

12TH GRADE ENGLISH REQUIRED SUMMER READING  
Accelerated

**1984, by George Orwell (Note: Please buy the pictured physical book, not the electronic version, and bring it to class. Please get ISBN number 978-0451524935.)**

You are required to complete the reading 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 and government.

As you read, please ponder the following:

What does it mean to be “Orwellian”? What is “newspeak”? “Doublethink”? What is the political philosophy of this book? What relationship between language and thought does Orwell present? How do these concepts directly affect the society depicted in the novel? How do the book’s literary elements help to convey these points?

In your opinion, what did Orwell get right about the future? Where was he off the mark?

If you have any questions, please contact [rscheinmann@jbha.org](mailto:rscheinmann@jbha.org)

Recommended Reading:

*Parable of the Sower*, Octavia Butler

*The Plague*, Albert Camus

*Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, Jonathan Safran Foer

*Lincoln in the Bardo*, George Saunders

*Sing, Unburied, Sing*, Jesmyn Ward

