

The 1st Runner Up of English Section

Junior Division

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Name of School	: Belilios Public School
Book Title	: 1984
Author	: George Orwell
Publisher	: Oberon Modern Plays

“Big Brother is watching you!” This statement is believed to be well-known right after the Second World War. “Newspeak”, “doublethink”.....these Orwellian terms help to establish this dystopian novel, Nineteen Eighty-Four. In 2005, the novel was chosen by TIME magazine as one of the 100 best English-language novels from 1923 to 2005 which shows its public reception during the 20th century. Having read this political novel, I have been reflecting seriously about our society. 1984 introduces a dehumanized society which was controlled by the Inner Party, it talks about an experience of the protagonist, Winston Smith. It is a prophetic novel as George Orwell wants readers to see clearly if a free country is under the totalitarian control. In this review, themes, presentation and reflection of 1984 will be discussed in depth.

This propaganda is created to show the danger of totalitarianism. He portrays a state in which government

controls and monitors every aspect of human life. The Inner Party uses various techniques to control its citizens, mainly separated into physical and psychological aspects. The television in every citizen's room works as an absolute propaganda for the government and enforcement of education to brainwash them so as to enslave their citizens. They do not allow citizens to switch off the telescreens, or else punishment will do. Furthermore, the poster of "Big Brother is watching you!" appears everywhere deliberately in Oceania which works as a warning to the citizens. "Two-minute hate" is a programme set by the Inner party to brainwash and control their citizens to hate their enemy which is not proved to exist. Moreover, never does the government allow their people to keep records for future use and they also re-write all history so all things become unreliable so their people believe what the party told them. This book reminds us the importance of keeping independence and humaneness.

Human interaction between family and love is also an important theme in this novel. The Party forces individuals to suppress their sexual desires, which regards sex as a production of new Party members. Love between couples is forbidden and they suggest people to save all energy for the government. Bodies movements are controlled too, the party watches any kinds of disloyalty so the sense of family is not strong. The government establishes an organization called the Junior Spies which brainwashes and encourages children to spy on their parents and report any instance of disloyalty to the Party. Winston is an example of betraying the party. He was being tortured by the members after he and Julia's love had been discovered. It comes to a conclusion that nothing is powerful than physical pain. Julia and Winston at last were set free but could not love each other. It points out a theme that both love

and family are important to humans.

Numerous types of languages are used by Orwell to construct the atmosphere of the novel. He describes the setting and the characters very well which circumscribe a clear picture of the story whereas the dialogues of the characters are rather limited which in turn shows the little knowledge they have. The party does this to people so as to forbid rebellions and disloyalty. Also, the tedious routine manipulates the dull mode of the novel. He abnormally determines not to use colorful and beautiful phrases to describe the situation because there is only dark and white there, without colours. The London in the book is described depressingly, people do not have enough food to eat, clothes and shoes to wear, except the giant elegant government building stands among the cities which shows the unbalanced property in society.

Orwell demonstrates the terrifying facts under the totalitarianism through the eyes of the protagonist created, Winston Smith, which shows the harsh reality of being entirely controlled by the Party. Winston is a curious and brave man. He tries to discover the secrets of the Party and how they monitor people. Though he commits numerous crimes in the novel, he keeps writing diary “DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER” and continues his illegal love affair with Julia. Winston’s reflection helps Orwell to develop the themes in the novel, for example, the importance of knowing the past. He hates the Party passionately. He believes that he will be caught whatever he did, he continues his rebellion. Despite his failure in the end, his braveness to overflow and to keep self-independence is valuable.

After finished reading this novel, I have discovered that it is very likely to be similar to our future situation in Hong Kong or China. China's political party also tries to monitor its citizens through blocking the Media and information which really scares me. Nowadays, the China Republic started to expand its censorship to Hong Kong and she tries to control our election so as to manipulate Hong Kongers indirectly. Orwell points out the importance of the effects of totalitarianism and illustrates a clear society under the strict political party control. Should the government continue their stance on the chief executive election? Hong Kong has the possibility to become the second Oceania, I think. This reminds us of the importance of independence and freedom of every aspect of life. The Party of Oceania is completely dehumanizing their people and they do not regard their people as citizens, but with value lower value than dogs. I really appreciate the action and behavior of Winston owing to his passion to go for his love and his hope to overflow the government. Although he mistrusts O'Brien for keeping his secret, this is not his mistake, the society taught him this.

George Orwell illustrates the internal struggle of Oceania through the protagonist psychology which definitely can draw readers' attention to the major theme, totalitarianism. He wrote this dystopian novel in 1940s. It fascinates many people after the Second World War since London is a free city, people can't imagine what it will be under the censorship and unreasonable party's control. I highly recommend this novel to teenagers so that more teens can care more about our society.