

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

1984 by George Orwell

English Language Arts, 10th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Orwell's 1984 is a story of a future world that has been converted to strict totalitarianism. In this world, Big Brother watches over all. Winston Smith, a party member, continues to indulge in rebellious thoughts that go far outside the "acceptable norm." The result is Winston deals with his own internal conflict of what is right and wrong as he is "convinced" by the party to conform to their ideals.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Environment and Identity**
 - Essential Question: "How do adversity and environment influence an individual's behavior and identity?"
- **Unit 2: Impacting Others**
 - Essential Question: "How does an individual shape his or her environment? How does one influence others?"
- **Unit 4: Conscientious Objections**
 - Essential Question: "To what extent do multiple viewpoints influence our perception of societal issues? To what extent do those issues become our responsibility?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening. RL.10.10
- Read and comprehend high quality dramas, prose, and poetry of appropriate quantitative and qualitative complexity for grade 10. RL.10.13
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RL.10.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development. RL.10.2
- Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. RL.10.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RL.10.4
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. RL.10.5

- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature. RL.10.6
- Analyze and evaluate the representation of a subject or a key scene in multiple media-- including media, artistic, and other visual formats. RL.10.7
- Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work. RL.10.9
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.10.12