

**1** Most of all, I would like to discuss Orwell's amazing imagination to write *1984*, with concepts alien to us, especially a government based on excessive control and hypocritical slogans; he invented a way of living with "telescreens" that created a life with no freedom, and a "Thought Police" that noted your every action. I also would like to discuss Winston Smith. Being the main character, he has a very high capacity for complete independent thought that is discouraged in his society. He rebels against Big Brother when most other people happily believe everything the government fills their brains with, and therefore wants a life like we Americans happily live in (and take for granted) every day. I would also like to talk about one major theme in the book: that a life in a strict socialist government is meaningless. It oppresses intelligent people such as Winston and Julia, who believe in freedom and a better life.

**2** I find the last chapter (Chapter 6 of Part 3) of the book very confusing. It is clear that Winston has been released from the Ministry of Love after his torturing and "curing" process, but he has not been shot in the head. The last paragraph states, "He was walking down the white-tiled corridor with the feeling of walking in sunlight, and an armed guard at his back. The long hoped-for bullet was entering his brain ... But it was all right, everything was all right, the struggle was finished. He had won the victory over himself. He loved Big Brother" (300). It seems that he resigns to Big Brother. When he mentioned (metaphorically) that the "bullet was entering his brain," he probably means that the old, freedom-seeking Winston was dead, not that he was physically dead - that he had become like everybody else, like the government wanted: a person who was incapable of independent thought, who worked and lived for Big Brother.

**3** I would rate my enjoyment level of reading *1984* an eight out of ten. As I mentioned earlier, the ideas Orwell put into the book are too evil for us to imagine, which is interesting. The description is very elaborate, and the narration includes all of Winston's thoughts. It's very easy to see why Winston feels injustice and pain. However, the book did seem a little boring and confusing in some parts, with difficult vocabulary and a little bit of "Newspeak" - the abridged version of English. This was especially obvious in "the book" by Goldstein: "Even after enormous upheavals and seemingly irrevocable changes, the same pattern has always reasserted itself, just as a gyroscope will always return to equilibrium, however far it is pushed one way of the other" (202). It continues in this monotone for many more pages, and brings my rating down.

**4** *1984* easily presents to all its readers that a nation with extreme control will be meaningless. No individual thoughts can be thought of, including and especially those involving creativity and ideals of liberty - this would be considered "thoughtcrime" in the world of *1984*. This means that a world described by this book would be very different from the modern-day, free life we live in the U.S.A., which has proven to work very well. Therefore, *1984* warns against socialist governments. This is the most meaningful idea I have gotten out of this book: that we should appreciate our life as it is, without having to fight for our privacy and freedom.