

**1984** - Part 2, Chapter 2 – Chapter 5

Read the questions first, and then complete the readings. Some, but not all, questions are in chronological order, while others require a larger understanding of the complete section.

ALL MEMBERS are encouraged to contribute to the discussions for each question. Dividing up the questions to do individually runs contrary to the nature of the assignment. However, with respect to individual circumstances and work loads during this time, students are encouraged to take care of any outstanding work for the course *before* working on the novel.

1. Comparisons to *1984* and contemporary politics and government have been made since the book's publishing, but different aspects of the Orwell's work seem to resonate with different governments at different times. Sometimes, the brutality of totalitarianism comes to the foreground, while other times the widespread invasion of privacy and the era of commonplace surveillance might be the focus. Read the article from The Atlantic (link below), and respond with any connections (similarities, differences, or anything else) you can make to the novel on the topic of the representation of truth by those in power.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/05/trumps-macabre-declarations-victory/611029/>

2. This week's section could easily be titled "Hope and Reality". Winston is given a glimpse at what life could be like in a world free of control by Big Brother, yet at the same time he knows that it is a matter of time before he is caught and killed by the Party. Existentially though, that shouldn't matter (didn't think we would be talking about that again, did you?).
  - a. Read the poem at the end of this document, and see if you can find its easter egg nestled in the pages of this week's reading. What purpose does the reference to the poem serve for Winston, and any larger theme within the story?
  - b. This week's section has so many examples of foreshadowing, it's silly. See if you can find three quotes that serve to remind the reader of the reality that awaits outside of Winston and Julia's little glass paperweight. Comment on their significance beyond the fact that they are potential examples of foreshadowing.
3. With specific examples, comment on the differences between Winston and Julia as enemies of the Party.

# The Darkling Thrush

Thomas Hardy

I leant upon a coppice<sup>1</sup> gate  
When Frost was spectre-gray,  
And Winter's dregs made desolate  
The weakening eye of day.<sup>2</sup>  
The tangled bine-stems<sup>3</sup> scored the sky  
Like strings of broken lyres,<sup>4</sup>  
And all mankind that haunted nigh  
Had sought their household fires.  
The land's sharp features seemed to be  
The Century's corpse outleant,<sup>5</sup>  
His crypt the cloudy canopy,  
The wind his death-lament.  
The ancient pulse of germ<sup>6</sup> and birth  
Was shrunken hard and dry,  
And every spirit upon earth  
Seemed fervourless as I.  
At once a voice arose among  
The bleak twigs overhead  
In a full-hearted evensong  
Of joy illimited;<sup>7</sup>  
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,  
In blast-beruffled plume,  
Had chosen thus to fling his soul  
Upon the growing gloom.  
So little cause for carolings  
Of such ecstatic sound  
Was written on terrestrial things<sup>8</sup>  
Afar or nigh around,  
That I could think there trembled through  
His happy good-night air  
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew  
And I was unaware.

## Notes

1.....coppice: Thicket of small trees.

2.....eye of day: Sun.

3.....bine-stems: Twining or climbing stems of a plant.

4.....lyres: Musical instruments with strings. A lyre's strings are attached to a bar between two arms. [Click here to see pictures of lyres.](#)

5.....outleant: Lying down.

6.....germ: Seed; egg; bud.

7.....illimited: Unlimited.

8.....Was . . . things: The bleak countryside revealed no cause for the joyous singing.