

PART THREE: CHAPTERS IV - VI

Vocabulary: Use the context to select the best synonym for the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Circle the letter of the word you choose.

1. I took a cold shower on a hot, humid day to rouse me from my torpid state.
a. frightened b. sluggish c. restless d. upset
2. After days of severe torture, the spy capitulated, telling them everything and implicating his friends.
a. resisted b. joined c. outsmarted d. surrendered
3. Tigers and bears are carnivorous animals, whereas cattle and giraffes feed on grass and plants.
a. wild b. plant-eating c. meat-eating d. ferocious
4. Faced with so many shelves of similar food items, the shopper made her selection irresolutely.
a. determinedly b. irresponsibly c. stubbornly d. uncertainly
5. The written instructions were so complicated and abstruse that the woman relied on her common sense to assemble the machine.
a. incomprehensible b. obvious c. absurd d. troublesome
6. The sculptor stepped back to admire his work — a twenty-foot colossus of marble that towered over him.
a. wonder b. giant c. portrait d. poster
7. The teacher aimed a question at the student in the first row who seemed lost in a reverie.
a. maze b. forest c. dream d. predicament
8. It is a fallacy to believe that the sun and planets revolve around the earth.
a. truism b. proclamation c. struggle d. misconception

Questions:

1. Why did O'Brien decide it was time to send Winston to Room 101?
2. Why do you think Winston was saved from the rats at the last moment?
3. In what ways had Winston's life changed since his return from prison?

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4. Why didn't Winston and Julia try to resume their former relationship after their chance meeting?
5. What victory did Winston proclaim at the end of the novel?

Questions for Discussion:

1. From what you know about Julia, what do you speculate might have been used by the Thought Police to break her will?
2. What aspects of Winston's new job were similar to jobs performed by people in our society today?
3. Why do you think Orwell chose to have his protagonist accept Big Brother and the Party at the end of the novel? How would the impact of the story have been different if Winston continued to struggle against the system?
4. Did Orwell want his readers to come away from the book with a sense of optimism or pessimism?

Writing Activities:

1. Write about a room that would represent the same kind of horror to you as Room 101 did for Winston. Describe the contents of the room and tell why you would find it horrifying.
2. Write an alternative ending to the novel. Then write a short critique explaining why one of these endings is more appropriate than the other.