

**"1984"- George Orwell**  
**Lit Circle Assignment #1: Literary Luminary**

- 1) "The Ministry of Love was the really frightening one. There were no windows at all... It was a place impossible to enter except on official business, and then only by penetrating through a maze of barbed wire entanglements, steel doors and hidden machines-gun nests."-pg. 6

This quote epitomizes the ultimate irony: that fear and evil can be directly associated with the name of love. The entire foundation of this story is based upon perceptions- or misperceptions for this matter. The idea of love in real life in comparison to the author's portrayal of love in the story is completely the opposite of one another. To the reader, the ideas which the government upholds are blasphemous... and should be for any being living under this totalitarian government, it seems. But the threat of torture and death could make anyone disregard the nonsense the government is feeding its people. Also, the actions of the government ensure that there is no open opposition to their ideas... no matter how absurd their ideas could be.

- 2) "A sudden hot sweat had broken out all over Winston's body. His face remained completely inscrutable. Never show dismay! Never show resentment! A single flicker of the eyes could give you away."-pg. 39

This quote relays two things: Firstly, that there is resistance against the government (for instance, Winston's diary that he bought off of the black market to write details of the regime he lives in)... but secondly, the government is wary of these actions. It seems that in every totalitarian government that even though the leader has absolute power and can ensure that their power will not waver, the paranoia of the government is ever higher. The government knows there will always be a cause and effect for every action... and the faster that the people realize the regime they live under, the faster the government will crumble. So by bringing in concepts of the "thoughtcrime" and "facecrime" to accuse anyone of (ridiculous) crimes, the longer the governments stranglehold will be.

- 3) "How can you have a slogan like 'freedom is slavery' when the concept of freedom has been abolished?"- pg.56

This quote shows that the information that is being taught to the people of Oceania (or even to us readers) could all be a lie. For instance, Winston describes at the beginning of the novel that definite details of history are obscured... and that it is nearly impossible to determine an exact date of an event. In the Ministry of Truth, the job of the workers is to rewrite the past to fit the truth of what the present events are. This is yet another way for the government to ensure its power: if there is no such thing as definite truth, and if it is the government's job to determine what is real, then there would literally be little to no chance of rebellion by the people... because all ideas of the government are (seemingly) true. This misrepresentation of the facts is key to the control of the absolute totalitarian government.