



Plot Summary Reference Sheet

1984 by George Orwell

Quick Recall Box (1-Minute Revision)

- Protagonist: Winston Smith
- Setting: Airstrip One, Oceania
- Main Conflict: Individual vs. Totalitarian State
- Ending: Psychological defeat and acceptance of Big Brother

PART ONE: The Seeds of Rebellion

Summary Snapshot

Winston begins to question the Party and commits small but dangerous acts of rebellion.

Key Events

- Works at the Ministry of Truth rewriting history
- Starts a secret diary
- Develops hatred for Big Brother
- Becomes aware of false reality

Practice Check

- Why is writing a diary considered a crime?
- What does Winston's job reveal about truth in Oceania?
- How does fear control citizens early in the novel?

PART TWO: The Affair and The Brotherhood

Summary Snapshot

Winston experiences love and false hope of organized resistance.

Key Events

- Begins a secret relationship with Julia
- Rents a hidden room above the shop
- Meets O'Brien
- Joins the "Brotherhood"

Practice Check

- Why is Winston and Julia's relationship political?
- What does the glass paperweight symbolize during this section?
- Why is the hidden room an important symbol?

PART THREE: The Ministry of Love

Summary Snapshot

Winston's rebellion collapses through torture and psychological control.

Key Events

- Arrest by Thought Police
- Betrayal by O'Brien
- Torture and re-education
- Room 101 (rats)
- Final acceptance of Big Brother

Practice Check

- What is the purpose of Room 101?
- Why is psychological torture more powerful than physical torture?
- Does Winston truly change, or is he forced?

Major Themes – Quick Exam Review

1. Totalitarianism

Absolute power destroys individuality and freedom.

2. Control of Truth

History and language are manipulated to shape reality.

3. Surveillance

Fear and monitoring create self-censorship.

Theme Practice Question

How do these three themes connect to Winston's final defeat?

Symbols – Rapid Revision Table

| Symbol | Meaning | Why It Matters |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Big Brother | Absolute authority | Represents psychological dominance |
| Glass Paperweight | Fragile private world | Symbolizes Winston & Julia's relationship |
| Telescreens | Constant surveillance | No privacy, no freedom |
| Room 101 | Ultimate fear | Breaks individual resistance |

Character Focus – Winston Smith

- **Represents:** The ordinary individual resisting oppression
- **Strength:** Desire for truth
- **Weakness:** Fear and physical vulnerability
- **Final State:** Mentally reprogrammed

Character Practice

- Explain how Winston changes from Part One to Part Three in 5–6 lines.

Final Exam Practice Prompt

“1984 shows that controlling truth is more powerful than controlling weapons.”

Discuss with reference to plot events and themes.

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