

"I think it would be horrible to live a life where you can never have any privacy and for all your thoughts and words to be traced." George, 10



NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

GEORGE ORWELL

'If there is no word for freedom, how can anyone be free?'

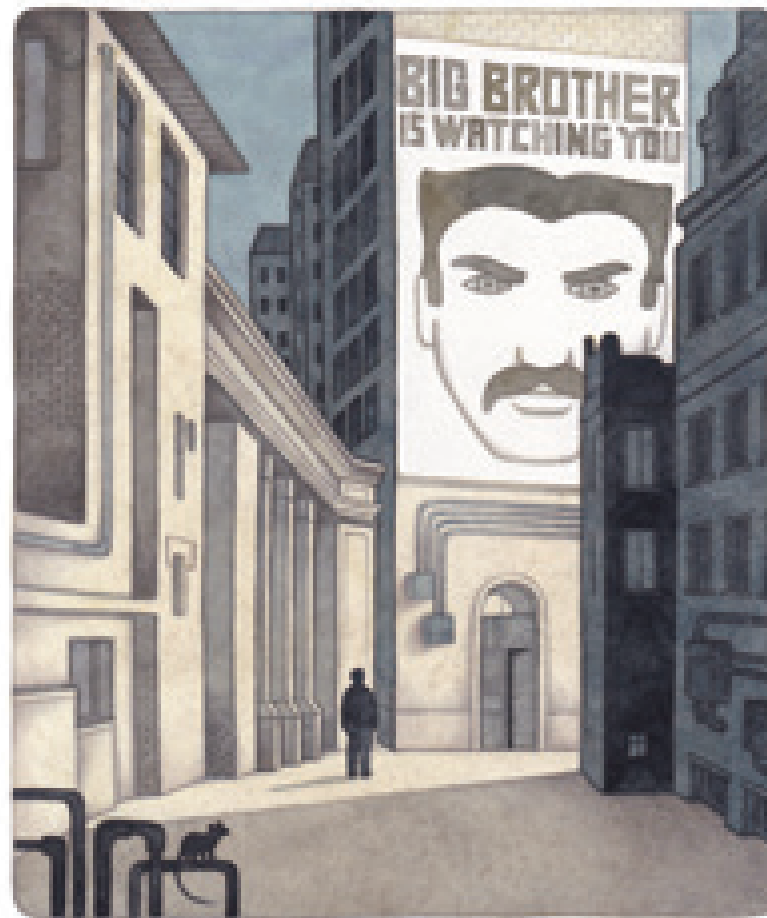
Winston Smith lives in a nightmare world where the Thought Police spy on everyone and children are taught to betray their parents. Even the smallest sign of disagreement with the Party results in torture, imprisonment, or death. Big Brother oversees everything – but who is he?

Winston tries hard to keep his thoughts and fears to himself. But then he meets Julia, a strong-minded young woman who is willing to run the terrible risk of their being found together. Will kindly Mr Charrington keep their secret? Can Winston and Julia find happiness despite the dangers that threaten them?



NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

George Orwell



Retold by Tony Evans
Illustrated by Angelo Ruta

ISBN 978-1-911091-10-3



Lexile® Level	AR Level	Word Count
900L	5.6	5,606

www.realreads.co.uk



NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

GEORGE ORWELL



www.realreads.co.uk

Retold by Tony Evans
Illustrated by Angelo Ruta

Published by Real Reads Ltd
Newbury, Berkshire, UK
www.realreads.co.uk

Text copyright © Tony Evans 2021

Illustrations copyright © Angelo Ruta 2021

The right of Tony Evans to be identified as author of this book
has been asserted by him in accordance with the
Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988

First published in 2021

Reprinted 2021

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any
form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including
photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval
system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

LEXILE® and the LEXILE® logo are trademarks of MetaMetrics,
Inc., and are registered in the United States and abroad.
Copyright © 2021 MetaMetrics, Inc. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-911091-10-3

Accelerated Reader

Level 5.6

Word count: 5,606



Lexile® level: 900L

Printed in Turkey by Imago Ltd.

CONTENTS

The Characters	4
Nineteen Eighty-Four	7
Taking things further	55



THE CHARACTERS



Winston Smith

Winston is unhappy with life, and decides to write a diary to record his thoughts and feelings. What happens when he meets Julia, a young woman who works in the same office as Winston?

Julia

Julia is a confident and clever young woman. She seems very interested in Winston. But can he trust her – or have the police asked her to spy on him?



O'Brien

O'Brien has an important job within the Inner Party – the most powerful group of people in the country. Winston thinks he is a friend. Can O'Brien help Winston?



Mr Charrington

Mr Charrington owns a junk-shop, and seems to be a kind and helpful old man. He sells Winston an old writing book to use as a diary. Will Winston get him into trouble?



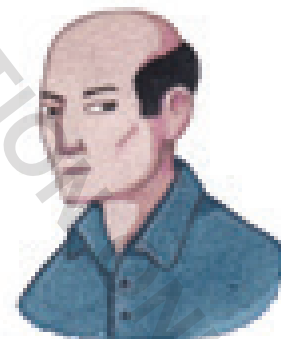
Syme

Syme is one of the most intelligent people that Winston knows. He is fascinated by the new language that the Party is creating. But will his cleverness and enthusiasm do him any good?



Parsons

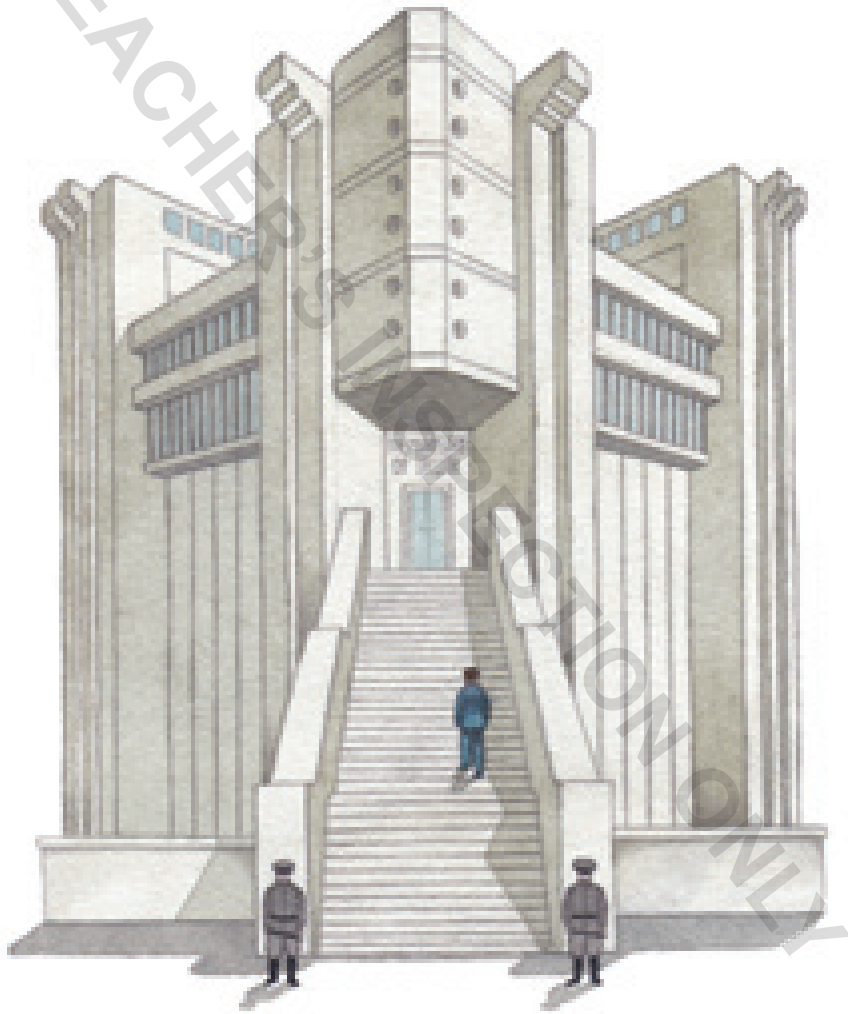
Parsons would do anything to please Big Brother. He spends all his spare time raising money and organising marches and parades. Will he be rewarded for all his efforts?



Big Brother

Posters of Big Brother are everywhere. He is in charge of everything and watches everyone closely. But who is he? Has anyone ever met him?





NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith pushed open the glass doors of Victory Mansions and started up the stairs to his seventh floor flat. He could not face his work canteen and had decided to go home for his mid-day break that day. The lift was out of order, and as usual the entrance hall smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. On every landing the same large poster was stuck to the wall. It showed an enormous face, more than a metre wide. It was the face of a man about forty-five, with a big black moustache and a serious expression, underneath large letters which read:

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

When Winston stepped into his flat he was greeted with a voice babbling away from a flat screen which was fixed to the wall opposite him – the telescreen, it was called.

There was no way to switch this screen off, although Winston was able to turn the volume down slightly. The announcer was saying something about how more goods than ever had been produced that year. Winston knew that this was nonsense – there were always shortages of everything, from shoelaces to razor blades – but he was careful to look as if he was pleased to hear the announcer's news. The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously, and Winston knew that it was always possible that he was being carefully watched by the Thought Police. No one knew how they decided when they were going to spy on someone. If they discovered that you were thinking the wrong thing – 'thoughtcrime', it was called – then you were sure to be arrested and sent to a prison camp or worse.

Winston looked out of the window at the rows of decaying old houses that surrounded his flat. On every corner he could see huge posters of Big Brother. A kilometre away the

Ministry of Truth, his place of work, towered vast and white above the grimy landscape. It was an enormous pyramid of glittering concrete, and it was just possible to read the three slogans of the Party – the organisation which now ruled Airstrip One – written in large letters on one of the walls.

WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH

Winston had his back to the telescreen, so he allowed himself to frown. He could remember when he was a very young child, before his parents disappeared and he was sent to the children's home, that 'Airstrip One' used to be called 'England' and was not part of Oceania. He was sure that there had been many countries in the world then. Now there were only three: Oceania, Eurasia and Eastasia. Had life been better or worse when he was young, he wondered?

large boxes with a tiny black-and-white screen. Now also the use of faked documents and altered photos to try to distort the truth is all too common on social media.

Sadly there are still many countries in the world today where personal freedom is very restricted and people are not allowed to say what they think. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* continues to give us an important message about the dangers of state control and totalitarianism.

Filling in the spaces

The loss of so many of George Orwell's original words is a sad but necessary part of the shortening process. We have had to make some difficult decisions, omitting subplots and details, some important, some less so, but all interesting. We have also, at times, taken the liberty of combining two events into one, or of giving a character words or actions that originally belong to another. The points below will fill in some of the gaps, but nothing can beat the original.

- Winston describes the Two Minutes Hate which takes place in his office, and everywhere else in the country. The telescreen shows a picture of the leader of the Brotherhood, Emmanuel Goldstein, who is supposed to be plotting against the Party. Everyone shouts at Goldstein until in the end the face of Big Brother appears and calms them down.

- Winston describes how he once found a photograph which showed that on the day that three men had been found guilty of travelling to Eurasia to give away important secrets, they were in fact in New York (part of Oceania). This proves to Winston that the Party lies about the past.

- We learn more about Winston's childhood. He is ashamed because he stole food intended for his younger sister.

- O'Brien asks Winston and Julia to meet him in his flat. Because he is a member of the Inner Party O'Brien has much better living conditions and is able to switch his telescreen off. He tells