

Worksheet 4 – The Form of 1984: Literary Influences

Review: Lecture 3: The Form of 1984: Genre, Structure and Style

In the novel, where does Winston go to in order to speak to the proles?

Recall: Lecture 4: The Form of 1984: Genre, Structure and Style

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. What aspect of the novel does Dr Waddell argue is very 'Swiftian'?
 - a) The obsession with time
 - b) The obsession with faces
 - c) The obsession with dreams
 - d) The obsession with morality
2. Which book by H. G. Wells has the most links with *1984*?
 - a) War of the Worlds
 - b) The Time Machine
 - c) A Modern Utopia
 - d) The Invisible Man

Bonus question: what aspect of the above novel is also clearly seen in *1984*?

3. Like modernism, what does *1984* have a particular interest in?
 - a) The experience of being
 - b) The perils of war
 - c) The manipulation of the media
 - d) The importance of memory
4. Which of these books does Dr Waddell NOT compare with *1984*?
 - a) The Iron Heel – Jack London
 - b) The Trial – Franz Kafka
 - c) Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
 - d) Swastika Night – Katharine Burdekin

Analysis

5. Read this article comparing *1984* and the novel *We* by Yevgeny Zamyatin and make a list of key similarities and differences between the two:
<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/64492/we-novel-inspired-george-orwells-1984>

Evaluation

6. Read, highlight and annotate this extract from Chapter 1 of *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, looking for potential comparisons with *1984*. Once you have done so, write 2 PEE / PEA paragraphs answering the following question:

In this extract, how does Huxley use language and structure techniques to depict a frightening dystopia?

A squat grey building of only thirty-four storeys. Over the main entrance the words, Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre, and, in a shield, the World State's motto, Community, Identity, Stability.

The enormous room on the ground floor faced towards the north. Cold for all the summer beyond the panes, for all the tropical heat of the room itself, a harsh thin light glared through the windows, hungrily seeking some draped lay figure, some pallid shape of academic goose-flesh, but finding only the glass and nickel and bleakly shining porcelain of a laboratory. Wintriness responded to wintriness. The overalls of the workers were white, their hands gloved with a pale corpse-coloured rubber. The light was frozen, dead, a ghost. Only from the yellow barrels of the microscopes did it borrow a certain rich and living substance, lying along the polished tubes like butter, streak after luscious streak in long recession down the work tables.

'And this,' said the Director opening the door, 'is the Fertilizing Room.'

Bent over their instruments, three hundred Fertilizers were plunged, as the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning entered the room, in the scarcely breathing silence, the absentminded, soliloquizing hum or whistle, of absorbed concentration. A troop of newly arrived students, very young, pink and callow, followed nervously, rather abjectly, at the Director's heels. Each of them carried a note-book, in which, whenever the great man spoke, he desperately scribbled. Straight from the horse's mouth. It was a rare privilege. The DHC for Central London always made a point of personally conducting his new students round the various departments.

Glossary

- **Satire** – The use of humour, irony and exaggeration to ridicule and criticise something or someone.
e.g. Cartoons are one of the most popular forms of satire.
- **Travelogue** – A book or film about the experiences of a traveller.
e.g. Thomas More's Utopia is a famous travelogue.
- **Utopia** – An imagined place or state in which everything is perfect and happy.
e.g. People once believed that socialism would create a new utopia.