

PART ONE: CHAPTERS IV - VIII

Vocabulary: Use the context to help you figure out the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. After you have written what you think the word means, compare your definition with a dictionary definition.

1. At the demonstration, the speaker was fulminating against the many cruel acts committed by the enemy.
Your definition _____
Dictionary definition _____
2. The government of Oceania made every effort to indoctrinate its Party members by holding lectures and screening instructional films.
Your definition _____
Dictionary definition _____
3. The Brotherhood was accused of bombing government buildings and other acts of sabotage.
Your definition _____
Dictionary definition _____
4. Reformed workers were given new assignments with important-sounding titles and high salaries, but their jobs were actually nothing more than sinecures.
Your definition _____
Dictionary definition _____
5. When Winston became fearful of being arrested, his lassitude caused his knees to buckle and his hands to sweat.
Your definition _____
Dictionary definition _____
6. The long queue wound its way from the canteen and down the long hall as everyone waited patiently at the food counter.
Your definition _____
Dictionary definition _____
7. It was not unusual to see people stocking up on food supplies after the recent famine.
Your definition _____
Dictionary definition _____
8. Winston clasped his hand over his ears to block out the sound of his companion's strident voice.
Your definition _____
Dictionary definition _____

Part One: Chapters IV - VIII

Questions:

1. Why would Winston sometimes need back issues of newspapers in his work? What would his work accomplish for Big Brother and the Party?
2. Why did Syme think it would be advantageous to reduce every concept to one word, which was the ultimate aim of Newspeak?
3. Why would the Party rarely approve of marriages between people who displayed physical attraction or great love for one another?
4. Who were the proles? In what ways did they live differently from Party members? Why did Winston think that hope for change resided in the proles?
5. Why did Winston conclude that the confessions of Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford were lies?
6. Why did Winston try to question the old man in the pub? How was their conversation a disappointment to Winston?
7. Why did Winston expect to be killed during the night after he visited Charrington's shop?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think the Party allowed its population easy access to gin?
2. Syme predicted that by the year 2050 "The whole literature of the past will have been destroyed." How do you think the destruction of literature affects a society? Do you think great literature is in danger of being eradicated sometime in the future? Why or why not?
3. Why might independent thought be controlled and diminished if vocabulary were "pared to the bone"?
4. What was the relationship between government statements and reality? Can you think of instances in the present where there is a similar relationship?
5. In the world of *1984*, which do you think was preferable — the life of Party members or proles?