

**Reviewer Username:** Anonymous

**School:** Yorba Linda High School

**Grade:** Senior

**Book Title:** 1984

**Author:** George Orwell

**Rate 1-5(1-lowest to 5-highest) - 4**

In the dystopian fiction novel by George Orwell titled *1984* we follow main character Winston Smith as he attempts to survive a completely totalitarian government. In the country known as Oceania, the government has complete control over everything their people say, think and do from the media they consume all the way down to what time they shall wake up. Through telescreens, hidden cameras, and hidden microphones in every room, “Big Brother” (a symbol for the Oceania government) is able to watch and listen to everyone at all times. If one were to disobey the always watching “Big Brother” they could be sent to a forced labor camp. Despite the entire book being told through Winston’s journal entries, writing is an act that is entirely prohibited by the Oceania government. The journal becomes a large part of the novel as Winston must find enough time and a well enough place to jot down his experiences to anyone that may find his novel.

The one flaw to Orwell’s *1984* is that at times, the book was very dragged on and it may be difficult for some readers to stay interested. Moreover, there are many instances where our main character Winston discusses and critiques the government’s system for lengthy periods of time. Despite these long rants about the government; however, there really isn’t anything else bad about the novel. I found the plot to be very interesting and I thought the ending was very satisfying. Furthermore, I also enjoyed how the novel explored other themes rather than just focusing on the dangers of totalitarianism. For example themes such as individualism and the power of love can be found throughout the novel.

I definitely recommend this book especially to anyone that can sit through and enjoy a long read. The best thing about *1984* is that despite it being written in 1949, many of its themes are still applicable to today’s society. This book really reminded me of *Animal Farm* which is also by George Orwell and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.