

Year 10 - Set 11 – George Orwell's biography



Task 1 - Read the following text about George Orwell, author of *Animal Farm* and *1984*, and complete the spaces with the Past form of the verbs in the box.

write - make - meet - take - die - see

George Orwell

George Orwell was a well-known English novelist, essayist and critic. He is famous for his novels *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

George Orwell was born Eric Arthur Blair in Motihari, Bengal, India, in 1903. One year after he was born, his mother _____ him and his older sister, Marjorie, to England.

He started school at a place called St. Cyprian's. He didn't like studying there. He _____ that the teachers were nicer to richer students than to poorer students. He wasn't popular and he found comfort in adventure books.

After finishing his studies at Eton University, he joined the India Imperial Police and spent five years in Burma. When he returned to England, he decided to become a writer. He published his first full-length work, *Down and Out in Paris and London*, in 1933, and his first novel, *Burmese Days*, in 1934. Around this time, he _____ Eileen O'Shaughnessy. The couple married in June 1936.

In December 1936, Orwell travelled to Spain, where he joined one of the groups fighting against General Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War. He got shot in the throat and arm and could not speak for a few weeks. He _____ about his experiences in Spain in *Homenaje a Cataluña* (1938).

In 1945, Orwell published one of his most famous books, *Animal Farm*. The book was an anti-Soviet satire that shows the horrors of Stalinism. In the book, real people are represented by various kinds of animals. The communist officials are represented by pigs. The book was successful and it _____ Orwell famous. In 1949, he published *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, another novel warning against totalitarianism. The phrase "Big Brother is watching you" comes from this book. Both *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* have been turned into films.

George Orwell _____ of tuberculosis on January 21, 1950, in a London hospital.

Task 2 - Answer the following questions in full sentences if possible.

1 Where was George Orwell born? _____

2 Where did George Orwell study? _____

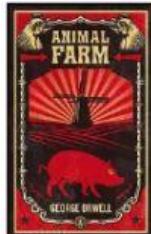
3 What did Orwell do when he finished his studies? _____

4 What was George Orwell's first novel? _____

5 Who did George Orwell marry? _____

6 In which book does Orwell write about his time in Spain? _____

7 What is *Animal Farm* about? _____



Task 3 - Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 George Orwell was older than his sister Marjorie. _____

2 George Orwell enjoyed studying at St. Cyprian's School. _____

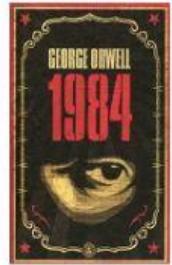
3 George Orwell read adventure stories when he was at school. _____

4 George Orwell spent five years in Burma. _____

5 George Orwell was shot in the head and arm when he was in Spain. _____

6 In *Animal Farm*, the communist officials are represented by horses. _____

7 The phrase "Big Brother is watching you" comes from *Animal Farm*. _____



Task 4 – Personal opinion. Answer the following questions, in English if possible.

1- What is the most interesting thing about George Orwell you got from this biography?

2- Which book did you like better: *Fahrenheit 451* or *Animal Farm*? Why?

SOURCES: <https://www.biography.com/people/george-orwell-9429833> , <https://www.britannica.com/biography/George-Orwell>