English prep 1984

Ideas/themes

PLAN:

*The loss of identity and independence in a totalitarian society (+ the dangers)*

Intro:

* George Orwell depicts a totalitarian society in which the government has full control over everything that is done and has full surveillance on anyone within it

Para 1: Psychological Manipulation

* Telescreens are constantly on and warbling garbage from the Party at people, even when they’re asleep – seeding their ideals into your head as you sleep
  + “He thought of the telescreen with its never-sleeping ear. They could spy upon you night and day”
    - personification
  + “Day and night the telescreens bruised your ears with statistics proving that people today had more food, more clothes, better houses, better recreations—that they lived longer, worked shorter hours, were bigger, healthier, stronger, happier, more intelligent, better educated, than the people of fifty years ago.”
    - Metaphor
* Constant reminder that ‘big brother is watching you’ alongside the slogans of the Party being plastered around everywhere
* Children are manipulated into betraying their parents as they are inducted into the Junior Spies league
* Constant repetition of what they want you to believe
  + “2 + 2 = 5”

Para 2: Control over information both past and present

* “Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped.”
* “Who controls the past," ran the Party slogan, "controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.”
  + An endless loop of them having control over everything
* Memories are then unreliable and so people believe what the Party is telling them as they cannot remember for themselves
  + “And so it was with every class of recorded fact, great or small. Everything faded away into a shadow-world in which, finally, even the date of the year had become uncertain.”
* By changing what was ‘done’ in the past they can do whatever they want in the present and therefore it is justified

Para 3: Physical Control + Monitoring

* The constant watch for even the smallest twitch of the face that could show disloyalty to the Party’
* Telescreens always on and monitoring them (even in the toilet)
* The sudden disappearance of people who defied the Party
  + "People simply disappeared, always during the night. Your name was removed from the registers, every record of everything you had ever done was wiped out, your one-time existence was denied and then forgotten. You were abolished, annihilated: vaporized was the usual word."
* People are put into exhaustion by the Physical Jerks that leave them tired and more easy to manipulate

Conc:

* People become sheep who blindly follow the Party who is displaying fake truths to them but they don’t know any better