

George Orwell

By Lucas and Matt



Quick Life Summary

- born Eric Arthur Blair, June 25, 1903, in Bengal, India.
- Pursued writing from a young age, but not occupationally until after the Spanish Civil War
- Struggled with the ideas of disparity between classes.
- Joined socialist newspaper for editing.
- He died on January 21, 1950, in a London hospital due to tuberculosis.



Works

NOVELS

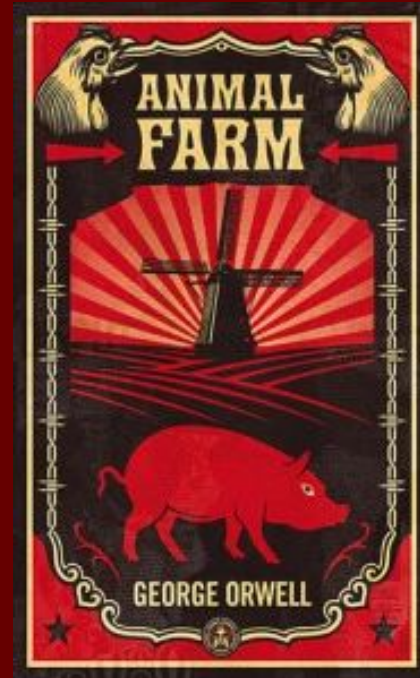
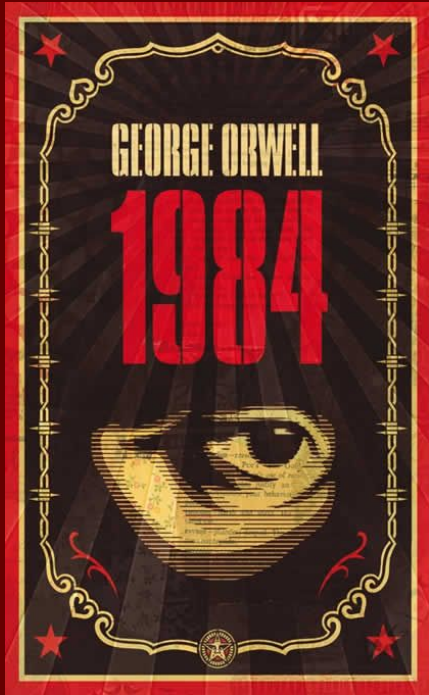
1934 - Burmese Days
1935 - A Clergyman's Daughter
1936 - Keep the Aspidistra Flying
1939 - Coming Up for Air
1945 - Animal Farm
1949 - Nineteen Eighty-Four
1933 - Down and Out in Paris and London
1937 - The Road to Wigan Pier
1938 - Homage to Catalonia
1947 - The English People

POEMS

"Awake! Young Men of England" (1914)
"Ballade" (1929)
"A Dressed Man and a Naked Man" (1933)
"A Happy Vicar I Might Have Been" (1935)
"Ironic Poem About Prostitution" (written prior to 1936)
"Kitchener" (1916)
"The Lesser Evil" (1924)
"A Little Poem" (1935)
"On a Ruined Farm Near the His Master's Voice
Gramophone Factory" (1934)
"Our Minds Are Married, but We Are Too Young" (1918)
"The Pagan" (1918)
"The Wounded Cricketer" (1920)
"Poem from Burma" (1922–1927)
"Romance" (1925)
"Sometimes in the Middle Autumn Days" (1933)
"Suggested by a Toothpaste Advertisement" (1918–1919)
"Summer-like for an Instant" (1933)
"As One Non-Combatant to Another" (1943)



Well Known Writing



Stylistic Choices

“Something crashed on to the bed behind Winston’s back. The head of a ladder had been thrust through the window and had burst in the frame. Someone was climbing through the window. There was a stampede of boots up the stairs. The room was full of solid men in black uniforms, with iron-shod boots on their feet and truncheons in their hands. Winston was not trembling any longer. Even his eyes he barely moved. One thing alone mattered; to keep still, to keep still and not give them an excuse to hit you! A man with a smooth prize-fighter’s jowl in which the mouth was only a slit paused opposite him balancing his truncheon meditatively between thumb and forefinger. Winston met his eyes. The feeling of nakedness, with one’s hands behind one’s head and one’s face and body all exposed, was almost unbearable.” - George Orwell, 1984

“How easy it was, thought Winston, if you did not look about you, to believe the physical type set up by the Party as an ideal - tall muscular youths and deep-bosomed maidens, blond-haired, vital, sunburnt, carefree - existed and even predominated.” - 1984



Themes

- Totalitarianism
- Disparity vs. Equality
- Love & Sexuality
- Independence vs. Loyalty
- Poverty vs. Wealth
- Manipulation
- Language
- Appearance vs. Reality



Genres

- Political Fiction
- Poetry
- Fiction
- Dystopian Novel
- Roman à clef

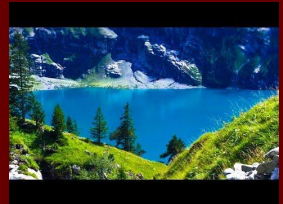
Emulation

“A little Rumpelstiltskin figure, contorted with hatred, he gripped the neck of the microphone with one hand while the other, enormous at the end of a bony arm, clawed the air menacingly above his head. His voice, made metallic by the amplifiers, boomed forth an endless catalogue of atrocities, massacres, deportations, lootings, rapings, torture of prisoners, bombing of civilians, lying propaganda, unjust aggressions, broken treaties. It was almost impossible to listen to him without being first convinced and then maddened. At every few moments the fury of the crowd boiled over and the voice of the speaker was drowned by a wild beast-like roaring that rose uncontrollably from thousands of throats.” *Orwell, 1984*



“Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals. He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving, and the rest he keeps for himself.”

-Orwell, Animal Farm



George Orwell's 6 Pieces of Advice

- Never use a metaphor, simile or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.
- Never use a long word where a short one will do.
- If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.
- Never use the passive where you can use the active.
- Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
- Break any of these rules sooner than say anything barbarous.



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