict the Party in any way, then by rewriting it and finally destroying the old 'fake' ones by dropping them into the memory hole. For the rewriting part Winston need to have creativity, sometimes more, sometimes less.

His tools in his office are a telescreen, a speakwrite, that's the thing he talks into to correct the false sentences in the documents, the tube where the documents to work on arrive and the memory hole. This is a pneumatic tube which destroys by flames any paper thrown into.

Winston admits that he likes his work, because he is good at it. Although he doesn't agree that the Party should change the past for their own wealth, he ironically takes pleasure in finding creative ways to complete very challenging task.



## Winston's diary

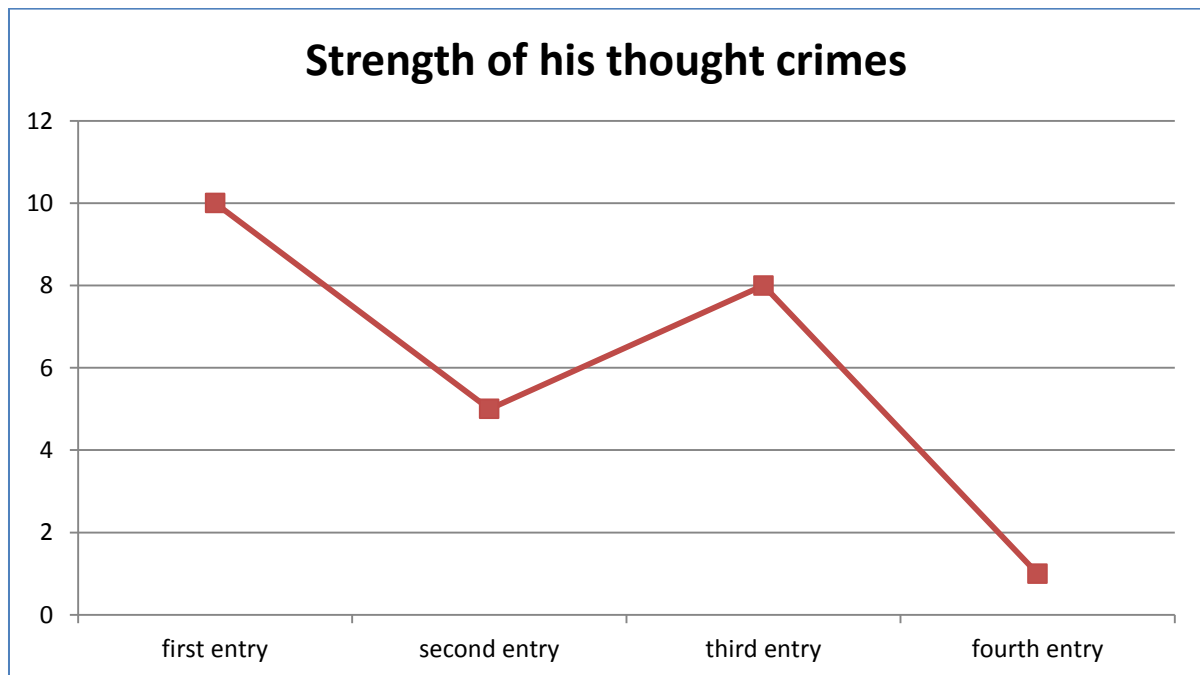
To write a diary in this suspicious time is very dangerous. But Winston wants to write it for the people of the next generation. For the people who can live without the Party. But he thinks that the Thought Police will find the diary and arrest him.

Winston hides his diary in the wall, in a blind spot of the telescreen. At the beginning of part one he often writes the sentence "DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER" in his diary. This sentence was a crime against the Thought Police. After he wrote something down, he put a grain of dust on his diary for seeing if someone opened his book.

The next time he writes something in his diary is in chapter 6. He writes down his memories about the contact with the harlot. He hopes that he feel better after it but it wasn't. He longs for love anyway.

In his next entry he writes about the force of the Party. He thinks that only the Proles could stop the Party because they aren't observed strongly and ultimately they are 85% of the population. But the Proles wouldn't do that because they don't know that they are oppressed by the Party. At the end of this chapter he writes down the sentences: Freedom is the freedom to say two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows. He wrote that because he thought that one day the Party will say that two plus two make five and all people have to believe it.

This entry was his last entry. The Thought Police caught him and he experienced a lot of horrible things. After all that things he sits in the "Spreading Chestnut Café" where sat all the thought criminals. Then Winston write two plus two make five into the dust on the table. I think that's the sign that Winston's thoughts are broken.



The name of that diagram says all about it. Under the diagram there are four gaps named after the entries of Winston. But the fourth gap isn't a real entry. It's the calculation he wrote on the table. In my opinion his first entry is the most criminal of all because he wrote: DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER a real thought crime. The second isn't really bad but it is a crime too. The third is worse again because he projected an attempt to collapse the Party and the last of it is harmless. I thought that the last belongs to the rest because in the third entry he predicted that it would happen and later it happened.

## Similarities between 1984 and Today

George Orwell describes in his novel *1984* a dystopian future where the state or rather *ideology* by the name *Ingsoc* controls everything, the economy, the media but especially the mind of every one of its citizens. But, how far away are his ideas from the reality? Is there a new *Ingsoc* creeping in our society? Terrorism and the spreading of fear is surely a fertile soil for totalitarian ideas but are we on the verge of losing our freedom? Let's have a look at some similarities between *1984* and today.

*1984*

*Today*

### Ever-changing enemies and constant war

Constant war between Estasia, Eurasia and Oceania

Constant war in the middle east between Taliban/Al Qaeda/ISIS/Syria/Afghanistan

### Attacks on own people

Rocket Bombs attacks on proles

Conspiracy on 9/11 being an inside job / Operation North Woods

### Mind Control through press and propaganda

Rectifying of information in the Ministry of Truth

Party biased newspaper / North Korea / fake news

### Mass surveillance

Thought police / spies

NSA Snowden / advertisements

We can find lots of similarities in our world today. Some examples like the NSA affair or the constant inducement by the news or so called "fake news" could make up a story for an Orwellian novel all over again. Despite of these recurrent topics all we can hope for is that the future shines brighter than the one described by George Orwell and that in 2084 our world will be a better place for all of us



# Social Life in the Party

In the totalitarian State of Oceania Big Brother controls every aspect of life. This includes the society which is the topic of this section. The following are the three pillars of controlling the social sector.

## Community Centre

In the opinion of the party the members shouldn't have any time for themselves. They should be never alone except while sleeping. So it is assumed that when a Party member isn't working or sleeping would do some kind of communal recreation. If they don't taking part in one of these and doing something on their own, for example go on a walk in solitude, they come in a dangerous situation. This attitude has even a name in Newspeak: "ownlife" which means individualism and eccentricity. To stop that a place called Community Centre was created. It is a place where Party members are expected to go in their spare time. The meaning of these Centres is to let the members do games, listen to lectures and to poke their camaraderie for preventing them of an "ownlife". For controlling the people their attendances at the Centre is checked.



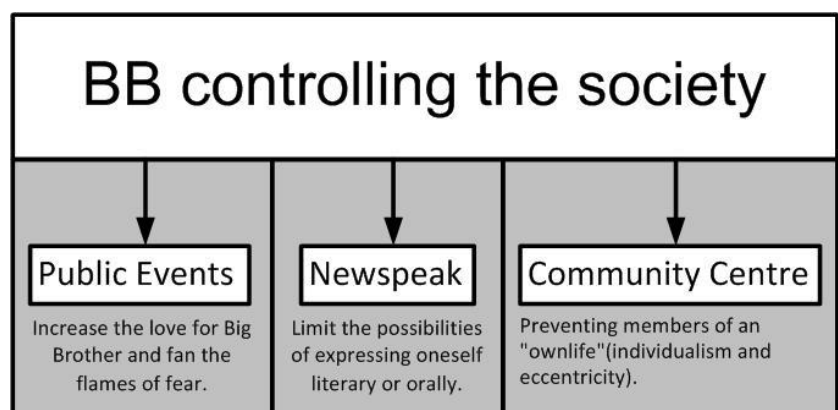
## Newspeak

Whit Newspeak the Party is going to limit the possibilities of expressing oneself literary or orally. In the end it should abolish the formation of opinion and the individual thinking. By the time the process has finished the Party members won't be able to exchange themselves about their opinions which made it impossible for them to advance on the Party.

## Public Events

The meaning of public events is in the first place to increase the love for Big Brother and the hate for his enemies. In the second place they should fan the flames of fear in the people. A good example are public hangings were traitors of the party are executed. This is all broadcasted by the Telescreen so it is present for everyone. But the most important one is the daily Two Minute Hate where the Party members are forced to take part. The most frightening of it is its effect which one couldn't resist. Even if you are against the Party you have to join the crowd on screaming.

In Oceania everyone and everything is controlled Big Brother at every time and through its abilities of blocking the development of individualism and stopping the formation of opinion and the individual thinking it seems unbeatable.



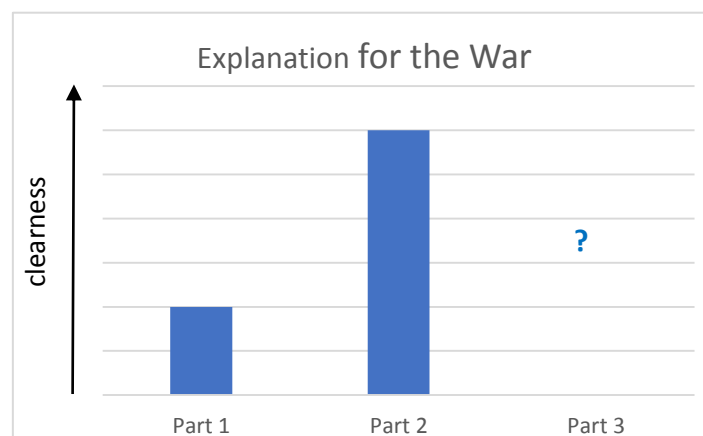
## War between Oceania, Eurasia and Eastasia

The war plays a significant role in the whole book. The Partie tells the population that their country, Oceania, fight against Eurasia at the same time Eastasia is the confederate of Oceania. This Topic appears in many parts in the book. So, the society practise a gathering every day called "The two minutes Hate" where all people stands in front of a big telescreen and watch propaganda films against Oceania's Enemies together. (Part 1, Chap. 1) Or some people who are under the whip organise "The Hate Week".

Spots where the war is especially drastic:

- Part 1, Chapter 8: Winston is witness of a bombing attack nearly beside him.
- Part 2, Chapter 1: A convoy of eastasians prisoners of war are brought through the crowd at the Victory Place

### Explanation for the war



It is never fully clear if the war really exists and if yes and why they are fighting. In Part 2 Chap. 5 Julia and Winston are discussing about the war. She mentions, there isn't a war at all and that the Partie just tell the people so, to control them.<sup>1</sup> Winston, who works in the Ministry of Truth, knows how the Partie can change the past and in his dreams, he remembers some time, where the war starts. He means to know that while this tough time his mother and sister dies because of his childish egoism and that the war started as an atomic war between 1950 and 1960. (Part 2, Chap. 7)

In Part 3, Winston was invited from O'Brien to come to his house. From him Winston got the book from Goldstein, in which the entire reason for the war is explained: (Part 2, Chap. 9)

- Oceania, Eurasia and Eastasia are in war together, so the hate and lack of resources released from the wars kept the people quieted
- they are equal, so none of them will win the war
- they have the same system with the three-class society
  - ➔ Reaching of consistency of the three states, power to the upper class will forever exist

Problem: O'Brien, who is a member of the Inner Partie, helped to write Goldstein's Book. So, it's not sure if it's the truth or not.

### Quotation:

<sup>1</sup> *The rocket bombs crashed oftener than ever, and sometimes in the far distance there were enormous explosions which no one could explain and about which there were wild rumours. (...) As though to harmonize with the general mood, the rocket bombs had been killing larger numbers of people than usual. (...) The rocket bombs which fell daily on London were probably fired by the Government of Oceania itself, 'just to keep people frightened'.* (Julia; Part 2, Chap. 5)

# Winston's development in the Ministry of Love

Winston's torture in the Ministry of Love is not always with the same intensity and strength. At the beginning of his time in that "prison" the pain he receives is bearable and his resistance against the Party and O'Brien is still very high. His resistance is steadily decreasing while he is arrested in the Ministry of Love.

In the second chapter of part 3 Winston can't understand how he could see five fingers while O'Brien is holding up four fingers. He tries to see it but he isn't able to do so.

***"How many fingers am I holding up, Winston?', 'I don't know. I don't know. You will kill me if you do that again. Four, five, six – in all honesty I don't know.'"*** (part 3, chapter 2, p. 217)

In chapter 3 Winston has finished the first stadium of his reintegration like O'Brien said: ***"There are three stages in your reintegration', said O'Brien. 'There is learning, there is understanding, and there is acceptance. It is time for you to enter upon the second stage.'"*** (part 3, chapter 3, p. 225)

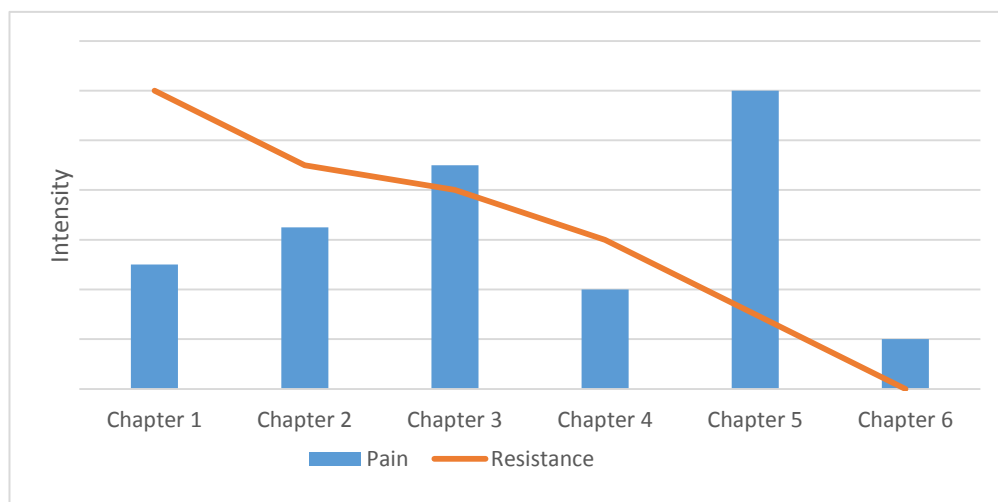
Winston still gets tortured by O'Brien. In the end of the chapter Winston experience a new sort of pain. He had to put off all his clothes and had to watch himself in the mirror. He sees his entire body, which is full of scars. He is very thin and has lost almost every tooth. Winston suffers from this mental pain more than from the physical torture he had experienced in the Ministry of Love.

In chapter 4 he gets an occasion to bath himself and put on new clothes. Winston is about to recover from his time in the Ministry of Love full of pain.

In chapter 5 Winston has to go into the notorious room 101. There he experienced another mental pain and because of that he is totally broken and gave up his resistance against the Party. The pain and the fear of the rats, which is his greatest fear, ruin him totally. He wants the suffer to end and he is willing to transfer the pain to Julia, the person he once loved the most.

***"Do it to Julia! Do it to Julia! Not me! Julia! I don't care what you do to her. Tear her face off, strip her to the bones. Not me! Julia! Not me!"*** (part 3, chapter 5, p. 247)

In chapter 6 it became clear that Winston has given up himself and his resistance against the Party. ***"He had won the victory over himself. He loved Big Brother."*** (part 3, chapter 6, p. 256)



## **The relationship between Julia and Winston**

At the beginning of the novel, Winston hated Julia. The reason for his hate was that she was young, beautiful and he liked to sleep with her, but he knew that would never happen. Winston didn't like women and particularly the young, pretty ones, because he thought they like the party the most. Especially Julia, he thought, is very dangerous. In his opinion she could be an agent from the thought-crime and she would observe him. When Winston saw Julia after he left the shop, he liked to kill her to protect himself.

Once Julia told Winston that she would love him and he starts to live his life. Through her love-confession, he changed the way he looks at her. He felt in love with this young girl. At the beginning it was just the physical proximity and later it became habit.

Winston never wanted to reveal Julia but in his torture he did it. After his torture they didn't love each other.

Julia is the complete opposite from Winston. She handles all situation like she has ever done. Further she is an active person. Julia hates the party but only because of her own interests. Winston wants to fight against the party to create a fair world for all. He hates the party for the things they do. Julia doesn't hate the party for the things they do, she only regrets that she has some restrictions. She doesn't criticize the party for other things.

# 1984-Manipulation

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The Party wants to control everything. Which means that it seeks to control the past, the present and the future. They say that who controls the past, controls the future and who controls the present controls the past.

- *"And if all others accepted the lie which the Party imposed – if all records told the same tale – then the lie passed into history and became truth. "Who controls the past," ran the Party slogan, "controls the future: who controls the present controls the past." (Part one, chapter 3)*

## The change of the past

The first part to reach that goal is to control and manipulate every source of information. To control the past they had to change historical documents. If all people accept the lie which the party imposed, and all historical documents tell the same story, then the lie became truth. So they controlled the present and through that they controlled the past. They told lies in the present about the past to control the future.

- *"For how could you establish even the most obvious fact when there existed no record outside your own memory? He tried to remember in what year he had first heard mention of Big Brother. He thought it must have been at some time in the sixties, but it was impossible to be certain." (Part one, Chapter 3)*

## Memory Holes

The party-members were forbidden to make notes about their lives. All records, documents or photographs had to be destroyed through "memory holes". These memory holes were placed throughout Oceania. Through these reality becomes fuzzy and the citizens start to believe what the party wants them to know.

- *"This last was for the disposal of waste paper. Similar slits existed in thousands or tens of thousands throughout the building, not only in every room but at short intervals in every corridor. For some reason they were nicknamed memory holes. When one knew that any document was due for destruction, or even when one saw a scrap of waste paper lying about, it was an automatic action to lift the flap of the nearest memory hole and drop it in." (Part one, Chapter 4)*

## The change of the language

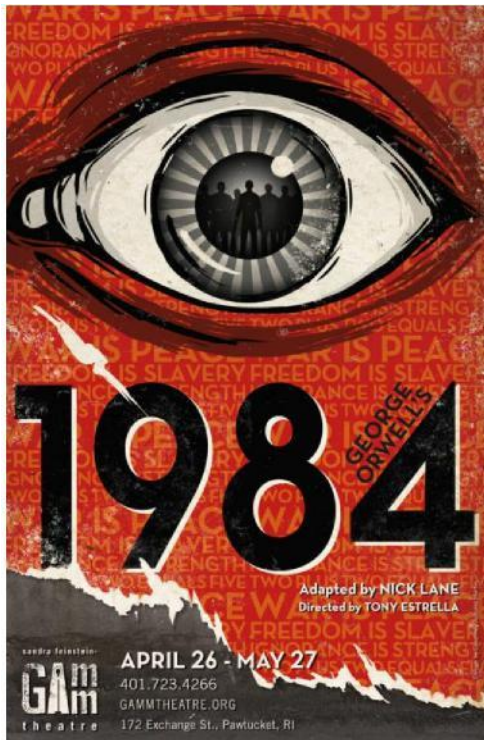
Language is very important to behaviour control. The main goal is to centralize the control of a language in a state. It is believed that the disobedience would be destroyed because the range of thought will be narrowed and there will be no words to express our thoughts. The names of the ministries were chosen unconsciously. They give them an ironic name to hide the real intention.

- *"The Ministry of Truth, which concerned itself with news, entertainment, education, and the fine arts. The Ministry of Peace, which concerned itself with war. The Ministry of Love, which maintained law and order. And the Ministry of Plenty, which was responsible for economic affairs. Their names, in Newspeak: Minitrue, Minipax, Miniluv, and Miniplenty." (Part one, chapter 1)*

The party wants to control everything, so they have to manipulate all people. They are telling lies as truth, change the past and they even change the language.

# 1984

## GEORGE ORWELL



*1984 – The Big Eye Can See Everything*

### Observation

The Lack of Privacy and the Effect of No Individualism

Personal privacy, the power off stalking People and also the space is never granted throughout 1984. The author tried to combine these three topics into one book. Every single person is a subject to observation. You cannot trust everyone. Even your family members and friends observe you. Furthermore, since the police is always on the lookout with their helicopters and since the Big Brother is watching, it is impossible for any kind of INDIVIDUALISM or FREEDOM to flourish. A quote from 1984:

“ Who **controls** the past **controls** the future. Who **controls** the present **controls** the past. “ – George Orwell

## Past relationship with Katharine

The topic of this handout is about Winston's past relationship. We don't know a lot about his past and he doesn't have the best memory. But he was once married to a woman named Katherine.

The fact that he had been married was surprising for me because as a reader we get informed about it quite late. In the story he talks about her for the first time in Part 1; Chapter 6.

There we get to know that it's about nine, ten-nearly eleven years ago since they parted and that he actually almost never thinks about her and for days at a time he even forgets the fact that he ever had been married. They were together for a really short time their marriage lasted for about fifteen months.

In the story her character got described like this:

- Katherine was tall, fair-haired girl, very straight, with splendid movements. She had a bold, aquiline face, a face that one might have called noble until one discovered that there was as nearly as possible nothing behind it.

Even though their marriage had been party approved he had soon found life with her impossible. The fact that she did not have a single original thought and simply functioned as a party mouthpiece was really bad. Winston himself describes her as a woman that had without exception the most stupid, vulgar, empty mind that he had ever encountered.

As we know marriages were permitted, but they had to be officially approved and were to be undertaken for the sole purpose of begetting children who would grow up to be responsible Party members. So therefore Katherine of course insisted that they had to go through the process to fulfil their duty to the Party by producing a child. And each time, it was clear to Winston that she hated the act. As time went on and there appeared no children they parted with Party approval.

# Personal Freedom in 1984

## Introduction

The society in Oceania is dominated by oppression through the government with a God-like figure named Big Brother. Therefore the Freedom of talk, the freedom of speech and the freedom to feel any emotions for someone are not allowed. The people are being observed the whole time and there is no individuality. Oceania is clearly ruled with a totalitarian manner.

However Winston Smith dares to express his thoughts through his hidden diary which makes him a thought-criminal. At the same time he pursues his relationship with Julia. Through the whole book Winston is displayed as a Rebellion who wants to break out of this oppression.

## Quotations

I decided to list quotations from the book which demonstrate the oppression of Oceania through Big Brother.

### *Freedom of talk:*

“Don’t you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thought crime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it.”  
– Syme; p. 49

### *Freedom of speech:*

“For the first time he perceived that if you want to keep a secret you must also hide it from yourself.”  
– Winston Smith; p. 253-254

### *Freedom of emotions:*

“When you make love you’re using up energy; and afterwards you feel happy and don’t give a damn for anything. They can’t bear you to feel like that. They want you to be bursting with energy all the time. All this marching up and down and cheering and waving flags is simply sex gone sour. If you’re happy inside yourself, why should you get excited about Big Brother and the Three-Year Plans and the Two Minutes Hate and all the rest of their bloody rot?” – Julia; p. 121

I couldn’t make a chart or diagram because the topic *personal freedom* is present through the whole book because Winston shares his thoughts with us all the time.

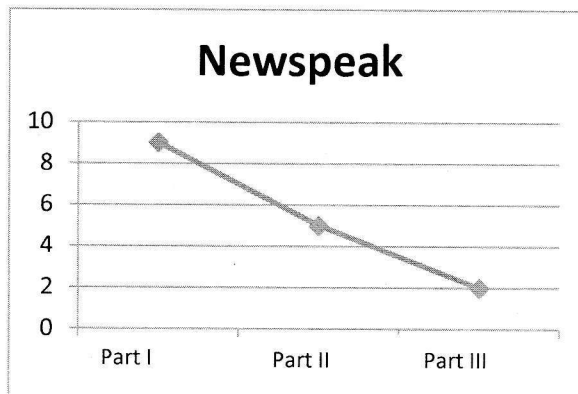
## Conclusion

The society in Oceania is being oppressed all the time. They are being observed all the time through telescreens so that they aren’t able to hide anything or to have some sort of privacy. The people are in a constant fear of committing any crimes and thus they behave like Big Brother wants them to. If they don’t behave they get arrested and disappear because they are thought-criminals. After some time the individuality of each person is gone - they are being brainwashed - and soon after that they turn into puppets. In this state they obey unconditionally and don’t question anything anymore. They live their lives on like that as empty and dulled shells while worshipping Big Brother.



# Newspeak

Newspeak was the official language of Oceania and had been devised to meet the ideological needs of Ingsoc. The purpose of Newspeak was not only to provide a medium of expression for the world-view and mental habits proper to the devotees of Ingsoc, but to make all other modes of thought impossible. It was intended that when Newspeak had been adopted once and for all and Oldspeak forgotten, a heretical thought — that is, a thought diverging from the principles of Ingsoc — should be literally unthinkable, at least so far as thought is dependent on words. Its vocabulary was so constructed as to give exact and often very subtle expression to every meaning that a Party member could properly wish to express, while excluding all other meanings and also the possibility of arriving at them by indirect methods. This was done partly by the invention of new words, but chiefly by eliminating undesirable words and by stripping such words as remained of unorthodox meanings, and so far as possible of all secondary meanings whatever. To give a single example. The word *free* still existed in Newspeak, but it could only be used in such statements as 'This dog is free from lice' or 'This field is free from weeds'. It could not be used in its old sense of 'politically free' or 'intellectually free' since political and intellectual freedom no longer existed even as concepts, and were therefore of necessity nameless. Quite apart from the suppression of definitely heretical words, reduction of vocabulary was regarded as an end in itself, and no word that could be dispensed with was allowed to survive. Newspeak was designed not to extend but to *diminish* the range of thought, and this purpose was indirectly assisted by cutting the choice of words down to a minimum<sup>1</sup>.



Newspeak is in every part very important whereat it is most mentioned in the first part for the sake of introducing it. In the following parts two and three it takes a backseat.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://orwell.ru/library/novels/1984/english/en\\_app](http://orwell.ru/library/novels/1984/english/en_app)

Gina

**BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU**

**WAR IS PEACE**

**FREEDOM IS SLAVERY**

**IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH**

**If there is hope, it lies in the proles.**

***Freedom is the freedom to say that  
two plus two make four.***

**Sanity is not statistical.**

**He loved Big Brother.**