NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

by
George Orwell

Literature Guide Developed by Angela F. Antrim
for Secondary Solutions®

ISBN-10: 0-9845205-0-3

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Nineteen Eighty-Four Literature Guide

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About This Literature Guide

Secondary Solutions is the endeavor of a high school English teacher who could not seem to find appropriate materials to help her students master the necessary concepts at the secondary level. She grew tired of spending countless hours researching, creating, writing, and revising lesson plans, worksheets, quizzes, tests and extension activities to motivate and inspire her students, and at the same time, address those ominous content standards! Materials that were available were either juvenile in nature, skimpy in content, or were moderately engaging activities that did not come close to meeting the content standards on which her students were being tested. Frustrated and tired of trying to get by with inappropriate, inane lessons, she finally decided that if the right materials were going to be available to her and other teachers, she was going to have to make them herself! Mrs. Bowers set to work to create one of the most comprehensive and innovative Literature Guide sets on the market. Joined by a middle school teacher with 21 years of secondary school experience, Secondary Solutions began, and has matured into a specialized team of intermediate and secondary teachers who have developed for you a set of materials unsurpassed by all others.

Before the innovation of Secondary Solutions, materials that could be purchased offered a reproducible student workbook and a separate set of teacher materials at an additional cost. Other units provided the teacher with student materials only, and very often, the content standards were ignored. Secondary Solutions provides all of the necessary materials for complete coverage of the literature units of study, including author biographies, pre-reading activities, numerous and varied vocabulary and comprehension activities, study-guide questions, graphic organizers, literary analysis and critical thinking activities, essay-writing ideas, extension activities, quizzes, unit tests, alternative assessment, online teacher assistance, and much, much more. Each Guide is designed to address the unique learning styles and comprehension levels of every student in your classroom. All materials are written and presented at the grade level of the learner, and include extensive coverage of the content standards. As an added bonus, all teacher materials are included!

As a busy teacher, you don’t have time to waste reinventing the wheel. You want to get down to the business of teaching! With our professionally developed teacher-written literature Guides, Secondary Solutions has provided you with the answer to your time management problems, while saving you hours of tedious and exhausting work. Our Guides will allow you to focus on the most important aspects of teaching—the personal, one-on-one, hands-on instruction you enjoy most—the reason you became a teacher in the first place.

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**Sample Note-Taking and Summarizing: Chapter One**

To help you keep track of the novel’s events as they happen, you will be keeping notes using a chart similar to the one below to help summarize the important details for each chapter.

**Directions:** For each chapter, fill in the chart with the necessary information. An example for Part One: Chapter One is below. (Note: You do not need to write in complete sentences.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>(In this space, write a description of where and when the action occurred.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The novel begins on April 4, 1984 in London, the chief city of Airstrip One. The chapter takes place in Winston’s flat at Victory Mansions and at his office in the Ministry of Truth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters</th>
<th>(In this space, list and describe important characters in this chapter. Be sure to include details on how or why they are important to the plot at this point in the story.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winston Smith is a 39-year old man who lives by himself in his flat. He is a member of the Party and works in the Ministry of Truth where he alters historical records to match the Party’s version of past events.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of the Chapter</th>
<th>(In this space, write a brief summary of the action that takes place in this chapter.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winston Smith returns to his apartment during his lunch break. While there, Winston sits in an alcove to avoid the telescreen. He thinks about the comrades and sights he saw during the day’s Two Minutes Hate. Winston writes, “Down with Big Brother,” repeatedly in his diary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>(In this space, detail the important themes or ideas that have been raised in this chapter.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter One introduces the idea of Big Brother watching and knowing everything about the citizens, the intense propaganda waged by the government, and the government’s total control of the citizens’ lives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prediction of Coming Events</th>
<th>(In this space, write your prediction of what you think will happen in the next chapter.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Since Winston evaded the telescreen to write blasphemous comments in his diary, he will most likely be arrested for Thoughtcrime.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Nineteen Eighty-Four
### Note-Taking and Summarizing: Chapter Two

**Directions:** After you have read each chapter, fill in the chart with the necessary information. (Note: You do not need to write in complete sentences.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of the Chapter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Themes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prediction of Coming Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nineteen Eighty-Four
Part One: Chapters One—Two
Comprehension Check

Directions: To help you understand all aspects of the novel, answer the following questions for Chapters One—Two. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper using complete sentences.

Chapter One
1. Examine why Airstrip One operates on military time, as opposed to standard time, which Britain has historically used.
2. Discuss the message conveyed by the Big Brother posters hanging in apartment buildings. How would this message differ if the posters only hung in public places?
3. Examine the Party’s three slogans: “War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.” At this point in the novel, what do you think they mean?
4. Analyze why Winston is not certain of the exact date and how a lack of time-keeping reinforces the Party’s manipulation of history.
5. Generalize what the film Winston watched says about the Party, how it controls the populace, and how it views its citizens.
7. Contrast Winston’s opinion of O’Brien with Winston’s opinion of the dark-haired girl in his office.
8. Describe the Two Minutes Hate and its purpose.
10. Infer why Winston frightens himself when writing, “Down with Big Brother,” in his diary and how he could be guilty of thoughtcrime.

Chapter Two
1. Formulate what the Party’s use of “comrade” says about its political tendencies and how this places 1984 in a historical context.
2. Assess the role of children in Airstrip One. How are children trained to support the Party?
3. Interpret the comment that O’Brien says in Winston’s dream and predict how it will reoccur in the novel.
4. Name and explain the three principles of INGSOC.
5. Explain Winston’s comment, “Thoughtcrime does not entail death: thoughtcrime IS death.”