***1984* Study Guide**

*Directions: Answer the following questions using Shmoop and read the section assigned to answer the close reading questions. Each question is worth 1 point, and each stamp for having it on time is worth 2 points.*

**Night 1: Part 1, chapters 1-2**

**Part 1: Chapter 1**

1. Who is Winston Smith? Who is Big Brother? What is Airstrip One? What does INGSOC mean?
2. Describe telescreens and those who monitor them.
3. What is Winston’s job?
4. What are the four different governing branches of the party, and what is each of their roles?
5. What are the three slogans of the party?
6. What does Winston start doing in the alcove? Why does he do this activity here? Why is he doing this activity at all, considering the possible punishment?
7. Who is the Party’s chief enemy? What is thoughcrime?

**Part 1: Chapter 2**

1. Who is Tom Parsons? Why does the stability of the Party depend on him?
2. Why did the Party eliminate love among people?
3. Who owns everything?
4. Who is Winston writing to in his diary?

**Read Part 1: Chapter 1, pages 1-4**

1. What is the mood of the first two paragraphs?
2. What three specific diction choices contribute to that mood?
3. What is an example of three different types of imagery in the first two paragraphs (appeals to three different senses)?
4. Describe three concrete details about the telescreen.
5. Orwell says that Winston’s face was naturally sanguine – what does this mean?
6. There seems to be no color anywhere except for what? Describe this object.
7. Winston says that the patrols did not matter, only what?
8. The reference to the Ninth Three-Year Plan is an allusion to Stalin. Look up and then describe Stalin’s five-year plans.
9. Why do you think is it safer to keep your back to the telescreen?
10. Give three concrete details of London according to Winston.
11. What does the Ministry of Truth look like?
12. Pick one slogan, and describe why it is ironic.

**Night 2: Part 1, chapters 3-7**

**Part 1: Chapter 3**

1. What specifically does Winston dream about?
2. What wakes Winston up?
3. What does he have to do in the morning?
4. What does he doubt about the Party’s authority?
5. When did he first hear the word Ingsoc?

**Part 1: Chapter 4**

1. What is a memory hole?
2. Describe the details of Winston’s job.
3. What does he conclude?

**Part 1: Chapter 5**

1. Describe Syme.
2. What does Winston imagine?
3. What does Syme tell Winston is the aim of Newspeak?
4. What does the brunette do while Winston is at the canteen?
5. Why does this make Winston paranoid?

**Part 1: Chapter 6**

1. What does Winston write in his diary about?
2. What happened in 1981?
3. How long was Winston married and what happened to his wife?
4. What is the Party against?
5. Why did Winston wife have sex with him?
6. What is rebellion against the Party?

**Part 1: Chapter 7**

1. If there is hope in overthrowing the Party rule, then it lies with whom? Describe them.
2. Why are they untouched by the Party?
3. What does Winston look through to learn about capitalists?
4. When the past is erased, and the erasure is forgotten, then what happens?
5. What did Winston hold in his hands in 1973? What did he do with this?
6. What is freedom?
7. Who does he think he should give the diary to?

**Read Part 1: Chapter 3, pages 29-31**

1. Winston says very little about his mother or father’s personality in the first paragraph of the chapter, but rather he gives the physical description of both. Based on the physical descriptions, describe his mother and father (personality).

1. In Winston’s dream his mother and baby sister are far below where he is standing looking down at him.  Orwell compares this to three other scenarios. What were those three scenarios/settings, and how does each scenario help the reader understand the situation?   How do they demonstrate Winston’s helplessness in his dream and most likely real life?  Make sure to focus on the last scenario.
2. Winston’s mother and sister were “down there because he was up here.”  Orwell makes it clear that they will die in the dream for Winston to live.  Orwell writes “He knew and they knew it, and he could see the knowledge in their faces.  There was no reproach either in their faces or in their hearts.”  Explain the significance of the word “reproach” in this section.  What does it tell us about Winston’s mother and sister?  What might it tell us about Winston living with this knowledge today?
3. Winston says that tragedy is no longer possible in his world.  Why?  How is this understanding possibly foreshadowing?  What does it tell us about Winston?
4. How is the concept of dehumanization demonstrated through Winston’s understanding of tragedy his world?
5. What could Winston’s mother and sister’s eyes symbolize?  Explain using evidence from this section to support your answer.
6. The dream suddenly changes settings.  Describe the Golden Country.  What is Winston’s tone in regards to the Golden Country?  Give evidence to support your answer.
7. The dream takes another strange turn when the girl with the brown hair arrives in the Golden Country.  She takes off her clothes as she heads toward Winston.  Winston is less impressed about her nakedness, but more impressed with her action.  What does this action symbolize?  What does this tell us about Winston’s personality?
8. What is the significance of the Shakespeare reference?

**Night 3: Part 1, chapter 8 - Part 2, chapter 2**

**Part 1: Chapter 8**

1. Who does Winston envy?
2. Who is Mr. Charrington?
3. What does Winston purchase from him? What are his two reasons for liking it?
4. What is not on Mr. Charrington’s wall? What is there instead?
5. Why does Winston become very worried when he sees the brunette?
6. What does he think about doing to her?

**Part 2: Chapter 1**

1. What does the brunette pass to Winston? What does it say?
2. What do they plan to do? Where?
3. What do they do briefly? Why is this such a big deal?

**Part 2: Chapter 2**

1. Where do Winston and the brunette (Julia) meet?
2. Why does Winston feel confident?
3. What is Julia wearing? What does she share with him?
4. What do they do next?
5. Has Julia had sex before? Why does Winston like her response?

**Read Part 1: Chapter 8, pages 94-98**

1. How is the proprietor of the shop described? What does this tell us about his character?
2. The proprietor says, “That was a beautiful bit of paper…There’s been no paper made like that for…fifty years.” What does this quote tell us about beauty in the Oceania in 1984?
3. What is ironic about the proprietor’s assessment of his “antique shop”?
4. Describe the “lump of glass” (paperweight). Use concrete examples.
5. What is the significance of the color of the coral in the paperweight?
6. What abstract detail is used to describe the paperweight? Why might this be important?
7. The proprietor leads Winston up to a bedroom. What concrete details does Orwell use to describe this room?
8. What mood is created by these concrete details?
9. What is Winston’s first outward response to the room and what is this hinting at?
10. What do we find out about books in Oceania at the end of this section?

**Night 4: Part 2, chapters 3-8**

**Part 2: Chapter 3**

1. Who takes charge on getting them back to London?
2. How often do they have sex in May?
3. What do you think is talking by installments?
4. Describe Julia’s background and identity.
5. What is Julia not interested in?
6. Describe Winston’s story about a walk he took with his wife Katharine.

**Part 2: Chapter 4**

1. Where does Winston rent a room? Why?
2. What has Winston been preparing for?
3. What does he daydream about?
4. What does Julia bring specifically to the room?
5. What does Winston say is his biggest fear?
6. What does Winston gaze into philosophically?

**Part 2: Chapter 5**

1. Who has vanished?
2. What are the preparations for Hate Week?
3. What is Winston troubled by?
4. What does he fantasize about?
5. What is Winston annoyed by about Julia?

**Part 2: Chapter 6**

1. Who makes contact with Winston? Where?
2. What do they discuss?
3. How does this meeting make Winston feel?

**Part 2: Chapter 7**

1. What makes Winston wake up crying? Why?
2. What has the Party made them inhuman?
3. What are their two futures if they get caught?
4. How is confession not betrayal?

**Part 2: Chapter 8**

1. O’Brien is a member of which Party? What is the materialism similar to?
2. What does O’Brien turn off?
3. What do they drink?
4. What do they discuss?
5. What is arranged for Winston to receive?
6. O’Brien alludes to a second meeting, and Winston asks if it will be held where?
7. What does O’Brien know the full stanza to?

**Read Part 2: Chapter 7, pages 164-167**

1. How does Julia's response to Winston's story about his mother express her true feelings toward Winston?  What metaphor does she use to describe Winston as a child?  Why is this strange after he opened up about his childhood memory?
2. What does it mean when Winston thinks "Whatever happened you vanished, and neither you or nor your actions were heard of again"?
3. Winston and Julia come to a depressing realization that their future has nothing but despair ahead. Julia's states that confession is inevitable if they are taken by the Party.   Winston replies "Confession is not betrayal. . . only feelings matter.  If they can make me stop loving you - that would be real betrayal."  Based on this quote make a prediction about what will happen to Julia and Winston.  Use this quote and the rest of their conversation to support your prediction.

**Read Part 2: Chapter 8, pages 169-171**

1. We come to realize that O’Brien has the ability to turn off the telescreen. What does this suggest about the reality of control?
2. Winston describes O’Brien’s home as a rich and spacious room with “unfamiliar smells of good food and good tobacco […] the servant […] in a white jacket [… and the] passage down which he led them was softly carpeted, with cream-papered walls and white wainscoting, all exquisitely clean.”  What is the irony of the color and interior of O’Briens home?
3. Winston picks up the wine glass, amazed at the object he was holding because wine was something that he “had read and dreamed about.” But it wasn’t just the wine that was significant, because it reminds him of the of the glass paperweight. What is the significance behind glass? Why is it important?
4. O’ Brian, Julia, and Winston toast “to the past.” Why is the past more important than the present or future?

**Night 5: Part 2, chapters 9-10**

**Part 2: Chapter 9**

1. What book is now in Winston’s hands?
2. Why did Winston have to work 90 hours in five days? Be specific.
3. Why does he feel at peace assisting the Party now?
4. What is the title of this book?
5. What is ironic about the manifesto’s titles?
6. What does Winston understand?

**Part 2: Chapter 10**

1. What do Winston and Julia discuss that the future depends on?
2. What does the voice behind the picture repeat?
3. What is behind the picture?
4. What happens to Winston and Julia when the troops storm in?
5. Who is a member of the Thought Police?

**Read Part 2: Chapter 10 pgs. 218-221**

1. Page 219, Winston describes the prole woman “as the “body of a woman of fifty, blown up to monstrous dimensions by childbearing, then hardened, roughened by work till it was course in the grain like an overripe turnip […] She had her momentary flowering, a year, perhaps, of wildrose beauty, and then she had suddenly swollen like a fertilized fruit and grown hard and red and course […] It was curious that the sky was the same for everybody […].” George Orwell uses various images of nature and city throughout the novel, particularly in this passage. How do the images of an “overripe turnip,” “wild rose” and “like a fertilized fruit” intensify the conflict of the past and present?
2. Orwell describes the prole woman through connotative word choices – monstrous dimensions, hardened, roughened, course in the grain, over-ripe turnip, mare-like buttocks, contourless, block of granite, rasping red skin.  The words combined create an unappealing image, yet Winston reflects, “she’s beautiful”. The contrast creates puzzlement in both Julia and the readers. Why is this Winston’s perception? What is the beauty he sees?
3. Orwell use of simile of the prole woman who looks “like an over-ripe turnip” where the “sky was the same for everybody”. This creates an image of a crop instead of a person. Why is this simile so significant to Winston and the world he lives in? And what is ironic about the situation?
4. Both Winston and Julia stand on the porch and watch the prole woman. Commenting in detail the purpose of her life, “childbearing” Winston concludes, “we are the dead”. How does the proles body reanimate this notion? Lustful and emotional sex become a rebellion thus how do Julia and Winston’s action juxtapose the physical body of the prole?

**Night 6: Part 3, chapters 1-6**

**Part 3: Chapter 1**

1. Where does Winston wake up? Why is this the place where there is no darkness?
2. How can you tell the Party prisoners from the ordinary ones?
3. Who does Winston meet in the cell that he recognizes? Why was this person there?
4. What does he wish the Brotherhood would send him?
5. How does O’Brien introduce himself?

**Part 3: Chapter 2**

1. As Winston is tortured, what becomes his sole concern?
2. Who is running the torture show? How long has he been watching him?
3. How does O’Brien torture Winston next?
4. Why does the Party torture people, according to O’Brien?
5. What does Winston relearn?

**Part 3: Chapter 3**

1. What are the three stages of the process of reintegration?
2. Why is the Party indestructible?
3. Why will the Party succeed indefinitely?
4. Why will the Party be rid of all enemies?
5. What does O’Brien liken the picture of the future to?
6. What does Winston see when he looks in the mirror?
7. What is Winston’s one last strength?

**Part 3: Chapter 4**

1. What happens to Winston when the torture eases?
2. What does Winston try to learn?
3. What is his new goal?
4. Why does Winston need to go to Room 101?

**Part 3: Chapter 5**

1. What is in Room 101 in general? For Winston in particular?
2. What does O’Brien try to do to Winston?
3. What does Winston shout?
4. Why does this work for O’Brien?

**Part 3: Chapter 6**

1. How much time has passed? Where is Winston?
2. What happened when he met Julia in 1985?
3. What does Winston remember when he cries?
4. What does Winston want most of all?
5. What does Winston feel when he looks at Big Brother on the telescreen?

**Read – Part 3: Chapter 5**

1. Describe Winston’s containment in the cell at the start of the chapter. What are the only two things in front of him?
2. What does everyone know is in Room 101? What are some examples of the worst thing in the world that O’Brien suggests?
3. How does Orwell build suspense in the opening of this chapter? Give two concrete examples.
4. What is Winston’s tone when he realizes what his worst thing in the world is?
5. Why does Winston say, “You know this is not necessary” to O’Brien?
6. O’Brien lectures Winston about pain, courage, and cowardice. What are his examples of not being cowardly? How does this relate to the rats for Winston?
7. When O’Brien brings the cage nearer to Winston, Winston uses a metaphor pictures himself somewhere else – what is this metaphor? What is the significance of this?
8. How does O’Brien’s choice of details when talking to Winston add to the tension and suspense of the scene?
9. How does the rat construction thing work? Why is O’Brien so graphic when he is describing how it functions?
10. What is the hearing (auditory) imagery describing the rats? What is the smell (olfactory) imagery?
11. Orwell describes O’Brien’s tone at “didactic” – what does this word mean?
12. Orwell ends the chapter with another metaphor about Winston’s location. What is the metaphor and why is it significant?