

1984 by George Orwell

Study Guide

Section I. Briefly identify each of the following:

1. The setting of the novel
2. Double think
3. Newspeak
4. Face crime
5. Proles
6. Ministry of Love
7. Comrade Ogilvy
8. The Golden Country
9. Brotherhood
10. Big Brother
11. Charrington
12. Syme
13. Chestnut Street Cafe
14. Julia
15. Winston
16. O'Brien

Section II. Briefly answer the following questions

17. Who is Emmanuel Goldstein and what is his role in society ?
18. If someone is taken to Room 101, what does he/she experience?
19. What is the one thing the lovers say they are unwilling to do for the party ?
20. Describe Winston's job.
21. Why is the story of Aaronson, Jones, and Rutherford so meaningful for Winston?
22. What symbolism does the coral paperweight have for Winston?
23. What do church bells mean to Winston?
24. List the three slogans of the Inner Party.
25. How does Orwell depict the relationship between the three classes in the society of Oceania: the Inner Party, the Outer Party, and the Proles? For what reasons, for example, are the proles allowed relative freedom in this society which is totalitarian in nature? (See especially Part One, Chapter 8.)
26. One of the basic ideas in Ingsoc is doublethink. Explain this idea by analyzing O'Brien's demonstration of it to Winston in the matter of the photograph and Winston's attempts to master it before he is taken to Room 101.
27. Another basic idea of Ingsoc is "the mutability of the past." An interesting instance of this occurs during one of Winston's working days. Analyze the history Winston fabricates in the case of Comrade Withers. What does this reveal about the Party's use of the past?
28. The name Winston very likely comes from Winston Churchill. Why would Orwell have given his main character such a name?
29. What kind of memories of the past does Winston have? What do they mean to him? How do they, for instance, contribute to his sense of the unreality of life in Oceania?

30. Develop a character sketch of Winston's wife Katherine as he remembers her. In what ways is she typical of women in Oceania?
31. Analyze the different ways in which Winston and Julia rebel against life in Oceania. What does each find unsatisfactory in that life? What does each want that Oceania and the Party cannot supply?
32. Why can the life Winston and Julia lead together in the room above Mr. Charrington's shop be called domestic or marital? In what ways do they act as husband and wife?
33. Justify the idea that the arrest of Winston and Julia at the end of Part Two is the major climax or turning point of the story. Does the arrest, for example, lead inevitably to what happens in Part Three?
34. Analyze the significance of Winston's dream of the "Golden Country." What does it symbolize to him? And what is the significance of the fact that Winston finds the Golden Country in reality with Julia? Try to highlight in your book (or write them in your notes) any significant quotes like the following: "Big Brother Is Watching You." (Ch. 1)