

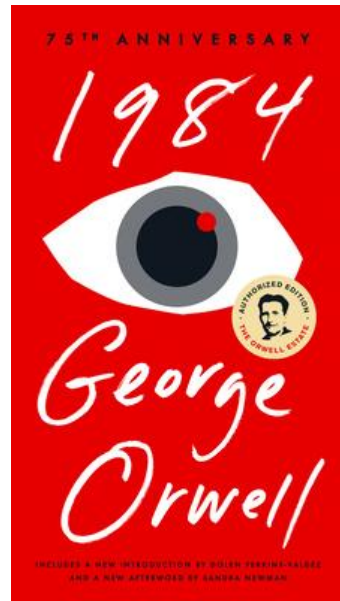
12TH GRADE ENGLISH REQUIRED SUMMER READING
Grade-level

1984, by George Orwell (Note: Please buy the physical book, not the electronic version, and bring it to class. Please get ISBN number 978-0451524935. You can find it in many big bookstores or on Amazon).

You are required to complete the novel by the first day of class. Expect a quiz during the first week of school.

[1984 was] weaponized during the Cold War, enlisted as propaganda in the struggle against the Soviet Union. Today, all that really remains of that enemy is the North Korean regime, a sort of grotesque caricature of the world of 'Big Brother', where Stalinism has mutated into a hereditary absolute monarchy. But the book still resonates. Why?

- John Newsinger, 2018



This novel was published in 1949 and George Orwell died the following year, long before the internet and countless other technologies transformed the way we communicate, govern, live, and work. However, *1984* presents enduring commentary on human nature and the nature of business, government, religion, and war.

As you read, please consider the following question:

- What is “newspeak”?
- What is “Doublethink”?
- What type of government is depicted in the book? What is the relationship between *language* and *thinking*?
- In your opinion, what did Orwell get right about the future? Where was he wrong?

If you have any questions, please contact bblackman@jbha.org.

Recommended Reading:

“A Golden Age for Dystopian Fiction,” (*The New Yorker*), Jill Lepore
Parable of the Sower, Octavia Butler
Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
Sing, Unburied, Sing, Jesmyn Ward
Utopia, Thomas More