



ST MICHAEL'S  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Welcome  
to English Literature  
A Level*



ACHIEVING IN FAITH, WITH LOVE, AS A COMMUNITY

## A-level English Literature Summer Transition Homework

The key themes that are covered throughout the English Literature A-level specification that we study at St Michael's Catholic School are: Aspects of Tragedy and Social and Political Protest. Therefore, the texts studied throughout the course will heavily encompass one of those two themes. In order to succeed in the course, you need to read widely. To prepare you for the rigors of the course we would like for you to complete the following independent study of the text '1984' by George Orwell.

**Synopsis of the text:** '1984' by George Orwell is a dystopian novel that tells the story of Winston Smith, who attempts to fight back against a totalitarian Party that rules Oceania and his entire life. The novel warns of the dangers of a totalitarian government that rules through fear, surveillance, propaganda, and brainwashing. It is set in a dystopian April 1984, nearly 40 years after the end of the second world war, and a few years after the so-called Atomic Wars.

**Task 1:** Read the text '1984' by George Orwell

**Task 2:** Devise a plot line indicating what has happened throughout the text and identify four key quotes per chapter (a chapter consists of Book 1, Chapter 1 and so on a so forth)

**Task 3:** Complete the character analysis grid

**Task 4:** Complete the theme analysis grid

**Task 5:** Explore the following question: *Orwell wrote 1984 as a warning. Explain what he was warning people about.*

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**Task 3:**

**Character Analysis:**

<u>Character</u>	<u>What do they represent in the text?</u>	<u>Evidence to support your understanding of what they represent</u>	<u>Why do you think Orwell has included that character? What is their purpose?</u>
Winston Smith			
Julia			

O'Brien			
Big Brother			

#### Task 4:

#### Theme Analysis:

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Where do you see that theme within the text?</u>	<u>Why does Orwell include that theme within the text?</u>	<u>Evidence to support that interpretations</u>
Totalitarianism (the dangers of...)			
Psychological and Physical Manipulation			
Loyalty			





