

# Dialectical Journals for 1984

*\*\*Choose to complete this either **entirely** electronically or **entirely** in a notebook.*

**Directions:** A dialectical journal is made up of columns in which you display your engagement and thinking while reading. “Dialectical” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.”

As you read, **identify** and **explain** functions of literary devices Orwell uses, such as *theme, irony, imagery, diction (think of connotation and denotation), tone, paradox, allusion, symbolism, structure, style, characterization, figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification, etc.) and dystopian traits*. You should have a **minimum** of **15** entries per volume (3 chapters– totaling **45 entries minimum** for the entire novel). Remember to cite the page numbers and write out the entire quote or passage that you are analyzing.

**Your journal should be set up as follows:**

Lit. Term	Evidence (yes, you must write the <b>whole quote</b> AND include the page #)	Explanation of function HOW does Orwell use this literary device to convey WHAT message? What does close reading further reveal?
<b>irony</b>	“...the Ministry of Peace, which concerned itself with war...” (4)	Here Orwell is using irony (the opposite of what one would expect) to bring attention to the corruption of assumptions in this society. Nothing is as it seems, and the government relies on that confusion and fear of the unknown. It is also a paradox, since the two ideas at first seem mutually exclusive, and yet technically a Ministry of Peace could concern itself with war (its seeming opposite) if it uses war or the threat of war to maintain peace. This small use of paradox and irony through choice diction keys the reader in to just how topsy-turvy, and therefore scary, this world is.

## **CHOOSING PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT:**

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example:

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting