

1984 CHAPTER QUESTIONS

Book 1

Chapters 1-2

1. What bothers Winston?
2. Explain the Two Minutes Hate and its effect on Winston.
3. What are the four ministries? What is “thoughtcrime”? What the Thought Police? Who is Big Brother?
4. What does the Parsons family represent?
5. What is Winston’s dream about O’Brien?



Chapter 3-4

1. What is Winston’s dream about his mother? How does he feel about himself in that dream? What is his dream about the “Golden Country”?
2. Explain the Party slogan, “Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past.”
3. How does Winston feel about his work? What sort of “creativity” is involved?
4. What is the significance of Comrade Ogilvy?

Chapters 5-7

1. What is the problem with obtaining razor blades?
2. What is revealed about Inner Party philosophy in the discussion between Winston and Syme?
3. Why does Winston feel that Syme will be vaporized?
4. Why is Newspeak so important to the Inner Party?
5. What is the purpose of marriage in the state? What do Winston’s memories about visiting a prostitute reveal about his attitudes towards sex in Oceania?
6. Describe the Proles and Party’s attitude towards them.
7. What is the story of Aaronson, Jones and Rutherford? Why is this story so meaningful for Winston?

Chapter 8

1. Explain Winston’s frustration when talking to the older man.
2. Why is Winston attracted to the junk shop and Mr. Charrington?
3. In his dream, O’Brien says to Winston, “We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness.” What is the significance of this?
4. How does one’s own body betray a person?
5. What do the ringing bells in London symbolize?



Book Two

Chapters 1-5

1. How does Winston react to the note from Julia before he reads it?
2. Why does Winston risk everything to have an affair with a woman he barely knows?

3. How are some of the descriptions in this chapter different from previous ones?
4. Why is Winston pleased that Julia has had affairs with Outer Party Members?
5. Describe the preparations for Hate week. In what ways does the Inner Party excel in building spirit?
6. Julia and Winston have some differences. Explain them.

Chapter 6-9

1. How does O'Brien convince Winston that he is an ally?
2. What does Winston remember about his family and his relationship with his mother?
3. What is the difference between confession and betrayal?
4. Contrast the living quarters and style of the Inner Party members with those of the Outer Party members and proles?
5. What are the things that O'Brien asks Winston if he is willing to do for the Party? Ironically, what is O'Brien revealing?

“The Book”

1. Summarize the content of the book given to Winston. What are the two aims of the Party? What are the two problems which the Party is concerned?
2. Why are the rules in the 20th century better at maintaining power than earlier tyrants?
3. What understanding does Winston gain about the common people?
4. What is the significance of the glass paperweight here?
5. Were you surprised by the “twist” at the end of Part 2? Why or why not?

Book Three

Chapter 1-2

1. How is the horror and brutality of Winston's imprisonment made vivid to the reader?
2. What is the irony of “the place with no darkness”?
3. What is the purpose of Winston's conversation with Parsons?
4. If deep down Winston always knew the true nature of O'Brien, why did he confide in him in the first place? Why does he “love” him?
5. How does the torture used by the Party here differ from past attempts to silence heretics?

Chapter 3-4

1. How are the experiences that Winston undergoes similar to religious conversions?
2. Why is power important to the Party? How is it maintained?
3. How does O'Brien mock Winston's belief that he is “the last man...the guardian of the human spirit”?

Chapter 5-6

1. What happens in Room 101?
2. Why does Winston's interrogation stop when it does? Why is O'Brien satisfied with Winston's betrayal of Julia?
3. Why is the Chestnut Tree Cafe an appropriate setting for the ending of the novel?
4. How does an atmosphere of death pervade this chapter?