

PART ONE: CHAPTERS I - III

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

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| 1. nebulous | a. not able to be understood; mysterious |
| 2. purge | b. overly concerned with small details |
| 3. clandestinely | c. elimination of undesirable persons |
| 4. inscrutable | d. vague; unclear |
| 5. zealot | e. of a belief different from the accepted belief of a group |
| 6. heretical | f. secretly; underhandedly |
| 7. pedantic | g. the holding of generally accepted beliefs |
| 8. orthodoxy | h. person intensely devoted to a cause |

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1. The political _____ went to extremes to make his ideas known, even dropping leaflets from a helicopter to the crowd below.
2. The suspect's alibi was so _____ that the police detained her for further questioning.
3. The prisoner kept a diary _____ because he didn't want his cellmate to know his thoughts and feelings.
4. My aunt was so _____ about her household rules that we became rebellious, ignoring all of them.
5. Because he was a high official of the Party, the man's _____ was never questioned.
6. On orders of the Party, many political enemies were arrested or killed during the _____.
7. If you were suspected of having _____ beliefs, you would be in serious danger for not supporting Party policies.
8. The spy was determined that her _____ expression would not reveal her true feelings to her interrogator.

Part One: Chapters I - III (cont.)

Questions:

1. How did the four ministry buildings compare with the other structures in London? In what way was each ministry a contradiction in terms?
2. Why was it so difficult for Winston to begin writing in his diary? What were his motives for doing this?
3. Why did Winston instinctively dislike the dark-haired girl and feel drawn toward O'Brien?
4. Why was Emmanuel Goldstein the target of the Two Minutes Hate session? Why do you think the Hate session existed and why would it target a man named Emmanuel Goldstein?
5. What risk did Winston take by starting a diary and by writing in it such things as "Down with Big Brother"?
6. Why did Winston find children even more threatening than some adults?
7. Why did Winston conclude that tragedy belonged to a past era?

Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you think Winston's decision to start a diary revealed about his state of mind?
2. Consider the Party slogan: "Who controls the past, controls the future: who controls the present controls the past." What do you think this slogan means? Why do you think Winston might be bothered by such a slogan?
3. How did the Party use the following means to control thoughts and actions:
 - Thought Police
 - telescreen
 - Newspeak
 - Doublethink
 - Two Minutes Hate session

Literary Device: Symbolism

In literature, a symbol is an object, a person, or an event that represents an idea or a set of ideas. In *1984* the gigantic posters of Big Brother and the larger-than-life tele-screen images of his arch rival, Goldstein, stand for opposing beliefs.

What does Big Brother symbolize?

What does Goldstein symbolize?
