

Nineteen-Eighty-Four by George Orwell (1949)**Summary of the Work:**

Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...

A startling and haunting novel, *1984* creates an imaginary world that is completely convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the novel's hold on the imaginations of whole generations, or the power of its admonitions—a power that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time.

-Amazon

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

“As a parody of conditions in postwar England, it is, as Anthony Burgess has argued in *1985* (1978), a droll, rather Swifitean exaggeration of then current trends straining the social and political fabric of British culture. As a critique of the way in which human beings construct their social reality, the novel has so affected the modern world that much of its language (like that of its predecessor, *Animal Farm*) has entered into the everyday language of English-speaking peoples everywhere: *doublethink*, *newspeak*, *thoughtcrime*, and *Big Brother*.” --Nasrullah Mambrol

Rationale

1984 is an ideal read for the AP Literature and Composition course because it is regularly referenced in mainstream media. Few novels have achieved the widespread influence that *1984* has; the subjects of governmental power, suppression of free speech, the power of language, and propaganda all stitch the fabric of dystopia painted in Orwell's novel.

The cautionary tale's commentary on ideologies such as totalitarianism and human psychology will intrigue and challenge students to question the themes presented by Orwell throughout the novel. The tense and haunting plotline will motivate students through the text and encourage nuanced discussions.

Noted Distinction:

- Prometheus Hall of Fame Award 1984

Readability

- Lexile Score: 1090

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

<p>Notes on the Text: <i>(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety)</i></p>	<p>Connection to the Curriculum:</p> <p>RI.11- 12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain. RI.11- 12.2 Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.</p> <p>RI.11- 12.3 Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, cultures, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.</p>
<p>Additional Connections: <i>(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)</i></p>	