

Name _____

The Journey of Winston Smith: A Summary of '1984'

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. At the beginning of the novel, Winston starts writing in a hidden diary, documenting his dissent against the Party and his rebellious thoughts. This act makes him a potential target of the Thought Police because it goes against the Party's strict control over individual thought and expression. This act foreshadows his journey by showing his initial defiance and desire to preserve his own thoughts and memories in a world where such actions are forbidden.
2. The arrest and torture of Winston and Julia in the middle of the novel profoundly impact their relationship. They are forced to betray each other, and their love turns into mutual resentment and despair. Their experiences highlight the Party's success in destroying their individuality and love. This transformation demonstrates the Party's ability to manipulate and control individuals, ultimately leading to their emotional and psychological breakdown.
3. Winston's betrayal of Julia in the middle of the book represents his complete transformation and submission to the Party's control. It signifies his willingness to sacrifice his personal relationships and values for the sake of the Party's ideology. This act reveals the power of manipulation and oppression in the world of Oceania, where the Party's influence can break even the strongest wills.
4. At the end of the novel, Winston's journey reflects the ultimate triumph of the Party's control and manipulation. He fully embraces the Party's ideology, loving Big Brother, and erasing his former rebellious spirit. This transformation showcases the Party's power to crush dissent and reshape individuals. It also conveys a bleak message about the dangers of totalitarianism and the erosion of personal freedom and truth in a society ruled by an oppressive regime.

