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George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*: A Dystopian Novel

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Abstract

The famous British author George Orwell, pen name of Eric Arthur Blair, was born in motihari (East Champaran, Bihar), then under Bengal Presidency in British India on June 25, 1903. However, he left Motihari when he was only one year old, went with his mother to England for his schooling and for higher studies, wrote many novels, but became famous for the two, *Animal Farm*, a modern beast fable attacking Russian revolution and Stalinism, and *1984*, a dystopian novel setting forth his fear of totalitarian government and increasingly bureaucratic state of the future, *Nineteen Eighty four* often published as *1984*, is a dystopian novel published in 1949. Set in Oceania, one of the three Intercontinental super states that divided the world among themselves after a global atomic war, the story unfolds in London, the chief city of Airstrip one, governed by the Party, dictated by political system euphemistically named Engsocialism or Ingsoc in the government invented language called newspeak, under the privileged elite of the Inner Party, that persecutes individualism and independent thinking headed by the big brother which is a tyrannical figure "Posters screaming" BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU. Big brother, is just the name, someone who is unseen and all the people are scared of Big brother. He keeps an eye on everything. He has CCTV, telescreens to control the society. Every street corner, every lamp post, and every wall has life-size picture of Big Brother's face, his eyes following wary citizens as they walk, cast it."

Keywords- Big Brother, Newspeak, Thought crime, thought police

Nineteen eighty four has dystopian fiction setting in which life is extremely bad from deprivation, oppression or terror. Orwell', dystopia is a place where humans have no

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control over met oven where people live in misery, fear and repression. He wrote *Nineteen Eighty Four*, just after World War II ended, to serve it as a Warning to his readers. Though he wanted to be certain that the kind of future presented in the novel should never come to pass, he wants to make the readers are well aware of the evil consequences of totalitarianism in coming time. Orwell lived during a time where tyranny was reality in Spain, Germany, the Soviet Union and other countries. Government gave little freedom to their citizens, the whole society was filled with hunger, forced labour, and 'mass execution.

Orwell liked democratic socialism. He used his writing to express his powerful feelings. The society in *Nineteen Eighty Four*, although fictional, mirrors the political weather of the societies that existed all around him. Orwell's Oceania is a terrifying society suppressed by Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union, both symbol of tyranny and complete repression of human spirit, absolute human control of daily life and constant hunger. Orwell despised the politics of the leaders he saw rise to power in the countries around him and he disliked what the politicians did to the people of those countries. Big brother is certainly a fusion of both Stalin and Hitler, both real and terrifying leaders, though both on the opposite sides of the philosophical spectrum. By giving Big Brother, a fierce looking, he wants to show how cruel totalitarianism basically is and how negatively it affects the human spirit and how impossible to remain freethinking under such circumstances.

The story takes place in London in the year 1984, a terrifying place and time where human spirit and freedom are all but crushed. The main character, Winston Smith grew up knowing hunger and political instability and is a man caught in the web of dystopian future and his clandestine love affair with Julia, a young woman he meets during the course of his work for the government. He is from the outer party who is all the time watched by the Big Brother, the leader of the Inner party that is the ruling party at that time in Oceania and it becomes dear from these lines of the text, "Behind Winstons back the voice from the telescreen was still babbling away about pig-Iron and the over fulfillment of the Ninth Three year Plan. The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound that Winston made above the level of a very low whisper, would be picked up it, moreover, so

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long as he remained within the field of vision which the metal plaque commanded, he could be seen as well as heard. There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. How often, or on what system, the Thought Police plugged in any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But by any rate they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to. "You had to live —did live, from habit that become instinct; in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard and except in darkness, every movement scrutinized."

Winston Smith is a low ranking member of the ruling party in London, in the Nation of Oceania. Everywhere Winston goes, even at his own home, the party watches him through telescreens, and everywhere he looks he sees the face of the party's seemingly omniscient leader, a figure known only as Big Brother. The party controls everything in Oceania, even the people's history and language. Currently, the party is forcing the implementation of an invented language called Newspeak.

From the very opening scene, Winston feels frustrated by the operation and rigid control of the party which restricts from free thought, sex and any expression of individuality. Winston dislikes the party and has illegally purchased a diary in which he writes his criminal thoughts. There is also another Character O' Brien who Winston believes is a secret member of Brotherhood- the mysterious, legendary group that works to overthrow the party. Winston works in the Ministry of Truth, where he alters historical records to fit the need of the party. He notices a co-worker, a beautiful dark-haired girl, staring at him, worries that she is an informant who will trap him for his thought crime. At one place in the story he confesses 'I hated the sight of you,' he said 'I wanted to rape you and that murder you afterwards. "Two weeks ago I thought seriously of smashing your head in with a cobblestone. If you really want to know, I imagined that you had something to do with the 'Thought police'.

A party member lives from birth to death under the eye of Thought police. Even when he is alone he can never be sure that he is alone. Winston is also very much troubled by the party control of past and present. He is troubled by the party's control of history. The party claims that Oceania has always been allied to Eastasia in a war against Eurasia, but Winston seems to recall a time when this was not true. The party also claims that Emmanuel

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Goldstein, the allied leader of the Brotherhood is the most dangerous man alive but this does not seem plausible to Winston.

One day, Winston receives a note from the dark-haired girl that reads 'I Love You'. She tells her name Julia. Eventually they rent a room above the store in the Prole district where Winston bought the diary. This relationship lasts for some time. Winston is sure that they will be caught and punished sooner or later. As Winston's affair progresses, his hatred for the party grows more and more intense. At last, one day he receives the message that he has been waiting for: O' Brien wanted to see him.

Both Winston and Julia travel to O' Brien's luxurious apartment. As a member of the powerful Inner party, O'Brien leads a luxurious life which Winston being a member of outer party can only imagine. O'Brien conforms to Winston and Julia that like them he hates the party and he further says that he works against it as a member of the Brotherhood. He indoctrinates Winston and Julia into the brotherhood and gives Winston a copy of Emmanuel Goldstein's book, the theory and practice of oligarchical collectiveness. Winston reads the book which is an amalgam of several forms of class-based twentieth-century social theory to Julia. Suddenly, soldiers came and seized them.

Winston turned away from Julia and taken to a place called the Ministry of Love, finds that O' Brien, too is a party spy who simply pretended to be a member of the Brotherhood in order to trap Winston into committing a rebellion against the party. O'Brien spends months torturing and brainwashing Winston, and at last he sends him to the dreaded room 101, the final destination for anyone who opposes the party.

Later when Julia discloses that she also cheated him, his spirit is broken. He now, no longer feels anything for her. He accepted the party entirely as he has no other option and had started loving Big Brother. He lastly realizes that he loves Big Brother, means his brain has been totally washed and he is totally moulded according to the Big Brother. He is no longer an intellectual. So the book deals with the theme that if you are against the state, you are taken as a traitor. Thus, through this powerful story George Orwell gives the ugly face of dystopian society in which the government has total control over the activities of the people.

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