1984 - Annotation Guide

**Directions:** Use the following guide to help you annotate 1984. There will not be a study guide to accompany this novel, so you should have plenty of time for in-depth annotations. There will be a short, timed quiz after each assigned reading. You will be able to use your annotated text on the quiz. Random annotation grades will be taken throughout the quarter.

**Part One:**

**Chapter 1-2**

- *Examples of the motif of Urban Decay* (be prepared to comment on how 1984’s motif of Urban Decay acts as a warning against totalitarian governments)
- *Characters* (Winston, girl with the dark hair, O’Brien, Goldstein, Mrs. Parson & kids)
- *Divisions of The Party: Ministry of Truth, Ministry of Peace, Ministry of Plenty* (be prepared to discuss the irony of each of the divisions and how they act as a warning against totalitarian governments.
- *Examples of Newspeak* (there are several online Newspeak dictionaries if you need help)
  - Two Minute Hate
  - Big Brother
  - Examples of propaganda & its impact
  - Thoughtcrime

**Chapter 3-6**

- *Examples of the theme of mind control and psychological manipulation* (you should find LOTS of these throughout chapters 3-6)
- *Examples of Newspeak*
- *Characters* (Syme, people of the records dept., Mr. Parsons, Katharine)

**Chapter 7-8**

- *Symbols*: The Party’s history books, glass paperweight (coral), Poem about St. Clement’s Church, the place where there is no darkness, the Party’s slogan (find a passage that best represents each symbol and guess what the symbol represents.
- *Examples of Newspeak*
- *Life of the proles*
- *Characters* (Jones, Aaronson & Rutherford)
- *Lottery*

**Part Two:**

**Chapter 1-4**

- *Examples of the theme of The Individual vs. Collective Identity* (think about how the party tries to eradicate individual human thought)
- *Growing relationship between Winston and Julia*
- *Changes in Winston’s character*
- *Julia’s character*
- *The Party’s view on sex*
Chapter 5-6

— *The Party’s manipulation of history*
— *Hate Week* (purpose/goal)
— *Examples of propaganda*

Chapter 7-8

— *Winston’s childhood* (impact on his character)
— *Contrast in life of Inner Party and others*
— *The Brotherhood*

Chapter 9-10

— *Hate Week*
— *The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism*
  (These two chapters are LONG; they present the theories behind and practices of Ingsoc. Read and make note of significant ideas/practices that stand out to you. Be prepared to discuss these in depth in class)

**Part Three**

The last section of the book details the time Winston spent in the Ministry of Love enduring years of torture. Continue annotating the themes/symbols/big ideas that you find. You’re on your own in these last chapters!