

Part 2

Syme bit off another fragment of the dark-coloured bread, chewed it briefly, and went on:

'Don't you see that the whole aim of *Newspeak* is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall
5 make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it. Every concept that can ever be needed, will be expressed by exactly one word, with its meaning rigidly defined and all its subsidiary meanings rubbed out and forgotten. Already,
10 in the Eleventh Edition, we're not far from that point. But the process will still be continuing long after you and I are dead. Every year fewer and fewer words, and the range of consciousness always a little smaller. Even now, of course, there's no reason or excuse
15 for committing thoughtcrime. It's merely a question of self-discipline, reality-control. But in the end there won't be any need even for that. The Revolution will be complete when the language is perfect. *Newspeak* is Ingsoc and Ingsoc is *Newspeak*,' he added with
20 a sort of mystical satisfaction. 'Has it ever occurred to you, Winston, that by the year 2050, at the very latest, not a single human being will be alive who could understand such a conversation as we are having now?' 'Except –' began Winston doubtfully, and he stopped.
25 It had been on the tip of his tongue to say 'Except the

proles,' but he checked himself, not feeling fully certain that this remark was not in some way unorthodox. Syme, however, had divined what he was about to say.

'The proles are not human beings,' he said carelessly. 'By
30 2050 – earlier, probably – all real knowledge of Oldspeak will have disappeared. The whole literature of the past will have been destroyed. Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Byron – they'll exist only in *Newspeak* versions, not merely changed into something different, but actually changed
35 into something contradictory of what they used to be. Even the literature of the Party will change. Even the slogans will change. How could you have a slogan like "freedom is slavery" when the concept of freedom has been abolished? The whole climate of thought will be different. In fact there
40 will be no thought, as we understand it now. Orthodoxy means not thinking – not needing to think. Orthodoxy is unconsciousness.'

One of these days, thought Winston with sudden deep conviction, Syme will be vaporized. He is too intelligent.
45 He sees too clearly and speaks too plainly. The Party does not like such people. One day he will disappear. It is written in his face.

Nineteen Eighty-Four,
George Orwell, 1949



2 "Fahrenheit 451" ...

- A.** Look at the still and say what is happening in this scene.
B. How does this picture echo the extract from *Nineteen Eighty-Four*?
C. Go further. Are censorship and book banning dangerous for democracy?

HELP!

- ban
- brainwashing
- censorship
- destroy
- flamethrower
- illiteracy
- mind control
- obedience
- repression



Still from the film *Fahrenheit 451* (adapted from Ray Bradbury's novel), 2018

YOUR TURN! 3 Which book to save?

Groupwork. You are a group of librarians about to get a visit from the Bookburners.

You can only save one book. Make your choice and justify it.