**George Orwell**

* His real name is Eric Arthur Blair (Orwell is the name of a river in East Anglia)
* He was born in India, the son of an English civil servant
* He studied in England and went to the Eton College (he saw the differences between him and the richest guys)
* After school he returned in India and joined the Indian Imperial Police (1922-1927)
* He left the police because the felt that he was doing *“the dirty work for empire”*
  + In *A Hanging*, an essay of Orwell, he wrote about the execution of a man
* He wanted to become a writer, so he went to Paris trying to earn money by teaching while he made his first attempts. After that he also went to London as a tramp
  + In one of his books, *Down and Out in Paris and London*, he spoke about that experience as a poor person
* Novels
  + His first novel is *Burmese Days*, and it’s based on his years in Burma
  + After that he published *A Clergyman’s Daughter*, the first novel based on English life
  + Another novel is *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*
* His first book, *The Road to Wigan Pier*, describes the tragic impact of the economic depression on an industrial town called Wigan
  + In this book we can clearly see his socialist belief, attacking the left-intellectuals because they didn’t do nothing in real facts
* Orwell has been socialist for some years, and he made some choices that confirm that
  + During the Spanish Civil War he fought with the Republican Army, getting wounded in the battle
    - He wrote a book about this story, called *Homage to Catalonia*, in which he tried to warn the anti-Fascist forces about the crimes
    - When british intellectuals joined the Communist condemnation, Orwell become more isolated from the rest of the left opinions
  + Coming up for Air is a novel published before the WWII in which he predicted the WWII
    - He didn’t fight because of his health, but he broadcasted for a while to India for the BBC
    - During the WWII he wrote a lot of articles and reviews, especially to a weekly journal named *Tribune*
      * He wrote an article that speaks about socialism, patriotism and an English revolution
  + After the war, he wrote *Animal Farm*, that is the result of the feeling of betrayal after the Spanish civil war
    - He thought that during the Spanish civil war the Republic had been commandeered and betrayed by a Stalinist regime
* When Orwell’s wife died, he was sick and had an adopted child. The success of Animal Farm made him earning some money, so he left journalism and went to live in a farm
  + In this farm completed *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, in which he warned about a Communist society (it’s not against socialist). It has banned from US (bothered)
* He died 7 months later
* Orwell is considered an English conservative eccentric
  + He wanted to find the way to change London but also loved state
* He wrote some essays (1946-7)
  + *Politics and the English Language* is an essay in which Orwell speaks about

**This was London**

* London, the capital of Oceania and the most populous city
* Winston works in the ministry of truth
  + The ministry of truth was pyramidal with the slogan *war is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength*
* Everywhere there are posters with the big brother (big brother is watching you)
* In every house there is a telescreen that allows the police to spy you everytime they want (but people don’t know when they do it)
  + There are helicopters to spy people
* Winston tried to remember if one time London was different, but he didn’t remember

**How can you control memory**

* Winston is being torturing from O’Brien with a machine that stretch the body
  + He felt like his backbone was going to break
  + Winston’s voice made him looking like a doctor or a teacher
* O’Brien said that Winston’s memory is not working well, because he doesn’t remember real events and persuade himself with non-real events
  + Winston remembered that Oceania was not at war with Eastasia some days ago
  + O’Brien destroyed a photo and told Winston that it never existed
* O’Brien asked Winston what he thought about the memory
  + The past is saved in records and in minds, so if the party controls all of these they control the past. Winston didn’t let the party control his mind

**Banned books**

* Sherlock Holmes (URSS)
* Harry Potter (Arabic Emirates)