

ACTIVITIES

Chapters 1-2

Before you read

- 1 In 1984, George Orwell warns us how future governments could make life worse for ordinary people. How might future governments use these to make life worse?
computers schools cameras information
- 2 Look at the Word List at the back of the book. Find words for:
 - a groups or organizations of people
 - b people
 - c places where people spend time
 - d actions through which other people could harm you
 - e things that you can buy in a shop

While you read

- 3 Are these sentences about Winston true (/) or false (X)?
 - a He is a big man with dark hair.
 - b He turns off the *telescreen*.
 - c He works in the Ministry of Truth.
 - d He joins the Two Minutes Hate.
 - e He throws a dictionary at the *telescreen*.
 - f He breaks the law.
 - g He organizes evening activities for the Party.
 - h He is hurt by a bomb.

After you read

- 4 Who or what are these? How are they important to Big Brother?
telescreens
Miniluv
Emmanuel Goldstein
the Thought Police
Newspeak

- 5 How does Winston feel about these? Why?
 - a his childhood
 - b *telescreens*
 - c the Thought Police
 - d the girl from the Fiction Department
 - e Emmanuel Goldstein
 - f O'Brien
 - g his diary
- 6 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think?
 - a Look at the slogans on page 2. Can you think of any more slogans for Big Brother?
 - b What happens inside the Ministry of Love?
 - c Why is Oceania always at war?
 - d What is Winston really thinking while he is shouting at the telescreen?
 - e Are Winston and Tom Parsons friends? Why (not)?

Chapters 3-4

Before you read

- 7 Discuss these questions.
 - a What do you think these Newspeak words might mean?
peakwrite unperson ungood facecrime ownlife
 - b What do you think workers do at the Ministry of Truth?

While you read

- 8 Who or what are these sentences about?
 - a Winston re-writes part of it
 - b It does not exist in the Ministry of Truth.
 - c He is a hero who never existed.
 - d Ampleforth re-writes them.
 - e Syme is re-writing it.

- f It brings tears to Winston's eyes. g Winston talks to them in the canteen.
- h They were *vaporized* in the 1950s. i Party members do not usually go there.
- j Winston bought it from Charrington.

After you read

- 9 Look at your answers to question 7a. Were your answers correct? If not, what are the right answers?
- 10 Answer these questions.
- Why:
- a does Winston think that Syme will be *vaporized*?
 - b does Winston look with disbelief at the *telescreen* in the canteen?
 - c did Winston and his wife separate?
- What:
- d is the largest department in the Ministry of Truth?
 - e happens in the underground rooms below the Ministry of Love?
 - f does Winston like about the small room above Charrington's shop?
- 11 Work with another student. Have this conversation between Winston and a member of the Thought Police.
- Student A:* You are the Thought Police Officer. You think that Winston is guilty of *thoughtcrime*, *facecrime* and *ownlife*. Tell him why.
- Student B:* You are Winston. Tell the Thought Police Officer why you are not guilty of the crimes. Make your lies as believable as possible!

Chapters 5-6

Before you read

- 12 Look at the pictures in Chapters 5 and 6. Who is the girl in these pictures? What do you already know about her? How do you think she will be important in the next part of the story?

While you read

- 13 Circle the correct words.
- a Winston reads the girl's message in *his office/the toilet*.
 - b The countryside is a *dangerous/safe* place to meet.
 - c Julia is *much/slightly* younger than Winston.
 - d Julia likes Winston because he *hates the Party/is good-looking*.
 - e Winston *is/is not* Julia's first boyfriend.
 - f Julia likes *books/machinery*.
 - g Katherine did not tell the Thought Police about her husband because she was *afraid/unintelligent*.
 - h Winston thinks that he and Julia *will/will not* be caught.

After you read

- 14 Who is speaking? Who to? What do the underlined words mean?
- a 'Can you remember all that?'
 - b 'I hated the sight of you.'
 - c 'It's the only way to be safe.'
 - d 'When I first saw you, I knew you were against them.'
 - e 'Have you done this before?'
 - f 'This is the one I'm really proud of.'
 - g 'It's the one thing they can't do.'
 - h 'They are the most horrible things in the world.'
- 15 Discuss these questions with another student. What do you think? Why?
- a Do Julia and Winston really love each other?
 - b How does Winston feel about Julia's other boyfriends? Do you agree with him?
 - c Is Winston right to rent the room above Mr Charrington's shop?

Chapters 7-8

Before you read

- 16** Read again the last sentence in Chapter 6 and discuss these questions with another student:
- a** In what sense is the room 'a world'?
 - b** In what sense is it a 'past world'?
 - c** In what sense are Winston and Julia the last two people who are still living?
 - d** What do you think the future will be like for them?

While you read

- 17** In which order do these happen? Number them 1-8.
- a** Winston thinks about the importance of the *proles*.
 - b** Winston and Julia drink to Emmanuel Goldstein.
 - c** Winston reads Goldstein's book.
 - d** Syme disappears.
 - e** Oceania goes to war with Eastasia.
 - f** Winston tells Julia about O'Brien.
 - g** Soldiers come into Mr Charrington's shop.
 - h** Winston and Julia visit O'Brien.

After you read

- 18** Match the correct endings on page 74 for these sentences.
- a** Parsons is happy because he ...
 - b** Julia disagrees with Winston because she ...
 - c** Winston feels sure that O'Brien is against the Party because O'Brien ...
 - d** Winston and Julia are surprised because O'Brien ...
 - e** Winston tells O'Brien his secret because he ...
 - f** Winston cannot taste the wine because he ...
 - g** At the beginning of the twentieth century, equality became possible because machines ...
 - h** The Middle and Low groups could not move up in society because the Inner Party ...

- i The Party is never criticized because nobody ...
- j Winston is shocked because Mr Charrington ...
 - 1) usually drinks gin.
 - 2) can remember the past.
 - 3) did most of the work.
 - 4) can switch off the *telescreen*.
 - 5) owned almost everything.
 - 6) is helping to organize Hate Week.
 - 7) talks about an *unperson*.
 - 8) thinks that Goldstein does not exist.
 - 9) is a member of the Thought Police.
 - 10) wants to join the Brotherhood.
- 19 Is the Party for or against these things? Why?
 - equality *doublethink* war history the Brotherhood

Chapters 9-10

Before you read

- 20 How do you think these might be important in the next part of the story?
 - The Ministry of Love O'Brien Ampleforth Parsons pain Winston's diary*

While you read

- 21 Underline the correct answer.
 - a Ampleforth is a prisoner because he
 - 1) is guilty of *thoughtcrime*.
 - 2) uses a wrong word in a poem.
 - b Parsons feels
 - 1) proud of his daughter.
 - 2) angry with Big Brother.
 - c Winston suffers great pain because he does not believe
 - 1) what he is told.
 - 2) that he is guilty.

- d O'Brien wants to
 - 1) change Winston.
 - 2) punish Winston.
- e O'Brien refuses to tell Winston
 - 1) what happened to Julia.
 - 2) whether the Brotherhood exists.

After you read

- 22 Discuss these questions with another student.
- a Who does Winston think about most when he first arrives at the Ministry of Love? Why?
 - b O'Brien says 'You knew this, Winston. You have always known it.' What is he talking about?
 - c Why is O'Brien so interested in the number of fingers he shows Winston?
 - d Does Winston hate O'Brien? Why (not)?

Chapters 11-12

Before you read

- 23 Discuss these questions.
- a What do you think is going to happen to Winston in Room 101?
 - b Will there be a happy ending for Winston and Julia? Why (not)?

While you read

- 24 There is one wrong word in each sentence. Underline it and write the correct word.
- a O'Brien wrote all of Goldstein's book. b The Party is not interested in power, long life or happiness.
 - c O'Brien thinks that the individual is more important than the group.
 - d In the future, there will be no art, literature or music.
 - e O'Brien shows Winston a picture.

- f Room 101 is the second stage in Winston's return to society.
- g O'Brien opens the door to the tube because Winston has betrayed Julia.
- h When Winston sees Big Brother on the telescreen in the Chestnut Tree Cafe, he feels sad.

After you read

- 25 Do you agree with these opinions of *1984*? Why (not)? Discuss your ideas with another student.
- a The book is still popular because it is a great love story and a great adventure story.
 - b The world of *1984* will never come true.
 - c The world of 1984 has already come true.
 - d The story would be better if it had a happier ending.

Writing

- 26 Imagine that you are Syme (Chapter 3). Invent ten new words for the Newspeak dictionary. What do they mean?
- 27 Imagine that you are Winston at the end of Chapter 4. Write about recent events in your diary. Describe the people that you know and your feelings about them.
- 28 Imagine that you are a Party spy. Write a report on the activities of Winston and Julia in Chapters 5 and 6.
- 29 What happened to Syme (Chapter 7)? Why was he *vaporized*? Write his story.
- 30 Imagine that you are Julia (Chapter 6). Write a letter to a friend about Winston. What is he like? Why do you like him? What are your plans together?
- 31 Write a list of Party rules for people in Oceania. What are they not allowed to do, according to the story?
- 32 Write a short history of Oceania from 1950-1984, according to Goldstein's book (Chapter 8).

- 33 'The future belonged to the *proles*; Party members were the dead.' (Chapter 8) Imagine you are Winston. Explain your ideas in an article for a political magazine against the Party.
- 34 O'Brien says, 'The worst thing in the world is different for each person.' (Chapter 12) What would be in *your* Room 101? Why?
- 35 Imagine that you are Julia (Chapter 12). Write a letter to Winston. Describe your experiences in the Ministry of Love. Why can't you see him again?

Answers for the Activities in this book are available from the Penguin Readers website.

A free Activity Worksheet is also available from the website. Activity Worksheets are part of the Penguin Teacher Support Programme, which also includes Progress Tests and Graded Reader Guidelines. For more information, please visit:

www.penguinreaders.com.

WORD LIST

article (n) a piece of writing in a newspaper or magazine

betray (v) to harm a person, group or country by telling their secrets

brotherhood (n) an organization of people with the same aims or beliefs

canteen (n) a place in an office, factory or school where people go to eat and drink

cell (n) a small room "where prisoners are kept

comrade (n) a word used to talk to or about a person in some socialist groups or countries

dial (n) the part of a machine that has numbers which show you measurements

edition (n) the copies of a book, newspaper or magazine that are all the same

freedom (n) the state of being free to live your life as you want to

gin (n) a clear, strong alcoholic drink

hang (v) to kill someone by tying something around their neck and taking the support away from under their feet

ignorance (n) the state of having no knowledge or information about something

individual (n) one person in a group or society

league (n) a group of people with similar aims or beliefs

lever (n) a handle on a machine that you push to make the machine work

mansions (n pl) a word used in the name for a building in which there are a lot of flats

ministry (n) a government department

Overalls (n pl) a piece of clothing that you wear over your shirt and trousers to protect them

party (n) an organization of people with the same political aims

poster (n) a large notice or picture

prole (n) a working-class person (often an offensive word when used now)

razor blade (n) the small, sharp, flat piece of metal inside a razor that is used for shaving

slavery (n) the use of people who are owned by other people and are not free

slogan (n) a short, clever sentence used in advertising or politics

stamp (v) to put your foot down on something very hard

sweat (n) liquid that comes out through your skin when you are hot or nervous

telescreen (n) a piece of equipment, like a large television, on which pictures are shown

truth (n) the true facts about something

vaporise (v) to change something into gas; to make something disappear

victory (n) success in a war