

children either, as they are probably even more devout members of the Party than she is – having been raised in it since birth. It is also revealed that about weekly, in the paper, children rat out their parents over any kind of state-contradicting conversation they might have (and that as a result of this, more often than not, parents are quite frightened by their own offspring). *see: p.25*

3. My first impression of Mr Parsons is that he is probably the reason why his children are so devoted. He seems 'blissfully' ignorant to the totalitarian control, and actually thrives in it, having "... [Stayed] on in the spies for a year beyond the statutory age." – (p.23) This is the first reason why I think he is a valued member in the Party, but another notable reason is his sheer stupidity, as the narrator describes. He performs his duties without question, and seems to never question the consequences either. He does not *think*; described as a "...paralyzing stupidity, a mass of imbecile enthusiasms – one of those completely unquestioning, devoted drudges on whom, more even than on the Thought Police, that the stability of the Party depended." – (p.22) This leads me to believe that the narrator may have a certain disliking to him.
4. The children's actions seem interrogational, unforgiving, and almost hypnotic (just like the propaganda). They essentially mentally abuse Winston, bombarding him with slander like 'Traitor!' and 'Thought criminal!' the whole while he is there without really saying a word to them. Though they have fake weapons, their behavior is borderline feral and vicious that it would not be surprising for them to actually physically hurt him, as they try to do with a catapult on his way out.
5. In this chapter, Winston seems to have accepted a fate in which the act of beginning to have written in his diary at all, is his death sentence. His writing seems to be less forgiving, as it was in the first chapter (which is about a film he had watched,) but more of medium to vent his frustrations and secret convictions he has about the Party. He is less filtered in his writing as he realizes that the act of writing alone is enough to have him put to death, which he even acknowledges in his own text by writing "Thoughtcrime does not entail death: thoughtcrime [sic] IS death." – (p.28) He is also much more careful with the activity, as he places a piece of dust on the book's edge, as a means of detecting any kind of intruder reading his work. He also washes his hands of pen ink thoroughly, thoughtfully foreseeing the consequences of his comrades' suspicious inquisitions.

1984

PART III, CHAPTER I

Focus

Winston's dreams are very vivid, lucid, and symbolic (like the moment in his dreams where he sees a woman rejecting culture and throwing off her clothes in disdain). I think they are important because they are reflecting an image of his waking mind, unsuppressed. He is being provoked by memories to him that are *true* in a world where all he is faced with is lies and manipulation of facts. This provides an escape from the Party and society, where he is safe to explore these truths about the past (such as the dream about his mother and sister). The narrator even remarks that these dreams are the kind in which "...are a continuation of one's intellectual life, and in which one becomes aware of facts and ideas which still seem new and valuable after one is awake." – (p.30)

The dreams are helping him forward his 'doublethinking' and abolishment of Big Brothers control over his mind – of what is true and not.

Follow-up

1. Winston has fond memories of his mother, one in particular where she appeared to be at the bottom of a well, looking up at him, self-sacrificially. Because of this anecdote, it's clear that he has a high respect for her, and possibly some form of guilt of being alive. In his dream, she's represented to him as a figure of beauty with "...magnificent fair hair." – (p.29) Because of this representation, and the fact that he sees "...no reproach in [her face] or in [her heart]..." – (p.29) it is clear that she was good mother to him, and that some part of him deep down remembers and acknowledges it.
2. In comparison, the Parsons children have a much different relationship with their mother. They are much less respecting of her (if at all,) and view her more as a comrade (who must not be trusted). They are in fact suspicious of her, terrorize her, and have separated any kind of familial attachment from her – they seem to lack empathy and an understanding of unconditional love. There may be a sense of weakness being communicated to the children by her, as well, as they seem to take after their father rather than her.
3. The way Winston's body reacts to waking up in the morning is very violent. He is afflicted with harsh coughing fits routinely, which tighten up his veins causing his ulcer to pain and itch. He is also not very good at morning exercises, and struggles to make his body flexible, noted near the end of the chapter when "with a violent lunge, [Winston] succeeded in touching his toes with knees unbent for the first time in several years." – (p.36) This perhaps could reflect that his current ailments are only a recent change in his life, and that his body is only now starting to fail – which is not surprising as he is a smoker and often drink gin.
4. Winston remembers the Golden Country flourishing with *life*. He remembers it as a vast, green rabbit-gnawed pasture, speckled with occasional molehills, outfitted with a clear dirt footpath, which a river filled with swimming dace could be seen. He visualizes it very beautifully, imagining the swaying elm trees' leaves to be like that of a woman's hair. He also recalls a pale woman with dark brown hair, rejecting her clothes with an air that "... Big Brother and the Party and the Thought Police could all be swept into nothingness by a single splendid movement of the arm." – (p.31) These images clearly are unlike Winston's waking life, and are much rather a contrasting opposite. His being is constantly surrounded by death, control, paranoia, confusion, and dark depressing colours with no signs of foliage or animal life. It is much more industrious and urbanized, compact, and **not free**.
5. Winston remembers that in the past, Oceania had once been allied with current countries it is now at war with, he remembers hiding in bomb shelters, he remembers seeing aeroplanes, and also remembers *life before the war(s)*. Remembering the past is very important to Winston because it provides a bit of control or satisfaction of *the truth of reality and its history* in which Big Brother ultimately tries to destroy with 'doublethink.' The simple idea that it was claimed "...that the Party had invented aeroplanes." – (p.35) is one that Winston describes as a 'definite lie' in the sense that is obviously false as "He remembered aeroplanes since his earliest childhood." – (p.35) He must hold on to some sense of the past, in order to acknowledge that his present reality is filled with lies and

Follow-up

15. I think that the prole woman *is* supposed to represent the hope in the proles that Winston has. Winston sort of goes through a realization of the historical and ancestral significance of the prole woman, who has had her body transformed from many child births and years of labour: "The solid, contourless body, like a block of granite, and the rasping red skin, bore the same relation to the body of a girl as the rose-hip to the rose." – (p.199). Winston describes the resiliency in the woman personified by her physical features. While he observes her it is clear that his mind was thinking of revolution, and the capabilities of the proles collectively as his source of hope.
16. A voice from behind the painting in Mr. Charrington's shop abruptly starts repeating what Winston and Julia say. Shortly after, a group of men in black suits surround the building and come upstairs. Mr. Charrington transforms appearance, and it is revealed that he was a member of the Thought Police the whole while. There is a polar contrast from the preceding passages, where Winston was reading about Goldstein and freedom, as well as his observations of the prole woman and her symbolism of freedom right before being caught.

1984

Part I, CHAPTER 3

Focus

While in his cell, Winston is visited by two comrades he has been associated with on the outside, O'Brien and Mr. Parsons. Parsons was arrested for thought crime under the story that his daughter had heard him chanting "Down with Big Brother" in his sleep. O'Brien simply tells Winston that "They got me a long time ago... You knew this, Winston... Don't deceive yourself. You did know it – you have always known it." – (p.127). While I don't really find it surprising that either of them got arrested, I would've expected Parsons to last longer. I find it suspect that his daughter allegedly heard him saying those things (he is an extremely devout Party member), it seems to me that she hallucinated or lied. O'Brien was involved in the resistance, and he was an inner Party member; his arrest wasn't that shocking.

Follow-up

17. Party prisoners are pretty much alienated from common criminals, even when they are in the same cell. The common criminals pay little interest to them, and are much more interested in smuggling illegal items, yelling at the telescreen, writing graffiti on the walls, and being rebellious in general. The Party members in contrast are quiet and terrified, usually remaining sitting in one place. The common criminals tend to have a bit of higher quality of prison life by bribing guards for things like cigarettes.
18. The conditions of the Winston's life in prison are very little different than they were on the outside, just worse. He is constantly surveilled now with **no** way of communicating undetected, as there is a telescreen for each wall in his windowless cell. So far Winston has not been fed, and neither was anyone else present with him. A malnourished ("skull-faced" – (p.215)) prisoner is brought to the cell at one point, and admits later, while they take him to Room 101: "You've been starving me for weeks." – (p.215). Usually, Winston or other