Guiding Questions for Part I in *1984* by George Orwell. Assessment on Part I on

Monday, March 30 (40%)

1. Describe Victory Mansions. Why is the name ironic?

2. Describe Winston Smith.

3. What kinds of invasion of privacy exist in Oceania?

4. What are the three slogans of the party? What’s the irony?

5. What are the four ministries and their purposes? What’s the irony?

6. Why was it such a terrible thing for Winston to write in a diary? What does the account in his diary tell you about this society?

7. What hope does Winston have about O’Brien?

8. Who is Emmanuel Goldstein? What purpose does he serve the government? How did Winston sometimes feel toward Goldstein? In what other ways was Winston’s hate channeled?

9. What “thoughtcrime” did Winston commit? What happens to those arrested by the Thought Police?

10. What amusements do the Parsons children enjoy?

11. What had Winston dreamed seven years ago? What do you think this could mean?

12. Why does Winston consider himself a dead man?

13. What is Newspeak? Newspeak is the official language of Oceania, scheduled for official adoption around 2050, and designed to make the ideological premises of Ingsoc (Newspeak for English Socialism, the Party's official political alignment) the only expressible doctrine. In Oceania 1984, there was not as yet anyone who used Newspeak as his sole means of communication, either in speech or writing but the “creators” of language are working on it.

14. Describe Winston’s dream about his mother. What do Winston’s memories of his mother symbolize?

15. Why doesn’t tragedy exist in Winston’s world?

16. What is Winston’s primary task at work? Does he like his job?

17. Discuss Syme’s words, “Orthodoxy is unconsciousness.”

18. How does proletarian literature differ from that produced for Party members?

19. Who is Comrade Ogilvy, and what does he symbolize?

20. Why does Winston think Syme will be vaporized?

21. Who is Katharine? What is the only purpose of sexual relations in the Party’s estimation?

22. With whom does Winston believe hope for the future lies? Why?

23. What small scrap of truth about the past had Winston once held in his hands?

24. What does Winston mean by writing, “Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows”?

25. Who do you think dropped the rocket bomb?

26. How is the lottery in *1984* similar to lotteries today?

27. What item does Winston discover at the antique shop? Why does it appeal to him?

28. What is so appealing about the room above the shop?

29. Why is Winston fascinated with the proprietor’s rhyme about the church bells?

Also, think about irony, symbolism and themes so far in the novel. Some themes to consider are: psychological manipulation, oppression, urban decay, mind decay, preserving individualism in impossible circumstances, propaganda and others. You might be asked to think of your own.

Be resourceful in finishing Part I. Listen to it on your phone or computer if reading is difficult. Review the questions.