1984

Context

‘1984’ is a nightmare story concerning an authoritarian state of the near future, and one man’s futile struggle against it.

The story documents the hero, Winston Smith’s tortuous path to final acceptance of the system. He works in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth, amending documents and altering the past. One of the doctrines of the Party is “Who controls the past, controls the present”.

He is dissatisfied with the austere environment in which he has to live and makes his first small step of rebellion by keeping a diary. He wrongly believes that a member of the Inner Party, O’Brien, is a kindred spirit. This man turns out to be Winston’s tormentor. His acts of rebellion increase in that he has an affair with another Party member, and they set up a secret love-nest.

All citizens are observed by telescreens, which are placed in people’s homes, in the streets, and in their workplaces, so that nothing is secret from the Thought Police, who control society.

Winston regards his sexual relationship with Julia as more than lovemaking, but a political statement against the Party and against Oceania, the superstate in which they live. There are two other such superstates, Eastasia and Eurasia, with whom Oceania has been at war at one time or another.
Believing that O'Brien is a member of the underground called The Brotherhood, Winston tells him about his acts of rebellion. Unknown to both Winston and Julia, their liaisons have been monitored through a secret telescreen concealed in their rented room. The inevitable happens. Winston and Julia are imprisoned and taken away by the Thought Police to the Ministry of Love in order to be cured, or rehabilitated.

It is not sufficient that they will be executed, this cannot happen until they have been cured.

O'Brien is Winston’s main torturer and Winston receives not only physical abuse, but also psychological torture. The process that Winston has to go through is firstly learning, secondly, understanding and finally, submission. The final phase is achieved in the dreaded Room 101, where Winston is forced to face what he secretly fears most. Winston will do anything rather than face this fear, and he ends up betraying Julia, pleading that she should face his fear rather than him.

At the end, Winston is pleased to have been cured. He feels gratitude and love for Big Brother.

**The Author**

Eric Blair’s pseudonym was ‘George Orwell’. He was born in India in 1903, son of an Indian Civil Servant. Traditionally, he was brought to England to be educated, and eventually ended up at Eton on a scholarship in 1917.

He graduated in 1921 and decided not to go to University, but took up a post with the Civil Service in Burma, and he became a Sergeant in the Indian Imperial Police. He served in Burma until 1927 and reports are that he did not rest easy with the authority he had to wield over the Burmese people, and he resigned his post in 1927.

He spent a year among the homeless, and these experiences formed the basis of his first book called ‘Down and Out in Paris and London’, published in 1933. He worked as a teacher and after he married, ran a village pub and general store with his wife. At this time he was not making sufficient money from his written work and it was not until after the war that he would earn sufficient as an author.

He became involved in the Spanish Civil War and ended up enlisting on the Republican side. This decision was to result in him and his wife being forced to leave Spain. He wrote the book ‘Homage to Catalonia’ in 1938 based on his experiences in Spain. He suffered from tuberculosis, which prevented him serving in the armed forces during the war, but he did accept a position in the Home Guard.

He was also an active socialist and produced many works during the war for various newspapers. In 1945, the first of the two books for which he is generally known was published, ‘Animal Farm’. This book was particularly successful in the United States, and Orwell at last enjoyed a good income from this.

He had moved to the Scottish Hebrides so that he could concentrate more on his writing, in particular the finishing touches to ‘1984’ which was published in 1949. Orwell’s projection of a society in the near future was greatly acclaimed, and was standard reading material for English students in Great Britain.

Orwell died prematurely in London in early 1950 from exhaustion and poor health.

**List of Characters**

**Winston Smith**

Aged 39, he is an ordinary member of the Outer Party who works in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth. He is not particularly intelligent, but has an inner courage, which gives him strength to rebel against the society of Oceania.

**Julia**

Julia engages in a sexual relationship with Smith, not as an act of rebellion, but more through loneliness. She obtains companionship and sexual gratification from Winston who also provides a means of escape from the unsexed society in which they live.

**O’Brien**
He is everything to Winston. He starts by being an apparent friend, almost a father figure, and then in his role as torturer he is also Winston's schoolmaster and confessor. He is a high ranking Inner Party member and a direct representative of Big Brother in the Ministry of Love.

Mr. Carrington

He is a member of the Thought Police who poses as a member of the proletariat, those out with the Party, and he ensnares Winston and Julia.

Newspeak

This story deals with the authoritarian state of Oceania, whose official language is Newspeak, and the story lapses into this language and explanations will be given as and when necessary, e.g. the ideology of Oceania is Ingsoc, which is the Newspeak word for English Socialism. It is hoped that by the year 2050, Oldspeak or Standard English will be replaced by Newspeak. All literary work, written work and language will be in the new form. The purpose of Newspeak was not only to provide a medium of expression for the worldview, and mental habits proper to the followers of Ingsoc; but also to make all other modes of thought impossible. It is intended that when Newspeak is adopted and Oldspeak forgotten, a heretical thought, that is one deviating from the principles of Ingsoc, will be literally unthinkable, at least so far as thought is dependant on words. An example of this would be the word ‘free’. Although this will still exist in Newspeak, it could only be used in such statements as 'this child is free from head lice' or 'this garden is free from weeds'. It could not be used in Oldspeak terms as intellectually free or politically free, as the concepts of such freedom no longer exist, and are therefore, nameless.

PART 1

Chapter 1

We are introduced to the main character of the story, Winston Smith who is aged 39 and is a member of the Outer Party. We are given an insight into the society of Oceania and it is not far removed from the former Soviet Union or North Korea, or any country under martial law. Everywhere there are large posters of Big Brother, who is the ruler of this state and under the posters are written the words 'Big Brother is Watching You'. Other posters display the three main slogans of the Party 'War is Peace', 'Freedom is Slavery', 'Ignorance is Strength'.

Winston lives in a dingy flat on the 7th floor of Victory Mansions. He works at the Ministry of Truth, or Minitrue in Newspeak. Minitrue is housed in an enormous pyramid shaped structure which towers above the other buildings in London. There are three other similar Ministries housed in equally impressive buildings, being the Ministry of Peace, Ministry of Plenty and the Ministry of Love, the latter being the most austere building, and the one feared by the populous as this has no windows. There is a high level of security surrounding this Ministry.

Everyone in the Party has a telescreen in their home, which provides propaganda and programmes for watching, and the Thought Police can also observe its Party members through these devices. The Thought Police maintain order and ensure that everyone adheres to the policies of Ingsoc.

Winston describes this existence of living under a microscope thus, "you had to live – did live, from habit that became instinct – in the assumption that every sound you make was overheard, and, except in the darkness, every movement scrutinized."

We get a real taste of life in this oligarchy (government by a small group of people), a dull gray world where luxury is having a drink of Victory gin and the main challenge is trying to smoke a Victory cigarette without the tobacco falling out.

Party members had a strict set of rules to follow and we find out that Winston had acquired a book for writing in from a junk shop in the slummy quarter of town. He decides to keep a diary, and his first entry is "April 4th 1984". He thinks this is the right date. He has an alcove in his flat where he can write unobserved by the telescreen. He had possessed the book for quite a while, but today he had resolved to start writing in it, and he gives an account of his visit to the cinema 'flicks' where he watched the usual war film. We find out that Winston had been, and maybe still was, married. By and large, Winston disliked all women. At his work he had seen a dark-haired girl aged about 27 who wore the emblem of the Junior Anti-sex League. He would cross paths with this girl again. Also that day he had met O'Brien who was a member of the Inner Party. He had a formidable appearance, being burly, thick-necked and with a brutal face. Winston was drawn to this man because he felt, rightly or wrongly,
that his political orthodoxy was not entirely sound. He obtained this impression during the day's usual two minutes' hate during which time everyone chanted

"B-B!" signifying Big Brother. Of course, Winston chanted with the rest, it was impossible to do otherwise, but it was impossible not to show how you felt through your facial expression. He glanced over towards O'Brien, who caught his eye, and he knew that O'Brien thought the same as him.

While Winston mused over the day's happenings he had been involuntarily writing in his book, and he looked down to see that he had written "DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER" five times in large, neat, capital letters. This was a Thought Crime and he had written it down, and no doubt, the Thought Police would come and arrest him in the night. He was afraid, and just then there was a knock at the door.

**Interpretation**

The reader might at first find it implausible that a world such as Oceania could exist, but there are comparable countries today, where the people are in bondage under an unrepresentative government. We already obtain a sense of utter hopelessness from Winston; his pathetic way of escaping the bonds of his life is to keep a diary documenting his mundane life. He probably knows that he will eventually be caught, but he does show some courage by being willing to take this risk. He is a classless individual who has achieved membership of the Outer Party. He has practically no friends and does not even know the names of some of his working colleagues, who have shared the same office at the Ministry of Truth for many years.

We are also introduced to O'Brien, who is a member of the Inner Party, and he clearly is an important person in the Ministry. It will be shown later that his life is luxurious compared to that of Winston.

The book was first published in 1949, some 25 years earlier than 1984, the year in which this novel starts. This is Orwell's view of the future in post-war Britain. In 1984 people are still living in buildings that were built just after the war, which are run down and shabby. Clearly Winston is a unique person, maybe through his solitude, but he has departed from the Party line, and has committed Thought Crimes. The book is about his rehabilitation, which will lead to his destruction.

Orwell recognizes that the way for this society to succeed is through its children, and the children of Oceania will be brought up knowing only Newspeak. There is also an indication that children will have allegiance only to the Party and will, therefore, spy on their parents and turn them in to the Thought Police if they commit Thought Crimes.

From the start, the reader will realize that Winston will be caught, and that is why one continues to read the book.

**Chapter 2**

**Summary**

Just as Winston answers the door, he realizes that he has left his diary open with "DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER" clearly visible. Fortunately, it is only a neighbor needing help with her plumbing.

Winston’s work with the Minitrue is to change history. He is involved mainly with articles in The Times newspaper, and he goes back and changes the text so that it supports the present. For example, if in the past Big Brother had made a prediction and it did not transpire, Winston would go back and change the prediction and destroy any evidence regarding the original entry.

There was usually a public hanging once a month, which was a source of entertainment to some.

Most goods were also rationed and coupons were required for clothes etc. Winston couldn’t afford pajamas, so he slept naked.

Children were, by and large, obnoxious and were quite keen on going to see the hangings. The latest hangings were of captured Eurasian prisoners of war with whom Oceania was at war. The other major power in the world was Eastasia with whom Oceania has an alliance. Winston’s neighbor, Mrs. Parsons, was in fear of her children.
One felt compelled to watch the telescreen so as not to arouse suspicion from the Thought Police who might be watching. There is a newsflash saying that Oceania’s forces in South India have won a glorious victory, which might bring the war to an end in the near future.

When he put his diary away in a drawer, Winston would place a small grain of dust on the book, so that if it were moved he would know.

**Interpretation**

We obtain a further insight into this depressing world where children rush to hangings as a form of entertainment, and terrorize their parents who know that their offspring are the future of the Party, and their task is merely to provide for them in their early years. In this way, the Party is able to control the citizens of Oceania through the children.

We are already seeing the effects on Winston’s psyche resulting from his diary. He is becoming more and more paranoid, and takes comfort from the fact that O’Brien appears to be a conspirator, while he is convinced that the girl with the dark hair is a member of the Thought Police. These assumptions will have a dramatic effect later on in the story.

**Chapter 3**

**Summary**

A method of escape from the harshness of the real world is through sleep, and therefore, dreams. This chapter opens with Winston dreaming of his mother. He had another dream involving the girl with the dark hair. She is coming towards him across a field and she tears off her clothes and flings them aside disdainfully, but what strikes Winston is not the eroticism, but the gesture of throwing her clothes aside, which was one of freedom. It was as if she was casting aside Big Brother, the Party and the Thought Police.

An earsplitting whistle suddenly awakens Winston from the telescreen. It was time to get up and do his physical exercises before going to work. Winston really wasn't up to this exercise, but the domineering instructress on the telescreen encouraged him. Whilst doing the physical exercises, Winston, still perhaps half asleep, tried to remember back to his early childhood. He could not remember a time when his country was not at war. He can vaguely remember an atomic bomb falling on Colchester, and how they emerged from a tube station to a world of desolation.

He wondered if his memories were sound, bearing in mind one of the Party slogans which says ‘Who controls the past, controls the future. Who controls the present, controls the past.’

Suddenly the instructress was screaming "Smith, 6079. Smith, W.! Yes you! Bend lower please. You can do better than that.” Winston broke out in a hot sweat. The instructress was saying that Party members must remember our boys in the front line, and the least we can do is keep fit.

**Interpretation**

The reader should take careful note of the Party slogan regarding the manipulation of the past. Can Winston be sure that his childhood memories are accurate? He is clearly depressed by the awful, impersonal society in which he lives. This situation has arisen through fear. He has generated his own fear by keeping a diary, and he now has something to hide from the Thought Police in addition to his own private feelings.

**Chapter 4**

**Summary**

We obtain further details concerning Winston's work. He sits in a small cubicle containing a small pneumatic tube down which comes messages concerning amendments required to newspaper articles. Once he has made the necessary amendments, the messages and the original article are destroyed. These items are deposited through what is called a memory hole, which leads to an incinerator. His cubicle also contains a telescreen, which he uses to call up the back numbers of newspaper articles so that they can be amended. It is not just newspaper articles that are amended, but books, periodicals, posters, leaflets, films, photographs etc.
Sometimes Winston was involved in adjusting figures that had been published by the Ministry of Plenty, but he had no conscience about doing this because all he was doing was substituting ‘one piece of nonsense for another’. For example, it didn’t matter whether the Ministry of Plenty produced 45 million pairs of boots, or 62 million pairs of boots - it was very likely no boots had been produced at all.

Across from Winston in another cubicle worked Tillotson. He knew very little about him and certainly did not know what he was employed on.

Towards the end of the day, Winston got an important item of work (forgery), and clearly others would be working on this problem as well. This concerned a Comrade Withers, who was a prominent member of the Inner Party, decorated and now for no apparent reason, was in disgrace. Winston’s task was to rectify this embarrassment. Winston came up with an original idea. Why not delete Withers altogether? Make him an ‘unperson’ and in his place put somebody totally fictitious, Comrade Ogilvie. This could be done with fake photographs and faked articles, but Winston would fall short of giving Comrade Ogilvie any decorations, because this would mean too many cross-references. He had to submit his plan to his superior for approval. He glanced over at Tillitson and Winston suspected he was busy on the same job. Winston was sure his report would be accepted, because his Comrade Ogilvie would be like Charlemagne or Julius Caesar.

**Interpretation**

Through Winston’s work, we see how the Party is in the act of abolishing the past by carefully altering facts to suit the present. What confuses Winston in this task is that he retains memories of the distant past, which do not agree with the facts portrayed by the Party. He recalls that the enemy to Oceania has changed from Eastasia to Eurasia, although the Party maintains that Eurasia has always been the enemy.

Winston is concerned that the Party can just remove events in history. He, therefore, decides to play them at their own game, and that is why he invents Comrade Ogilvie.

**Chapter 5**

**Summary**

In the canteen, Winston meets with one of his few friends, Syme who works in the Research Department. He is one of an enormous team engaged in compiling the Newspeak Dictionary. He is on the scrounge for razor blades, which are hard to come by. The Dictionary will take years to complete, but the aim is for Oldspeak to be replaced by Newspeak by 2050. By that time, not a single human being will be alive who could understand Oldspeak, except perhaps the proles (the proletariat). Syme says that proles are not human beings. They have an existence outside the Party, but are still controlled, to a lesser extent, by it. Winston is depressed by this idea that the great literary works, Shakespeare, Milton etc. will be destroyed, and will exist only in Newspeak versions.

Winston looked around the canteen and thought how ugly everyone looked, all dressed in their blue overalls.

The tannoy system provided a constant background of noise, being a mixture of propaganda from the Ministry of Plenty, and music.

Suddenly he saw the girl with the dark hair looking at him. He started to feel uncomfortable. Was she spying on him? This was not the first occasion he has spotted her and he felt a terrible pang of terror. He then obtained comfort from the thought that perhaps she was not a member of the Thought Police, but was an amateur spy. But maybe that was more dangerous. He couldn’t be sure.

**Interpretation**

Winston makes the observation that he is surrounded by unattractive people that look drab in their uniforms. However, part of the propaganda comes in the form of advertisements in which the people are young, beautiful and desirable, in stark contradiction to the observers. This was clearly a subject close to Orwell’s heart - the close relationship between advertising and propaganda, something he, no doubt, witnessed from Nazi Germany.

Orwell was clearly a visionary for we all know how important advertising is in the present day.
The reader also obtains an insight into the workings of Newspeak from Winston’s friend, Syme. Again, this is a device used by the Party to control its members. When Newspeak is finally perfected, Thought Crime will be impossible.

Referring back to the previous Chapter, we can now put an interpretation on the term ‘unpersons’. When somebody steps out of line the Ministry of Love purges him or her, they will be deleted from history, and it will be as if they had never existed. One can surmise that Orwell is making a comparison between Oceania and the Communist block of countries during the 1940’s and 50’s. A typical image of these Communist countries is the use of dominant female figures as illustrated by the physical education instructress used to wake Winston up in the mornings.

Chapter 6

Summary

This Chapter gives details of Winston’s private life, some of which he has written in his diary. He recalls one of his rare sexual experiences involving a prostitute who would be a prole, because she wore make-up, which Party women never did. This was a severe crime, but now and again it was worth taking the risk.

He had been, or might still be, married to Katharine. The purpose of marriage was to produce children, and the sexual act was viewed as a disgusting operation, like having an enema.

The Party viewed eroticism as an enemy, which would undermine the Party’s control over its citizens. The Party was trying to kill the sex instinct. It has been about 10 years since Winston separated from his wife because they had been unable to have children. Although Winston hated having sex with his stiff, frigid wife, she insisted that they try and have a child, as it was their duty to the Party.

He had a vision of his wife’s white body “frozen forever by the hypnotic power of the Party. Why did it always have to be like this?”

Interpretation

Like other parts of his life, Winston is frustrated in sexual matters. The Party forbids liaisons with prostitutes who are mainly proles, but now and again Winston overcomes his fear and engages in one of these sordid episodes. It is clear that Winston obtains some sort of forgiveness by confessing these deeds in his diary. He longs for the kind of sexual experience that is free and liberated. His marriage was a complete failure because of his wife’s indoctrination by the Party.

At this stage, Winston cannot understand the reasoning behind the Party’s view on sex and its promotion of celibacy.

The Party do not wish love to grow between couples, each citizen must have an unreserved loyalty to the Party. Marriages are only permitted between couples that are not attracted to one another.

Chapter 7

Summary

Winston writes in his diary “If there is hope, it lies in the proles.”

85% of the population of Oceania is made up of proles. There is supposed to be an underground movement known as The Brotherhood, and it would be from this quarter than any rebellion would arise. However, it appears that they are not aware of the power they could have, and until they become conscious of this they will never rebel. So writes Winston in his diary.

The current propaganda from the Party is that life now is far better than what it was. This view rests uneasily with Winston.

Winston tries to remember back “everything faded into mist. The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, and the lie became truth.”

Back in the middle 1960’s there was a period of great purges, where the leaders of the original revolution were wiped out for once and for all. Among the last survivors were Big Brother himself and three other men named, Jones, Aaronson and Rutherford. These three had been arrested and dropped
out of the limelight for a number of years. They were then brought back into the public eye, confessing their sins and pledging allegiance to Big Brother. Winston recalls actually seeing these three men when they had been released. They appeared like relics from an ancient world. They were soon re-arrested on fresh charges and executed.

However, Winston recalls seeing a photograph of delegates at a Party function in New York where the three were in the middle of a group, so they had an alibi for the crimes they had supposedly committed at the same time in London. Winston wonders if he is the only one who suspects that people killed in the purges were innocent.

**Interpretation**

The reader now knows that the main theme of the first part of this book is Winston’s unraveling of the intricate web woven by the Party. He has been harboring these thoughts for years, but they are now coming to the fore because he is writing them down in his diary. His loyalty to the Party is, therefore, being undermined.

He is committing more and more Thought Crimes.

Winston questions himself about why he is writing this diary.

Is it for future generations? No. These are doomed.

Is it a confessional, a means of release for Winston?

Suddenly he realizes that he is writing this diary for O’Brien, an important figure in the Party who he thinks is on his side.

**Chapter 8**

**Summary**

Party members are expected to attend meetings at the Community Center. Party members did not have any spare time, and should never be alone except in bed. The Party assumed that citizens worked, ate, slept or took part in some kind of communal recreation.

Winston decided to miss the Community Center meeting even though attendances were monitored, and this was the second occasion recently that he had missed. He decided he would have some solitude and he decided to visit the areas where the proles lived.

He was conspicuous in this area, being dressed in his Party clothes. Proles might consider him to be a spy.

Close to where he was walking, a rocket bomb demolished some houses. He had fallen on his face to obtain cover, and when he got up again he noticed a human hand, severed at the wrist, close by. He decided to go to a drinking-shop, or pub as it was called by the proles. One of the main topics of conversation in the pub was the lottery organized by the Ministry of Plenty. The majority of the prizes were largely imaginary and only small sums of money were actually paid out.

Winston noticed an old man arguing with the barman about his drink. He had requested a pint, but the barman said they only had liters and half-liters. Winston was curious about this old man, as he was a rarity. Most people of his age had died during the great purges. Unfortunately, the man rambled, and Winston was unable to get much sense out of him. Winston left the pub and soon found himself at the shop where he had acquired his book. The shopkeeper recognized him and showed him a coral paperweight. Winston paid $4 for it and slid it into his pocket. The shopkeeper took Winston upstairs where he had some other bits and pieces in an empty room. There was an enormous bed there made out of mahogany, but it was clearly too big for Winston to move. On the wall was a picture, which Winston gazed at for a few moments. He said, "I know that building. It’s a ruin now." The old man replied that it was a church called St. Clement’s Dane, and then he sang "Oranges and lemons say the bells of St. Clement’s." "That’s a rhyme I heard when I was a small boy" said Winston. "I don’t know how it goes on from there, but it ends up with ‘here comes a chopper to chop off your head’, it had something to do with the churches in London." He toyed with the idea of renting the room, which would probably only cost a few dollars, if he had the courage to take the risk. Of course, there was no telescreen.
Winston left the shop only to see the girl with the dark hair walking towards him. She looked directly at him and then walked quickly on, as if she had not seen him. Winston was paralyzed. There was no doubt any longer that the girl was spying on him. In panic, Winston left the scene, only to find that he had walked up a blind alley. He felt trapped. He toyed with the idea of finding the girl and killing her before she could report him to the Thought Police. He did not have the courage to take this action.

Eventually he made his way back to his own flat “The proper thing was to kill yourself before they got you.”

Interpretation

It is only a matter of time before Winston is discovered. He is committing more and more crimes, and his behavior is becoming erratic.

In this part of the book, we have obtained a description of London, a major city of Oceania in 1984. The central figure is Winston Smith, who the reader sees as a minority of one, fighting the powerful system, which controls everyone’s lives. The Party obtains this control by providing strict rules for every individual, which covers their private and working lives, the language they use and the elimination of eroticism. Winston rebels against all of these. He keeps a diary in which he documents his Thought Crimes. He consorts with proles, both sexually and also in an attempt to establish the true history of Oceania.

The next part of the book will see a development of these themes and also how the Party endeavors to rehabilitate Winston Smith.

PART 2

Chapter 1

Summary

Four days later, at his work, Winston was on his way to the lavatory when he noticed a solitary figure coming towards him from the other end of the corridor. It was the dark haired girl. Her right arm was in a sling and just when they approached one another, she stumbled and fell. Winston went to her aid and she said that she was alright. She held out her hand to him and he helped her up. She departed, but Winston had a piece of paper in his hand.

He returned to his work cubicle conscious of the fact that his every action was monitored. He had managed to open up the piece of paper, but did not know its contents. Did the message contain his death warrant? Was he being ordered to commit suicide? Was she a member of The Brotherhood wishing to make contact? Eventually, after a long period of time, he read the entry on the note, which said ‘I love you’. He read it again to make sure and then disposed of it with some other papers, down the memory hole. Winston wondered how he could make contact with the girl without arousing suspicion. The only time they could be together would be in the crowded canteen, and even then only if their shifts matched. Everyone was working hard in preparation for Hate Week, so they would have even less opportunity of meeting casually.

A feeling of admiration came over Winston at the girl’s courage in passing this note to him. Only a few nights previously he had considered killing this girl and now he thought of her naked, and being in possession of her youthful body. He could not follow her home, because it would mean loitering outside the Ministry and this would be noticed. He could not send her a letter, because all mail was opened — in fact very few people wrote letters except for special occasions and the Ministry already composed these messages for you.

Eventually, after many days, Winston had the opportunity to be alone with the girl in the canteen. He sat down opposite her at the table and they spoke to one another with low voices, but did not look at one another. They arranged to meet in Victory Square at 19 hours.

At the appointed time, the Square was full of people waiting for a convoy of Eurasian prisoners. Winston spotted the girl and they both ran with the crowd towards the approaching convoy. They struggled in the throng of people and were eventually side-by-side. She gave Winston details of a rendezvous in the countryside where they could be together without being observed.
Interpretation

In an amazing transformation, the girl goes from enemy to prospective lover, and it has been the girl that has made all the running.

In Part 1 of the book, we have seen that Winston has committed minor Thought Crimes. He is now ready to seriously go against the Party line, and he cannot go back on this and he realizes that eventually he will be caught. We obtain an insight into the oppressive nature of this regime and how the Party controls its citizens through fear and by draconian rules.

Until Winston read the note, he was merely existing, like a worker ant for the collective. Now he had a reason to live, but ironically he appreciates that this newfound life might be very short. His life has no meaning and is, therefore, manic, but now this invite into a period of adventure may help his sanity.

Chapter 2

Summary

Following the girl’s instructions, which he had carefully memorized, Winston made his way out of London by train to the countryside. Although there were no telescreens in the countryside, there were hidden microphones, so Winston still had to proceed with caution. The girl was making her way to the rendezvous point by a different method, and they met, but she indicated for him to stay silent in case there were any microphones.

Winston had gathered some bluebells while waiting for the girl, but he did not have the opportunity to give them to her as she walked quickly away followed by Winston. Clearly she knew this area well.

They eventually reached a grassy knoll surrounded by saplings. “Here we are“, she said, “there are no microphones here, because the trees are too thin.”

Winston was concerned about his appearance “I’m 39 years old. I’ve got a wife that I can’t get rid off. I’ve got varicose veins. I’ve got 5 false teeth.”

The girl responded that she couldn’t care less. She recognized a kindred spirit from Winston’s face. Her name was Julia. “Yours is Winston Smith“, she said. “I’m good at finding things out.”

They shared a bar of proper chocolate, which Julia had obtained from the black market. She asked Winston what he thought of her, and he told her that he had considered killing her when they were in the slummy area of London, and this seemed to delight her. She was gratified that she gave the appearance of one who would work for the Thought Police. It was a lovely day and a thrush sang to the couple’s delight. At first Winston was not sexually aroused by Julia, he was just pleased to be in this place of freedom.

Later that afternoon, they made love and Julia discarded her clothes just as in Winston’s dream. The fact that she had done this hundreds of time before with Party members excited Winston. This was an indication that the Party was corrupt and rotten under the surface, and this act of freedom would only go to further weakening the system. Winston responds, ”I hate purity. I hate goodness. I don’t want any virtue to exist anywhere.”

The time was no pressing on, and the pair took their separate ways back to the city.

Interpretation

It is important for the reader to realize that this act of lovemaking is an act of rebellion against the state. Winston has now committed the ultimate crime by enjoying and relishing this act of liberation. The whole story of 1984 so far has led to this first climax. There are two further such crescendos later in the book.

The first part of the book shows one side of Winston’s mind, the other side being almost totally suppressed. This sexual act with Julia awakens the other half of Winston’s mind, and this will feature more predominantly in Part 2.

We already have an insight into Julia’s life. She has only been able to keep going by punctuating her dull existence with a string of affairs. Unwittingly, Julia has not only provided Winston with sexual gratification, she has also given him hope for the future.
Orwell means for this book to be thought provoking, and its subject is depressing, so the idyllic scene in the woods appears to the reader like an oasis in the desert.

Just as there are three climaxes in the book, there are also three themes. The first is erotic love, which will be followed by physical pain, and lastly psychological destruction.

Chapter 3

Summary

They had arranged not to use this place in the countryside for quite a while as it would be unsafe, but Julia knew of another hiding place in the belfry of a ruined church close to a barren area of ground where an atomic bomb had fallen thirty years earlier.

They met in crowded areas so as not to arouse suspicion.

It was noticeable that rocket bombs were bombarding London more heavily. One had fallen on a cinema killing most of the proles that occupied it. They were even demonstrating along with Party members against the enemy, Eurasia.

Julia was 26 years old and lived in a hostel with 30 other girls. She was employed in the Fiction Department as a mechanic for the printing machines. She was not particularly clever. Her first love affair had been when she was 16 with a Party member aged 60. He was discovered, but before he could be tortured he committed suicide, which saved Julia. Winston and Julia did not discuss marriage, as this would be out of the question. Julia revealed that she was just as critical of the Big Brother regime as Winston. She said “If you are happy inside yourself, why should you get excited about Big Brother, Three-Year Plans and the Two-Minutes Hate, and all the rest of their bloody rot?” Winston was quite surprised at Julia’s use of swear words, which was again another Thought Crime. Julia was interested about Katharine, commenting that she appeared to have been successfully brainwashed by the Anti-Sex League, something that she herself could never be.

Winston did tell her that once when he and Katharine were out walking with the Community Hikers, they had become separated and ended up on the edge of a quarry. He had considered throwing her off the edge.

Julia said that she would have if she had been in Winston’s place.

The couple discussed the possibility of being discovered, and clearly Winston did not wish Julia to be in any danger, for she still had a long life in front of her. Julia encouraged Winston to be more positive about their future together. Their lovemaking has now become a physical necessity rather than a statement of rebellion.

Interpretation

Both these two characters are now developing a bond of love, and the more they enjoy these feelings, the closer they bring discovery upon themselves. They are, in fact, living in a fool’s paradise.

Julia has lived a life designed to escape detection, for she has been carrying out this dangerous existence on and off for 10 years, whereas Winston is new to this type of existence and if was not for Julia’s careful preparation, they would soon be discovered.

Winston is still apprehensive regarding the future, but Julia teaches him to be less pessimistic. Winston is clearly a deeper person, in contrast to Julia who lives from day-to-day, and from affair-to-affair. She is determined to obtain as much enjoyment as she can from life, and she risks obtaining luxury items from the black market.

Winston has lived practically a celibate life for approximately the last 12 years, and is, therefore emotionally immature, and behaves almost like an adolescent experiencing his first romance. This may be one of the reasons why Julia is attracted to him, because of his sexual naivety and his growing dependence on her.
Winston decides to rent the room above Mr. Charrington’s shop where he had previously obtained his diary. Despite a voice telling him this was folly, he needed to have private time with Julia was more compelling. They would probably be caught within a few weeks nevertheless he was willing to take the risk.

He will always remember their first time together in that room. She had brought items bought on the black market with her including real sugar (not the saccharine stuff), but the real prize was coffee. This they enjoyed with their bread and strawberry jelly – a great feast.

The main source of items for racketeers are the servants of Inner Party members, who enjoy the luxuries of sugar, coffee, real chocolate and bread.

Julia went on to say that she was going to get a dress to wear in the room instead of her overalls. She was already wearing make-up, which made her even more attractive. This was going to be their love-nest and it was the first time that Winston took off all his clothes with Julia. They enjoyed the luxury of a double bed, which only the proles now used.

Winston woke up to the noise of a rat in the room, which had crept in through a hole in the wall. He hates these animals and it was Julia who chased it back, and stuffed up the hole. She comforted Winston.

Julia was fascinated by Winston’s coral paperweight. He described it as a little piece of history that Big Brother couldn’t alter. It is a message from 100 years ago, if only we knew how to read it. Julia also asked about the picture on the wall and Winston said it was the church of St. Clement’s Dane, and he recited the rhyme that Mr. Charrington had taught him. To his surprise, Julia continued, “You owe me 3 farthings, say the bells of St. Martin’s, When will you pay me, say the bells of Old Bailey.” Julia explained that her grandfather had taught her this rhyme. She wondered what a lemon was, and Winston said he knew what an orange was, and it was probably similar.

Winston thought that their room was like the paperweight, and they were the coral that was inside, and they hoped they could be fixed there for eternity.

**Interpretation**

Julia is more in tune with the ways of the Party than Winston. She believes that it was the Party that invented the war machines, and that they have always been at war with Eurasia.

The renting of the room is the start of a type of domesticity for the couple, and they already pretend that his is the real world and that what goes on outside is just a bad dream. Julia seems quite content to fall into the role of the homemaker and provider of luxuries, which is a departure for her, and clearly this relationship with Winston is more important than those previously.

Winston would still like to take his rebellion a stage further, but as yet does not have the means to carry out this action.

**Chapter 5**

**Summary**

One of Winston’s colleagues, Syme, is missing from work, and after 3 days Winston notices that Syme’s name has disappeared from the list of Chess Committee members. For whatever reason, he has become an unperson.

The escalation of rocket bombs continues and public places show a new poster, that of a Eurasian soldier with a Mongolian face and enormous boots.

Julia and Winston continue to meet in the room, nearly twice a week, and Winston feels much better in himself. He has put on weight and his varicose ulcer has subsided.

They seldom see Mr. Charrington. He virtually has no customers and spends most of his time in his back kitchen.

The room itself is a sanctuary, although getting there is dangerous.
Strangely, the couple becomes more enthusiastic about the Party when with their colleagues. During the Two Minutes Hate period, Julia would lead the shouting of insults at Goldstein, the supposed leader of the underground movement, The Brotherhood. She made the observation that the rocket bombs that fell daily on London were probably fired by Oceania itself, just to keep the people frightened.

Winston told Julia about the newspaper article he had concerning Jones, Aaronson and Rutherford, Inner Party members who had been executed. He had the proof of their innocence in his hands. Julia responded by saying that he should not worry about these things and that innocent people were being killed off all the time. She said to him “What could you have done with it, even if you had kept it?” It might have been useful for the next generation to help with the revolution, but Julia was only interested in the present, not the next generation.

**Interpretation**

All this couple wants to do is to be left alone to live out their own insignificant lives peacefully, quietly, and with some happiness.

Orwell’s Oceanic society forbids this desire and cannot tolerate anything but total allegiance by each individual to the Party.

Orwell will illustrate the horror of this system later on in the book.

The couple’s wishes are a rebellion and Winston and Julia are not important parts of the system. They are very ordinary people, essentially middle-class people of today.

**Chapter 6**

**Summary**

Winston was walking down one of the corridors at work when he realized there was somebody following him. He stopped and turned round only to be face-to-face with O’Brien. O’Brien wished to compliment Winston on one of his articles, but made a slight criticism concerning some of the words he used, which are not shown in the Tenth Edition of the Newspeak Dictionary. Winston explains that in his section they only have the Ninth Edition, and O’Brien invites him to call at his home in order to collect the Tenth Edition if he is interested.

Winston believes this is a ruse for O’Brien to contact him, a fellow conspirator. O’Brien writes down his address on a piece of paper and gives it to Winston, saying that he is usually at home in the evenings.

Winston was excited at the prospect of moving on from thoughts and words to actions against the state.

**Interpretation**

The reader is clear that O’Brien is potentially a sinister figure, and just as Winston was totally wrong about Julia, the same can be said for O’Brien, but how the events will unfold is not clear, and the reader may still hold out some hope that Winston may meet his end through an heroic deed against Big Brother’s regime.

**Chapter 7**

**Summary**

This mainly deals with Winston’s childhood and the guilt he feels over his mother’s apparent death. Its purpose is to provide further insight into the conditions during the early years of Oceania.

**Interpretation**

In this chapter Winston finally comes to terms with the guilt he feels about his youth, and his feelings towards his mother.

The main point he makes is that by keeping memories of the past alive, it is in a way resisting the Party, even if some of these memories are disturbing. The Party is all about projecting lies and confusion, so it is up to individuals to keep part of the true past preserved in their memories.
It is not certain whether Winston’s views are widely shared, probably not, that is maybe why he will eventually be caught and punished.

Chapter 8

Summary

O’Brien’s servant shows Julia and Winston into a softly lit room, at the end of which O’Brien works at his desk. O’Brien switches his telescreen off, much to Julia’s surprise and in response O’Brien confirms, “We can turn it off – we have that privilege.” This will enable O’Brien to talk to his visitors for about 30 minutes before anyone becomes suspicious.

O’Brien waits for the couple to speak and eventually Winston tells O’Brien that he believes there is a conspiracy against the Party and that he, O’Brien, is part of it. O’Brien does not deny this. O’Brien’s servant comes in, Martin, and it is explained that he is also a conspirator. They share wine, which the couple has never tasted before. O’Brien confirms that there is a movement called The Brotherhood, and that Goldstein is its leader.

He asks Winston a string of pointed questions such as, “You are prepared to give your lives? You are prepared to commit murder? To betray your country to foreign powers?” Winston replies, “Yes” to all of these questions. O’Brien’s last question is, “You are prepared, the two of you, to separate and never see one another again?” “No”, answers Julia.

O’Brien is happy that they have been honest with him. He goes on to say that in the service of The Brotherhood it might be necessary for their identities to be changed for them to have surgery to alter their appearance, all of which they agree to.

Their time soon runs out and O’Brien suggests that they leave immediately. Julia leaves first and is given a tablet to hide the smell of wine.

O’Brien still needs more details from Winston and he asks for information regarding their hiding place, and Winston complies. O’Brien says that there is a book by Goldstein and he will arrange for Winston to get a copy. O’Brien will get a message to him and the next day he is to come to work without his briefcase. Someone will come up to him in the street and say, “I believe you have dropped your briefcase. Here it is.” Inside there will be a copy of Goldstein’s book, which must be returned within 14 days.

Before Winston left, O’Brien said, “We shall meet again – if we do meet again –”. Winston replied, “In the place where there is no darkness?” O’Brien nodded in agreement.

O’Brien asks if Winston has any further questions, and almost at random, Winston asks if he ever happened to hear the old rhyme that begins “Oranges and lemons”. O’Brien recites the whole verse. With that, Winston takes the tablet and leaves O’Brien’s home.

Interpretation

The reader is somewhat shocked that Winston and Julia go to O’Brien’s home. This is surely folly on their part, but clearly Winston has convinced Julia that O’Brien is a fellow conspirator. This concern heightens when Winston keeps nothing from O’Brien, laying himself open to condemnation. For some reason Winston seems to trust O’Brien completely. Perhaps it was the switching off of the telescreen.

We obtain an insight into how members of the Inner Party live – in relative luxury compared to the rest of society.

Chapter 9

Summary

Everyone in the Ministries is working flat out in the build up to Hate Week.

Julia and Winston have had little time to meet, but now they can look forward to a small amount of time together.

Winston receives the book from O’Brien just as he described and he starts to read it to Julia in their room. It gives details of how the world was split into three great superstates with Russia absorbing
Europe, the United States acquiring the British Empire, and the rest being effectively Eastasia. So Oceania comprises of the Americas, the British Isles, Australia and Southern Africa. The book gives further details concerning the economies of these countries and how they fought against one another, but holding back from using nuclear bombs, these being counter-productive.

Winston read the first 3 chapters to Julia who had fallen asleep. He knew that he did not have to read the whole book for it was clear what Goldstein’s final message was, that the future of the world belonged to the proles.

Julia awoke and they looked out of the window of their room, and reminisced about their first meeting in the country and how the thrush was singing.

Just as the bird sang in the country, so will the proles sing one day, whether it is in London, New York or Africa. From the race of proles a new generation of conscious beings will one day come to overthrow the oppressors.

Winston says, "We are the dead,” echoed by Julia.

Then an iron voice behind them says, “You are the dead.” The voice came from behind the picture and they realized that they are being observed by a telescreen concealed behind the picture. The house is surrounded and they are soon joined by the Thought Police. Julia says, "I suppose we may as well say goodbye,” “You may as well say goodbye,” says the iron voice from behind the picture. They are ordered to stand back-to-back with their hands clasped behind their heads. One of the guards smashes the glass paperweight and the couple realizes that they are doomed. One of the men smashes his fist into Julia's stomach and she is thrashing about on the floor fighting for breath. Winston dare not move.

Mr. Carrington comes into the room. He now looks much younger and has lost his Cockney accent. The person Winston least suspected of being a member of the Thought Police was Mr. Carrington.

**Interpretation**

The reader should study Chapter 9 carefully in order to obtain a history of Oceania and its relationships to Eurasia and Eastasia. It also gives an insight into the ways by which the Inner Party keeps control. It also gives detailed information concerning the Party's ideology and the intricacies of Ingsoc. Of course the Party's real power is over recorded history and its falsification. In this way it is able to mould the minds of its citizens.

Goldstein is Oceania's official scapegoat and his purported book is a book within a book, and many scholars view it as Orwell’s parody of Leon Trotsky’s "The Revolution Betrayed". Through reading this book, Winston now understands what the Party's aims are, but he does not fully realize what they are trying to achieve. This will become clear to him in Part 3 of the novel.

Orwell’s description of the couple's discovery transforms this haven of tranquility into a scene of brutality. Winston reacts passively as deep down he has long expected their discovery. He offers no resistance and willingly submits to being a tool of the state.

Orwell uses clever symbolism through the destruction of the paperweight, which signifies the destruction of Winston and Julia’s dream. He also introduces a twist in the tale by revealing that Mr. Charrington is a member of the Thought Police.

The reader realizes that his premises are a trap for the unsuspecting.

The significance of the rhyme concerning the churches in London now becomes ominous when Mr. Charrington repeats the last line, "And here comes a chopper, to chop off your head.”

Winston and Julia's arrest marks the second climax of the book.

The final part of the novel is played out between Winston and O'Brien. Julia will now virtually disappear from the story.

**PART 3**

**Chapter 1**
Summary

From this moment on, Winston has really no idea regarding the passage of time. He is also not completely sure of his whereabouts. He assumes he is somewhere in the Ministry of Love, but as there are no windows in the building he can't tell whether he is above or below ground. Before reaching this location, he had been incarcerated in a holding jail where he was imprisoned with all sorts of criminals, prostitutes, drug peddlers etc.

All he knew was that he was now in this sparse cell with a bench going round the whole room with a gap for the door. On each wall was a telescreen. Whenever he moved, he was yelled at by a voice from the telescreen. He has received nothing to eat since his arrest, but he might have a crust of bread in his pocket. Overcoming his fear he slips his hand into his overalls only to be yelled at by the telescreen.

He wondered if O'Brien might be able to smuggle him a razor blade, and he could quickly end it all.

Suddenly he heard he sound of marching boots and the steel door opened with a clang. One of his work colleagues, the poet Ampleforth, was ushered in. Ampleforth's job in the Ministry of Truth was to convert poetry into Newspeak. This was a difficult task because there were fewer words that rhymed. Ampleforth thinks he has been arrested because he used the word 'God' in one of Kipling's poems because it was the only one that could rhyme with 'rod' and make sense. Ampleforth was taken away again to Room 101.

Soon another colleague of Winston was ushered into the cell, Parsons. His 7 year-old daughter for a Thought Crime had turned him in. She had heard him talking in his sleep, saying 'Down with Big Brother'. Parsons is relieved to have been caught before his Thought Crimes became more serious and is very proud of his daughter for doing her best for the Party. Parsons wonders if he will be lucky and get off with 5 years or maybe 10, in a labor camp. He intends to give a complete confession at his Tribunal.

There was a steady flow of prisoners into Winston's cell. Those that were consigned to Room 101 were reduced to quivering jellies at the thought of this ultimate punishment. One of the prisoners was an emaciated man who was clearly dying of starvation. A fat man offered him some bread from his pocket, but before he could give this to him guards entered and smashed the fat man in the face with a truncheon. He was knocked clean across the cell, and his false teeth fell shattered out of his mouth. The emaciated man was told he was going to Room 101 again, and despite his condition he went into hysterics, hanging on to the bench with surprising strength. He pleaded to be killed rather than going to this room again. He would stand by and watch them kill his wife and 3 children, anything but to go back to this room.

Soon Winston was alone again and had still not received anything to eat.

The sound of heavy boots was heard again, and this time O'Brien came in. He responded by saying, "They've got you too!" O'Brien responded by saying, "They got me a long time ago." O'Brien signals to the guard who is carrying a long black truncheon, and Winston slowly realizes the error in thinking O'Brien was a kindred spirit. The guard smashes Winston's elbow and he never knew that pain could be so bad.

Interpretation

The inevitable has happened, and Winston is in the clutches of the Thought Police, and he will face a long road of pain, suffering and mental torture.

This Chapter is aimed at giving the reader a taste of the environment inside the Ministry of Love, a place full of fear and pain, where the inmates are treated like worthless beings. The guards are sadistic and clearly obtain delight in inflicting pain on the prisoners.

The reader realizes at the end of this Chapter that O'Brien will be Winston's torturer instead of friend.

It is not clear whether Ampleforth and Parsons have really committed crimes or whether they have been imprisoned co-incidentally in Winston's cell with a view to softening him and undermining his confidence. They are certainly terrified of what awaits them in respect of their very minor Thought Crimes.

What will Winston face in respect of his rebellion?
Chapter 2
Summary

Winston wakes and finds himself lying on a bed like an operating table, and he is strapped down fast. O'Brien, and another man holding a syringe, gaze at him.

Since he received the blow to his elbow he has been in a nightmare world, lapsing in and out of consciousness. His life has consisted of a series of beatings, with boots, fists, or truncheons. He got to the stage where he tried to force himself into unconsciousness so that the pain would stop. He was willing to confess to anything, but his problem was trying to find out what they wanted him to confess to. One of his confessions was that he had been in personal touch with Goldstein and had been a member of The Brotherhood.

He was now staring up from the bed at O'Brien who was directing everything. It was he that was responsible for the beatings and the pain and the questions that were asked of him. This was now different. Winston was holding a lever next to which was a dial marked from 0 to 100. Suddenly he felt that his body was being torn apart. He felt as if his spine was going to break. O'Brien just looked at him and suddenly the pain receded and O'Brien said, "That was 40. I have it in my power to inflict pain on you at any moment and to whatever degree I choose. If you tell me any lies or attempt to prevaricate in any way, or even fall below your usual level of intelligence, you will cry out with pain instantly."

This was the sort of pressure Winston was now going to be under.

O'Brien explains that the Ministry of Love considers Winston to be worth the trouble. Everyone who enters the Ministry leaves when they are cured. O'Brien explains that one of Winston's crimes was that he had gathered pieces of history that were inaccurate. O'Brien reminds Winston that some years ago, he had in his hands a photograph concerning Jones, Aaronson and Rutherford, and that he believed that this proved the three were innocent. O'Brien allows Winston to glimpse this photograph, and Winston responds by saying, "It exists", but O'Brien responds by saying, "No" and he disposes of the photograph in a memory hole. O'Brien has reduced this evidence to ashes and Winston responds, "It did exist, it does exist. I remember it. You remember it." O'Brien says, "I do not remember it. That was doublethink." Winston realizes that he should be using doublethink. This will help him to stop the Thought Crimes.

O'Brien asks Winston if he remembers the Party slogan concerning history and the past. O'Brien has the demeanor of a teacher taking time with a wayward, but promising child. Winston responds, "'Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past'". O'Brien asks Winston, "Does the past exist?" and he responds by saying, "It does. It exists in records and in human memories." O'Brien agrees and the Party has control over all records and must also control all memories. Winston realizes that one of the reasons he is here is because the Party does not control his memory. O'Brien explains that his crime is the lack of self-discipline regarding his memories.

O'Brien holds up 4 fingers and asks Winston, "How many fingers am I holding up." Winston responds by saying, "4." His body is racked with pain. Air is ripped out from his lungs. He is asked again and he responds, "4." The needle goes up to 60. He still responds "4". Eventually, he says, "5", but this is no use because O'Brien says that he is lying. Winston responds, "4, 5, 4, anything you like, only stop the pain." The next thing he remembers is being held in O'Brien's arms and O'Brien advises him that he is a slow learner.

The man in the white coat examines Winston and advises O'Brien that he is fit to continue. Pain flows back through his body. His eyes are tight shut so he cannot see what the meter reads. O'Brien finally asks him again how many fingers he is holding up, and Winston replies, "I don't know." O'Brien is pleased with the answer.

Winston is sedated.

When Winston returns to consciousness O'Brien reveals that the Party are not interested in the stupid crimes he has committed, but they wish to bring him back into the Party and cure him of his lunacy.

Winston then undergoes a different type of electric shock treatment. This time electrodes were fitted to his head and he experiences not so much pain, but a blinding flash of light inside his head. After this...
treatment, his memory was incomplete and he really could see 5 fingers when O'Brien held up 4. O'Brien advises him that this session is now drawing to an end, and that he can ask any question that he likes. He finds out that Julia made an unreserved confession and all the rebellious aspects of her mind have been burned out. He also learns that Big Brother exists and always will exist, that O'Brien wrote Goldstein's book, but he did not receive an answer to whether The Brotherhood exists. His final question is what is in Room 101. O'Brien says, "Everyone knows what is in Room 101."

**Interpretation**

Strangely, Winston still regards O'Brien as someone he can converse with, as he understands what Winston is thinking. In fact, O'Brien predicts some of the concerns that Winston has. Winston is able to divorce O'Brien from the pain. The pain comes from an outside source.

It is strange that Orwell should provide the reader with this paradox that the victim should come to love his torturer as part of the process of conversion. Clearly O'Brien's ultimate aim is for Winston to truly love Big Brother.

We also learn that many of the victims in the Ministry of Love, eventually thank their tormentors for their conversion, and beg to be killed while their mind is in a state of purity. The whole process of brainwashing is designed to eradicate all the wayward thoughts so that Winston can be reborn.

**Chapter 3**

**Summary**

O'Brien advises Winston that there are 3 stages required for him to be cured – learning, understanding and acceptance. He believes that Winston has now successfully passed on to the second stage – understanding. He is still tied to the bench, but the dial is less of a terror because it is used less frequently.

O'Brien reveals to Winston that the Party's aim is to acquire power over everybody. They are not interested in the welfare of their citizens they only wish to have power. The Party will last forever because unlike Nazi Germany and Communist Russia, they are purely concerned with power.

O'Brien advises Winston that the Party has absolute power, but Winston questions this by saying that they don't even have power over this planet, because they are at war with Eurasia. O'Brien responds by saying that if they wished, Eurasia does not exist. The whole world, in fact the whole universe is Oceania. Nothing existed before the Party. The bones of dinosaurs are merely fakes produced by 19th Century archaeologists. However, Winston queries the stars, and O'Brien answers by saying that they have mathematicians who say that the stars are not far away at all.

O'Brien says that there will be no love except the love of Big Brother.

Winston still holds onto the idea that the spirit of man will eventually overthrow the Party. O'Brien tells Winston that he is the last man left - the guardian of the human spirit. He orders him to take off his clothes and go over to the mirror. Winston is shocked to see himself in the mirror. He has clearly been here a long time. He is emaciated and his knees are bigger than his thighs. He is crooked and gaunt and O'Brien comes over and removes one of the few teeth he has left. "You are a bag of filth, and are rotting away", he says. Winston is reduced to tears and O'Brien comforts him. Winston says, "I have not betrayed Julia."

He is taken back to his cell.

**Interpretation**

Winston learns that the Party only seeks to hold power, and that power means that men must suffer.

O'Brien reveals to Winston that truth does not matter. Truth is only acceptable if it suits the Party. The purpose of the torture is to coerce Winston to believe anything he is told by the Party. He must not use his intellect to decide whether facts are true or untrue. The Party as a collective does this.

Therefore, reality is based on the Party's idea of history, and not that of individuals. That is why the Party controls all historical records.

This is part of the Party's power.
Chapter 4

Summary

Winston is being brought back to health. He receives regular meals. He has a set of new dentures, and he is even provided with writing materials. He is able to build up his muscles and do simple exercises, and his mind is becoming more active. He accepts everything now - that Oceania was at war with Eastasia, and Jones, Aaronson and Rutherford were guilty.

One day he awoke in shock, realizing that he had been crying aloud for Julia. He was clearly getting better.

O'Brien now advises Winston that he is ready to take the last step, as Winston confesses that he hates Big Brother. He is taken to Room 101.

Interpretation

In this chapter we see Winston's attempts to train himself in the process of doublethink. One moment he can be at ease with the thought that Oceania is at war with Eastasia, or is not at war with Eastasia. His mind is adaptable to whatever the Party tells him. He feels that if he can master this process of doublethink, it will enable him to keep his spirit free.

Chapter 5

Summary

O'Brien tells Winston that this Room 101 contains the worst thing in the world, and for Winston, that is rats.

On a table is a device containing 2 rats, which will be fitted on Winston's face. Winston starts to panic thinking that surely O'Brien would not resort to this terror. O'Brien explains that the rats are very hungry and when he opens the gate, they will rush at his face and will strip him to the bone. O'Brien stresses that there is no escape for Winston and no escape for the rats.

Winston is frantic and realizes that his only means of escape is to interpose another human being between himself and the rats. He shouts frantically, "Do it to Julia, not me, Julia."

Interpretation

Room 101 has ensured that the Party has power over Winston's heart and spirit. He has betrayed Julia. He has lost his mind.

This marks the third and final climax of the novel.

He has nothing left but to love Big Brother.

Chapter 6

Summary

Winston now has an existence outside the Ministry of Love. In fact, he is employed on a Sub-Committee made up of others such as him. It is not quite clear what their purpose is, but he does not require to devote much time to his work. He spends most of his time at the Chestnut Tree Cafe where he sits on his own playing chess and drinking Victory Gin.

He is a regular at this bar and solves chess problems contained in The Times newspaper.

He has met Julia once when she confessed that she betrayed him, much in the same manner as Winston betrayed her. They have lost all interest in each other and although they suggest they might meet again, they probably won't. She has changed. She now has some scars on her face and is a lot fatter.
Word comes over on the telescreen that the Oceania forces have been successful in Africa and they now control the whole continent, bringing the war within measurable distance of its end.

Winston stares at the portrait of Big Brother and as gin-scented tears roll down his face, he realizes that he has won the victory over himself. He loves Big Brother.

**Interpretation**

The novel ends by the revelation that Winston is now whole and loves Big Brother.

It is just about a year since he first met Julia and it took nine months within the Ministry of Love to undo what was built up with Julia. He is reborn within the Party and it is left to the reader to decide what happens to him next.

Will he go the way of Jones, Aaronson and Rutherford, or will he continue his existence almost like an unperson? None of the other Party members now wish to associate with him because he has a stigma. In fact, his death might be a service to the Party because he is an unworthy individual.

**Questions for Study with Ideas for Answers**

**Q:** The novel has three climactic events. What are they, and what do they signify?

**Ideas:**

1. Love in the woods. This idyllic scene symbolizes Julia and Winston's freedom from the party. This physically erotic episode is the only time when the couple is totally free of the imposing society of Oceania. Not only are they free, but also the reader is able to escape from the gloom of the book. It is an act of rebellion against the Party because all citizens are supposed to love Big Brother only, and not one another. It marks what has been lost by the citizens, because of the control inflicted on them by Big Brother.

2. Winston and Julia's capture by the Thought Police. Orwell carefully and skillfully dramatizes this episode providing the reader with a mixture of horror and apprehension. It symbolizes the end of the couple and the slow, separate, rehabilitation of Winston and Julia, who will both accept Big Brother in the end while at the same time, betraying each other. Their secret, happy life is smashed forever just as the paperweight was by a member of the Thought Police.

3. Acceptance. Part 3 of the novel gives the reader a slow and relentless feeling of tension, which culminates in finding what is in Room 101. This is where Winston faces his final terror, which in his case are rats. He is unable to face this fear and begs that Julia should face it instead. The chain of events that have led to this point horrifies the reader, and this is partly due to Orwell's descriptive writing. Winston's betrayal signifies the final degradation of man. Nothing else matters to him now, but his love for Big Brother.

**Q:** The aim of the Party is to acquire pure power and to keep hold of it. How is this achieved?

**Ideas:**

The Party has control over its citizens. Their everyday life is monitored. Every action they make is observed and must be according to the Party rules.

By controlling the past, the Party controls the present. They write and re-write history in order for it to suit the present. They make predictions about the future and if these turn out wrong, they go back and adjust them accordingly.

The only information the citizens receive is via the telescreens. The only view they have is that given to them by the Party. The party uses propaganda techniques to brainwash its citizens and to instill hatred in them for their common enemy. Prisoners of war are given no rights. They are blamed for the ills of Oceania and are publicly hanged.

In order for the Party to retain power, they are introducing a new language called Newspeak. This will slowly eradicate all counterproductive words and rebellious notions so that in the future it will be impossible to have subversive thoughts.

**Q:** Winston knows he is changing history, but he needs to retain his sanity by keeping hold of real pieces of the past that have not been corrupted. Give examples.

**Ideas:**

*The photograph and news article regarding Jones, Aaronson and Rutherford proves their innocence and is rare in that it gives a real account of what happened at that particular time in the past.*
*The paperweight, which cannot now be made in the present, but is a reminder of the past, and what earlier generations were capable of represents Winston and Julia’s private world.

*Winston sometimes mingles with the proles, and is particularly interested in older people, and he tries to obtain eyewitness accounts of the past from them, such as the Oranges and Lemons rhyme.

*The diary again is an artifact from the past in which Winston intends to write regarding the truth of the present day, perhaps for future generations. It is ironic that this and the paperweight have come from a member of the Thought Police. Although they can change thoughts and words, it is harder for them to change ‘things’.

**Q:** What has made this novel universally popular?

Ideas: *it has been a source of great debate since it was first published. Is the world of 1984 possible? This is probably the main attraction of the book.

*We see glimpses of Oceania in other societies, such as Communist Russia, Nazi Germany, China and more recently, North Korea. This gives authenticity to Orwell’s view of the future.

*Orwell provides an insight into the human psyche and the reader can identify both with the sufferings of Winston, and also with the brutality of O’Brien and what he stands for.

*Orwell’s book today is still relevant and it is amazing how accurate some of his predictions are, particularly concerning the politics of the world today. There is a move from a world of small countries to larger economic groupings such as the Americas, Europe and the Far East. No doubt, these alliances will grow in the future.