



GEORGE ORWELL
1984

1984 — George Orwell

Read the abridged chapter one of 1984 and identify the features of Dystopian Novels

Passage from 1984	Dystopian Feature
<p><i>On each landing, opposite the lift-shaft, the poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the eyes follow you about when you move. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption beneath it ran.</i></p>	
<p><i>The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound that Winston made, above the level of a very low whisper, would be picked up by it; moreover, so 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.</i></p>	
<p><i>The Ministry of Truth, which concerned itself with news, entertainment, education, and the fine arts. The Ministry of Peace, which concerned itself with war. The Ministry of Love, which maintained law and order. And the Ministry of Plenty, which was responsible for economic affairs.</i></p>	
<p>WAR IS PEACE / FREEDOM IS SLAVERY / IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH</p>	
<p><i>The Ministry of Love was the really frightening one. There were no windows in it at all. Winston had never been inside the Ministry of Love, nor within half a kilometre of it. It was a place impossible to</i></p>	

Oppressive Government

Social Hierarchy

Surveillance

Loss of Individualism

Control of Information

Loss of Privacy

<i>Passage from 1984</i>	<i>Dystopian Feature</i>
<p><i>enter except on official business, and then only by penetrating through a maze of barbed-wire entanglements, steel doors, and hidden machine-gun nests.</i></p>	
<p><i>The thing that he was about to do was to open a diary. This was not illegal (nothing was illegal, since there were no longer any laws), but if detected it was reasonably certain that it would be punished by death, or at least by twenty-five years in a forced-labour camp.</i></p>	
<p><i>He moved over to the window: a smallish, frail figure, the meagreness of his body merely emphasized by the blue overalls which were the uniform of the party.</i></p> <p><i>He had set his features into the expression of quiet optimism which it was advisable to wear when facing the telescreen.</i></p>	
<p><i>By sitting in the alcove, and keeping well back, Winston was able to remain outside the range of the telescreen, so far as sight went. He could be heard, of course, but so long as he stayed in his present position he could not be seen. It was partly the unusual geography of the room that had suggested to him the thing that he was now about to do. (Writing a diary</i></p>	
<p><i>You had to live—did live, from habit that became instinct—in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized.</i></p>	

Oppressive Government

Surveillance

Control of Information

Social Hierarchy

Loss of Individualism

Loss of Privacy