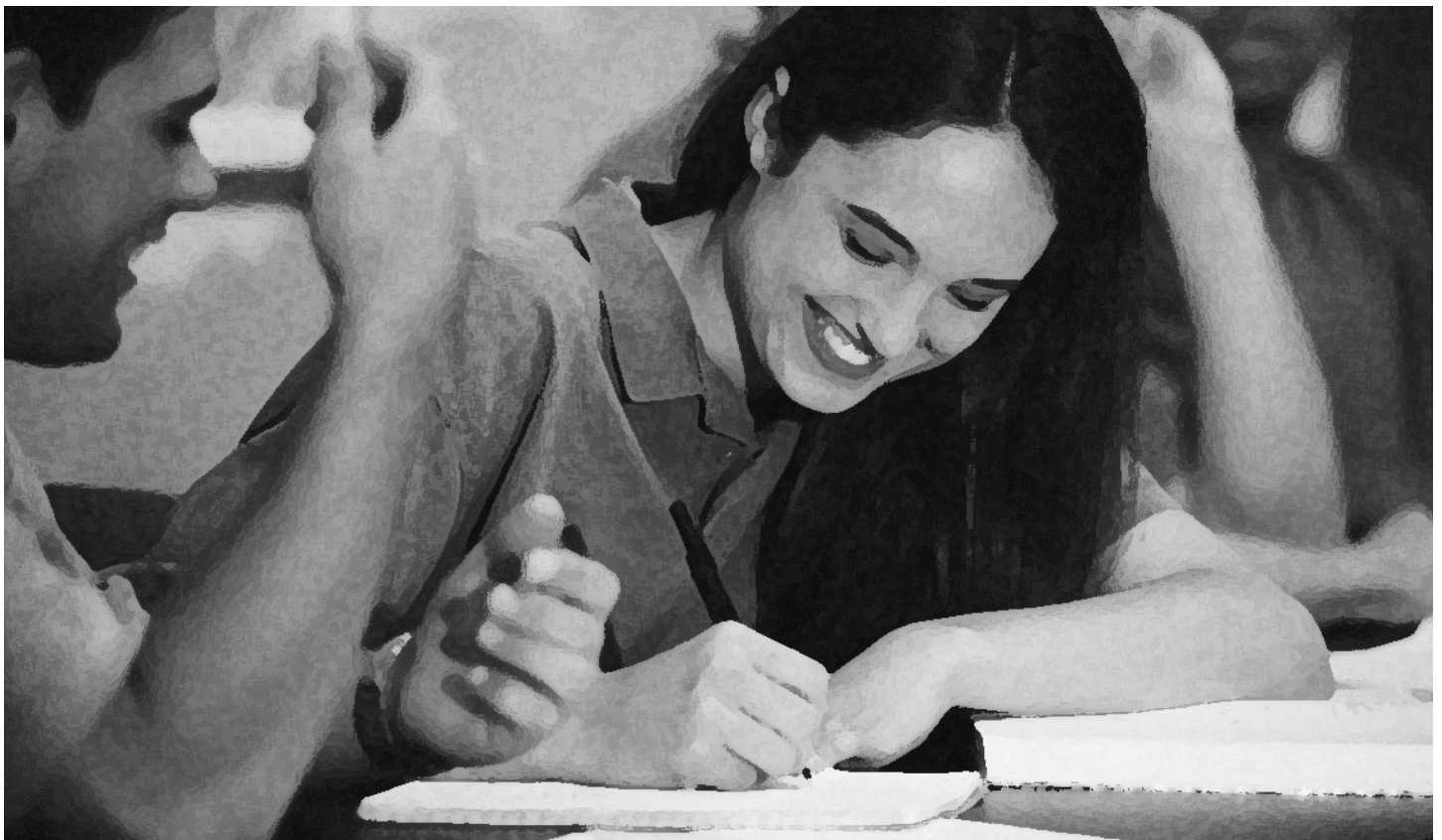


PRESTWICK HOUSE

Activity Pack

1984

BY GEORGE ORWELL



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Written by: Eva Richardson

1984

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1984

Activity Pack Teacher's Edition

Pre-reading Setting History

Objective: Researching life in England during Orwell's time.

Activity:

George Orwell lived and wrote in Great Britain during the first half of the twentieth century. A thorough understanding of life in England during Orwell's lifetime provides insight into the subject matter of *1984* and enables readers to view and evaluate Orwell's ideas and vision within the context of the political, cultural, and social landscape of his time.

Using the library, the Internet, or both, research the history and find information to fill in the next chart, which deals with Great Britain between 1900 and 1955.

Use your research to complete the **Historic Background Chart** on the following page. We have supplied areas for you to investigate.

Note to Teacher: The **Historic Background Chart** offers potential answers for this activity. Actual student answers may vary.

Historic Background Chart

Research Area	Details
Government	Succession of Monarchs: Prime Ministers:
Major Wars/Political Developments	
Social/Political/Economic	
Cultural/Scientific/Medical	

Pre-reading Association Research

Objective: Comprehending ideological and political terms necessary for a complete understanding of the novel.

Activity I:

The terms **ideology, propaganda, and patriotism** play an important role in the world of *1984*. What ideas, words, concepts, and historic details do you associate with these terms? Do some brainstorming. Gather any ideas that come to mind and add them to the **Ideological and Political Terms Chart** that follows. Once you have gathered as much information as possible, you may consult the library and/or Internet in order to confirm your findings or add additional ideas. We have supplied some answers for you.

Note to Teacher: This activity can be assigned individually, as a group activity, or as a combined in-class effort. Student answers will vary.

Ideological and Political Terms Chart

Ideology	Propaganda	Patriotism
Definitions	Definitions	Definitions
A specific way of thinking about the world and about life		
		Signs and Symbols of Patriotism: the flag
Examples	Examples	Examples
	Nazi anti-semitic movies	
	Examples in History:	

Part One – Chapter I

Oxymoron

Objective: Recognizing and understanding the significance of oxymora as powerful rhetorical devices.

The manipulation of language plays a major role in the setup and organization of the Oceanian society described in *1984*. The Oceanian government is in the process of replacing Standard English with the artificial language Newspeak. In addition to the development of a new language, several rhetorical devices are prevalent in the language used in Oceania. In naming the four ministries that constitute the government, Oceanian officials frequently employed oxymoron.

Activity I:

Collect examples of oxymora. Some may come to mind immediately; others can be found in newspaper or magazine articles, books, speeches, movie titles, etc. Remember, a term like “sounds of silence” would be considered a paradox, oxymora are usually just two words.

Oxymoron Examples:

- active retirement
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Activity II:

The names of the four Oceanian ministries constitute oxymora when combined with their respective ministry responsibilities.

Complete the following chart by outlining the responsibilities of all four ministries and explaining why the ministry names and responsibilities combined make up oxymora. In addition, give the Newspeak term for the four ministry names.

The Oxymora contained in the Ministry Names and Responsibilities

	Ministry of Truth	Ministry of Love	Ministry of Peace	Ministry of Plenty
Tasks and Responsibilities				
Explanation of Oxymoron				
Ministry Name in Newspeak				