

Discussion questions for 1984

Oceania – History? How big? Does the war exist?

The Party – Beliefs? Why so much control? Inner/Outer? Why change the past? (Why does no one remember the past?)

Newspeak/Doublethink

Big Brother – Does he exist? What is his purpose?

The Ministries

Emmanuel Goldstein and the Brotherhood – Do they exist? What is their purpose?

Proles – Who are they? Why not motivated to rebel? Why don't they remember the past? Why allowed to exist as they are?

Winston

Why flashbacks to childhood, mother, and sister?

Why does he do things that he knows will get him into trouble? Is the reader surprised? Why allowed to disobey for so long?

Winston and Julia in love – Why does anyone care?

Winston's arrest and torture (Mr. Charrington, the church bell song, and the telescreen)

Winston at the end – What has happened to him?

Julia

Relationship to party

Julia in the end

O'Brien

Member of the Brotherhood?

As Winston's torturer? Room 101?

Why does he free Winston? (2+2=5)

Thinking questions:

What sensation was caused by the publication of this novel during the Cold War?

Compare Orwell's look at the future with what we have become?

Orwell's purpose in writing? Unrealistic? Extreme?

Soviet Union – Role of the party?