

Name _____

Date _____

Author's Craft: Perspectives

Perspective refers to the point of view from which a story is told. In *1984*, George Orwell uses a dystopian perspective to critique totalitarianism and the manipulation of truth. Readers experience the oppressive world of Big Brother through Winston's eyes, highlighting the dangers of authoritarian control over thought and freedom.

Read the excerpt from *1984* and answer the questions about how perspective shapes the narrative.

Excerpt:

"War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength. These were the Party slogans, inscribed in enormous letters on the white pyramid of the Ministry of Truth. The slogans were repeated so often that they became unquestionable truths. Winston knew, deep down, that these slogans were absurd contradictions, yet he also knew that questioning them was unthinkable. He stared at the slogans, feeling a strange emptiness—a hollow acceptance of the Party's version of reality."

Meet the Author:

George Orwell (1903–1950) was a British novelist and journalist known for his works that explore political and social issues. His experiences during World War II and his observations of authoritarian regimes influenced his writing, particularly in *1984* and *Animal Farm*.

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1. How does Orwell's use of perspective in the excerpt highlight the manipulation of truth in 1984?

2. What is the effect of presenting contradictory statements as absolute truths?

3. How do Orwell's personal experiences and political views shape the dystopian perspective in 1984?

Write a short paragraph using perspective to present a unique or critical view of an issue in your writing.

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Author's Craft: Perspectives – Answer Key

1. How does Orwell's use of perspective in the excerpt highlight the manipulation of truth in 1984?

Through Winston's perspective, Orwell shows how the Party manipulates truth with slogans like "War is peace" to control thought and suppress dissent.

2. What is the effect of presenting contradictory statements as absolute truths?

Presenting contradictions as truths conditions citizens to accept illogical ideas, illustrating the dangers of propaganda and psychological manipulation.

3. How do Orwell's personal experiences and political views shape the dystopian perspective in 1984?

Orwell's experiences during World War II and witnessing authoritarian regimes shaped his critique of propaganda, censorship, and the loss of individual freedom.

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