

ENGLISH ADVANCED

1984, a novel by George Orwell and The Island, a film directed by Michael Bay are two cautionary tales that share the similar themes of power, control of history and the dehumanisation of the individual. These themes reflect the context in which they are composed and the values that were relevant at that time.

A major theme in 1984 and The Island is the struggle for power. In 1984, O'Brien says to Winston, "We are interested solely in power. Not wealth or luxury or long life or happiness: only power, pure power." This characterization of O'Brien, and ultimately the Party, reveals that absolute power is an important motive behind what the Party do. Similarly, in The Island, Merrick justifies his killing of the clones by saying, "I give life...How many people can say that, Mr. Laurent?" Laurent replies, "I guess it's just you and God. But that's the answer you're looking for, isn't it?" Laurent's reference to God emphasizes this Merrick's aspiration to have totalitarian power, similar to the power that the Party aspires to.

The Party wants totalitarian power. O'Brien says, "We control life...at all its levels...we create human nature. Men are infinitely malleable." He uses term 'malleable' as a metaphor for human nature. The Party believes that they can control the population as human nature is easy to manipulate.

Similarly in The Island, Merrick says "The Agnates...they're simple tools, instruments. They have no souls. The possibilities are endless here." Merrick has the motive to exert power over the clones because he believes that they are simply a means to achieve profit.

In 1984, the power portrayed by Orwell is psychological. The Party bombards the population with simple slogans like "Big Brother is Watching You," thus causing the population to believe that they are constantly being watched, when in reality they may not. The power of this slogan on the population is reflected thought Orwell's characterization of Winston- "It was terribly dangerous to let your thoughts wander when you were in any public place or within the range of a telescreen. The smallest thing could give you away." This psychological approach to power reflects the British government's policy of propaganda during WWII. The Ministry of Truth in 1984 represents the Ministry of Information during WWII. The Party achieves power over the population's thoughts, as there are telescreens everywhere, meaning that they can never think rebellious thoughts against the Party.

In the same way, Merrick uses propaganda to achieve power over the population of clones in the Island. He says, "Everything we expose them to, their programs, their cartoons, books, the games they play are designed to manage aggression and reinforce simple social skills." By controlling what they are exposed to, Merrick is able to have power over their actions and thoughts. An example of propaganda is the slogan "Remember, be polite, pleasant and peaceful. A healthy person is a happy person." Like in 1984, the slogan influences the thoughts of the population. This approach to power also reflects the post modern role that mass media has as a source, even authority, on current issues, influencing people's beliefs, values and opinions.

1984 and the Island both emphasize the importance of history. In 1984, the Party slogan is "who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past." This simple example of propaganda reveals one of the Party's approaches to gaining and maintaining power-through the control of history. "Day by day, and almost minute by minute, the past was brought up to date."

In the Island, Merrick also exerts power through the control of history. He says, "We control them with the memory of a shared event. A global contamination. It keeps them fearful of going outside." He implies that he is able to control the clones and thus achieve power by using history for his own objectives.

In 1984, those that hold the power use different tactics to control history. In 1984, the Party rewrites history, demonstrated through Winston's thoughts of, "The past... had not merely been altered, it had been actually destroyed. For how could you establish the most obvious fact when there existed no record outside your own knowing?" This rhetorical question highlights the helplessness the population feels, as they cannot be certain of the truth since the Party is in control of history. Thus, since they are not sure of the truth, the Party can feed them lies- which then become truth. As Winston says, "And if all others accepted the lie which the Party imposed- if all records told the same tale- then the lie passed into history and became truth."

However, although the Island emphasises the attainment of power through the control of history, Bay portrays this differently from 1984. It is not necessary for Merrick to destroy the past, as he is the one who fabricated their past, and their whole existence. Instead, he merely controls history through what they remember- their memories. "They are memories. But they're not his. They belong to his sponsor." Merrick is surprised when Lincoln starts experiencing memories that are not his own, as until up to now, Merrick had believed that he had complete control over their memories. Mack tells Lincoln and Jordan that all their memories of the past are due to "memory imprints. I've seen 'em...they're all pretty much the same."

Finally, in 1984 and the Island, those that hold the power use it to dehumanise the individual. In 1984, the Party attempts to remove all human characteristics that are deemed good, substituting them with the Party's own manipulative values. O'Brien tells Winston, "Never again will you be capable of love, or friendship, or joy of living, or laughter, or curiosity, or courage or integrity. You will be hollow. We shall squeeze you empty and then we shall fill you with ourselves." The Party aims to remove all morals and values, so that they can replace them with the Party's own values and morals.

In the Island, Merrick also attempts to dehumanise the individual, but on a different level to 1984. Merrick does not dehumanise the individuals so that he can fill them with his morals and values. Rather, Merrick dehumanises the individuals because to him, they are products, purely a means to earn a profit. He tells potential buyers, "It's a product...in every way that matters. Not human."

However, it is ironic when Merrick explains that "after several years of trial and error, we discovered that without consciousness, without human experience, emotion, without life, the organs failed." In this statement he seems to understand that in order for the 'products' to work, they must essentially become human.

This perception of the clones as mere products seems to affect the workers of the corporation, perhaps diminishing the impact of having to ultimately kill them. Mack tells Lincoln and Jordan, "You're like the replacement engines on their Bentley." By comparing them to a non-living, inanimate object, he is insinuating that they have no value as human beings, that they are merely products that are easily replaceable. He tells them, "You're not real...you're copies of people out here in the real world." This statement highlights the ethical and moral issues in cloning – are they really human? Or are they just products, serving the greater good?

The Island reflects a world where science and technology is rapidly growing. Bay explores the moral and ethical issues of this through Merrick's attempts to dehumanise the clones. Laurent says to Merrick, "At some point you realize war is a business. So when did killing become a business for you?" the question summarising the moral and ethical issues associated with cloning.

In conclusion, 1984 and The Island are two futuristic texts centring on the themes of power, control of history and the dehumanisation of the individual. However, the different ways in which they approach this reflects the context in which they were composed, affecting the meaning and values of each text.

NOTES – QUOTES

Fear	
<p>Winston: “it was terribly dangerous to let your thoughts wander when you were in any public place or within range of a telescreen. The smallest thing could give you away...anything that carried with it the suggestion of abnormality, of having something to hide.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E: conveys the fear that Winston felt, of surveillance 	<p>Merrick: “We control them with the memory of a shared event. A global contamination. It keeps them fearful of going outside.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E: through characterisation of Merrick, who is responsible for this, reveals their use of fear tactics to control
<p>Winston: “a hideous fear and vindictiveness, a desire to kill, to torture, to smash in faces with a sledgehammer, seemed to flow through the whole group of people like an electric current, turning one even against one’s will into a grimacing, screaming lunatic.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: Two Minute Hate • E: 	<p>Lincoln: “There are people who are following us. They're trying to kill us.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: simple concept • E: through this technique, the audience is exposed to the simple reality of their fear
<p>Julia: “At the time when it happens you do mean it. You think there’s no other way of saving yourself and you’re quite ready to save yourself that way...All you care about is yourself”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E- characterisation • T- Julia’s comment provides insight into the fear of the whole population 	<p>Mack: “If anybody sees us together, both of us are gonna be dead...”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- perspective • E- through this unique perspective, we can see the extent of the fear- not just in their clones and their fear of the contamination, but even the workers are scared of the Institute.
Language & Thought	
<p>Syme: "...the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought...in the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- portraying him as unquestioning • E- audience realises his gullibility, takes in Winston’s view 	<p>Merrick: “Everything we expose them to, their programs, their cartoons, books, the games they play, are designed to manage aggression and reinforce simple social skills.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: Again, Merrick’s perspective • E: through this, the audience is revealed the tactics to control the population
<p>"After all, what justification is there for a word which is simply the opposite of some other word? In the end, the notion of goodness and badness will be covered by only six words- in reality only one word."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- portraying him as unquestioning • E- audience realises his gullibility, takes in Winston’s view 	<p>Merrick: “In a very real sense... they’re like children. Educated to the level of a 15 -year-old.”</p> <p>E.g.</p> <p>“Get up, Dick. Get up and help me find Sally.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- simple portrayal of their language skills • E- education is simple, thus they have simple thoughts

<p>"theyll shoot me i dont care theyll shoot me in the back of the neck i dont care down with big brother."</p> <p>"Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two equals four. If that is granted, all else follows."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- comparison/contrast • E-contrast between before rebellion, and after. Language reflects his rebellious thoughts 	<p>"Gandu learned a new word from the censor... Dude. Dude?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T &E: dramatic irony- audience understands the real truth about existence, they are unquestioning about 'censors'. They're language is so simple that the concept of WHY the censors are there is not suspicious to them
<p>The Control of History</p>	
<p>Slogan: "Who controls the past ... controls the future: who controls the present controls the past."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: simple slogan • E: reveals the beliefs of the Party- that if they are able to control the past, they can manipulate the future. 	<p>Mack: "Memory imprints. I've seen 'em. ...they're all pretty much the same."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E- Mack is qualified on this subject, reveals the way in which their memories are controlled
<p>Winston: "day by day and almost minute by minute the past was brought up to date."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- Winston's thoughts/characterisation • E- The past is rewritten so that it suits their agenda or proves to their advantage. 	<p>Merrick: "We control them with the memory of a shared event. A global contamination. It keeps them fearful of going outside."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation of Merrick • E- reveals the result of the control of history
<p>Winston: "The past, he referred to, had not merely been altered, it had been actually destroyed. For how could you establish even the most obvious fact when there existed no record outside your own knowing?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- rhetorical question • E- convinces the readers that since there are no reliable records of the past, the public will readily believe anything the Party tells them 	<p>Merrick: "An infection can't teach you Latin, or how to fly. They are memories. But they're not his. They belong to his sponsor."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- characterisation of Merrick • E- control of history is not in the form of rewriting the past, it is in controlling their memories
<p>Winston: "And if all others accepted the lie which the Party imposed-if all records told the same tale-then the lie passed into history and became truth."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- characterisation • E- speaks for the population, once the whole population believes the Party's fabricated version of events, the lie essentially becomes truth 	<p>Mack: "The life you think you had before the contamination? It never happened."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- characterisation • E- reveals what the audience already knows

<p>O'Brien: "Reality exists in the human mind, and nowhere else. Not in the individual mind...only in the mind of the party, which is collective and immortal. Whatever the party holds to be truth is truth. It is impossible to see reality except by looking through the eyes of the Party."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- characterisation • E- O' Brien admits that through the control of history, they can control the population's realities. 	<p>Winston- "If we are contaminated? Then we'd be dead. There's no contamination. It was a lie."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- characterisation • E- confirms what the audience already suspects
Propaganda	
<p>"Remember; be polite, pleasant and peaceful. A healthy person is a happy person."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- alliteration/repetition of the 'p' and 'h' sounds • E- simple to remember- the fact that it is so simple allows the audience to realise it is propaganda, but to the clones it is not (dramatic irony) 	<p>"Victory Gin", "Victory Cigarettes", "Victory Mansions."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- recurring motif of 'Victory' • E- to get the population to believe that they life is good- ironic, as they are in the middle of a perpetual war
<p>Voice Over- "You're special. You have a very special purpose in life. You've been chosen. The Island awaits you."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- repetition of 'special' • E- reinforces the simple desire of the clones to go the Island, so that they don't question their world (in combination with the contamination conspiracy) 	<p>"Big Brother is Watching You."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- slogan, motif, repetition • E- reinforces the power of the Party, that they are omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient
<p>"Nature has left you a Garden of Eden to repopulate. That...is your purpose."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- allusion • E- comparing the Island to paradise 	<p>"WAR IS PEACE, FREEDOM IS SLAVERY IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T-irony • E-Party exerts power by placing slogans everywhere- so that they will accept the Party's opinion
Dehumanise/Individuality	
<p>Mack: "You're not... human. You're not... a real person. Like me."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- characterisation • E- through Mack's perspective, can see that the clones are not thought of as unique individuals, rather commercial products 	<p>"Never again will you be capable of ordinary human feeling. Everything will be dead inside you. Never again will you be capable of love, or friendship, or joy of living, or laughter, or curiosity, or courage, or integrity. You will be hollow. We shall squeeze you empty and then we shall fill you with ourselves."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- Party portrayal/characterisation • E- Attempting to remove emotion, so that they can regain power

<p>Merrick: “Well, after several years of trial and error, we discovered that without consciousness, without human experience, emotion, without life, the organs failed.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T:characterisation • E- realise that in order to survive, they need to experience individuality 	<p>“We control life... at all its levels...we create human nature. Men are infinitely malleable.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- Party portrayal/characterisation • E- the Party is attempting to control human nature- dehumanise human nature
<p>Merrick: It's natural, even healthy; to question the world we're presented. You might say it's only human.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T-characterisation • E- human nature undermines their power & control 	
<p>“We predicated our entire system on predictability. Six Echo has displayed the one trait that undermines it: Human curiosity.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T:characterisation • E: his individuality (rebellion) is seen to undermine their power 	
<p>“You're not real... You're copies of people out here in the world.”</p>	
<p>Merrick: “You could've taken over his life, but you chose to come back here instead, you are unique, Six-Echo”</p>	
Other Quotes	
Materialism vs. Rationing	
Constantly referred to as products	The Quest for Power
<p>“My name is Lincoln Six-Echo. I'm your insurance policy.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E: refer to it as a ‘product’, purely for profit, business. 	<p>“There will be no curiosity, no enjoyment of ...life. All competing pleasures will be destroyed. But ... there will be the intoxication of power constantly increasing.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T:imagery- ‘intoxication of power’ • E: Remove human nature to gain power
<p>“You’re like the replacement engines on their Bentley.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: simile • E: belittling their individuality as humans, they are generic, like a product 	<p>“We control life... at all its levels...we create human nature. Men are infinitely malleable.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- Party portrayal/characterisation • E- the Party is attempting to control human nature- dehumanise human nature

<p>“It’s a product...in every way that matters. Not human.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E- dehumanise the clones, refer to it as a ‘product’, purely for profit, business 	
<p>“The Agnates... they’re simply tools, instruments. They have no souls. The possibilities are endless here.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- characterisation • E- dehumanise the clones, refer to it as a ‘product’, purely for profit, business 	<p>“Never again will you be capable of ordinary human feeling. Everything will be dead inside you. Never again will you be capable of love, or friendship, or joy of living, or laughter, or curiosity, or courage, or integrity. You will be hollow. We shall squeeze you empty and then we shall fill you with ourselves.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E- want to dehumanise them so that they can control them/ have power over them
<p>“The girl, you’re going to harvest her, kill her anyway, even though it won’t make any difference? That’s the privilege our clients pay for, Mr. Laurent.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E: emphasises that at the end of the day, profit comes first- it’s a business 	
<p>“We’re now facing four generations with the potential for defiant behaviour...dispose of over million dollars worth of product...”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E- dehumanise clones, just care about profit 	
<p>“How many people on Earth can say that, Mr. Laurent? I guess just you and God. That’s the answer you’re looking for, isn’t it?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E: emphasises power 	<p>“We are interested solely in power. Not wealth or luxury or long life or happiness: only power, pure power.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E: emphasises Party’s thirst for power, that they don’t try to hide it
<p>“They’re like high society, rich and famous.”</p>	

Similarities/Differences	
<p>Lincoln: "I found a bug... I think it came in the ventilation shaft...how did it survive out there...How does anyone survive? They keep finding people, but where do they come from?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- characterisation • E- starts to question the world around him, turning point 	<p>Winston: "The confessions were lies... this was concrete evidence...a fragment of the abolished past, like a fossil bone which turns up in the wrong stratum and destroys a geological theory."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- simile • E- emphasises the significance of the photo- turning point in Winston's life
<p>"Just because people wanna eat the burger doesn't mean they wanna meet the cow."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: metaphor • E- for people would rather ignore the truth as it is too hard to accept 	<p>"By lack of understanding they remained sane. They simply swallowed everything, and what they swallowed did them no harm, because it left no residue behind, just as a grain of corn will pass undigested through the body of a bird."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T-simile, comparing them to animals • E- they have the simple desire to ignore the truth, because it is too hard to accept.
Other Quotes	
<p>His mission/quest- "If I could get in and shut it down, they'd see the truth."</p>	TRUTH
<p>"You've been chosen. You're special. Very special." Ironic, as the defective clones lie there dying, killed because of 'human curiosity', i.e. individuality which is what should make them special- undermines their whole system</p>	TRUTH
<p>"He was really the first one to question his environment, his whole existence here." This in effect makes him an individual.</p>	
<p>"Did we all look that stupid when we went through decontamination?"</p>	
<p>"When did killing become a business for you?"</p>	
Characters and their Wish for Freedom	
<p>"And I wish that there was more...than just waiting to go to the Island."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- characterisation • E- conveys Lincoln's longing for freedom, he doesn't know what it is, but something is missing, is trapped by the desire to going to the island. Ironically, this is what he has been conditioned to 	<p>Winston: "As he looked at the woman in her characteristic attitude...it struck him for the first time that she was beautiful. The mystical reverence that he felt for her was somehow mixed up with the aspect of the pale, cloudless sky, stretching ... into interminable distance."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- woman symbolises freedom, juxtaposition with endless sky • E- highlights his longing for freedom, sees the freedom of the woman and compares it to the endless sky

Surveillance	
<p>Merrick: “The micro-sensors will move along your optic nerve. They'll be uploading readings to us over the next 24 hours.” (Synaptic Brain Scan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- technical terms • E- emphasise the extent of the surveillance- high tech & thus importance 	<p>Winston: “it was terribly dangerous to let your thoughts wander when you were in any public place or within range of a telescreen. The smallest thing could give you away...anything that carried with it the suggestion of abnormality, of having something to hide.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E: conveys the fear that Winston felt, of surveillance
The Human Condition- How far will we go to survive?	
Struggle for Existence	Everyone wants power.
<p>Starkweather: “No! I don't want to die, no! No! I want to go to the Island! You promised! I want to live! I don't want to die! No!”</p>	<p>“We are interested solely in power. Not wealth or luxury or long life or happiness: only power, pure power.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: characterisation • E: emphasises Party's thirst for power, that they don't try to hide it
<p>“The whole reason you exist is 'cause everyone wants to live forever. It's the new American dream.”</p>	<p>“We control life... at all its levels...we create human nature. Men are infinitely malleable.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- Party portrayal/characterisation • E- the Party is attempting to control human nature- dehumanise human nature
<p>“One thing I can tell you about people is that they'll do anything to survive.”</p>	<p>You will be hollow. We shall squeeze you empty and then we shall fill you with ourselves.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- Party portrayal/characterisation • E- Attempting to remove emotion, so that they can regain power
<p>“The only thing you can count on is that people will do anything to survive. I just want to live. I don't care how.”</p>	<p>“Big Brother is Watching You.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T- slogan, motif, repetition • E- reinforces the power of the Party, that they are omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient

Power in The Island – through characterisation of Merrick – God- complex

- “I brought you into this world.....and I can take you out of it.”
- “How many people on Earth can say that, Mr. Laurent? I guess just you and God. That's the answer you're looking for, isn't it?”
- “The Agnates... they're simply tools, instruments. They have no souls. The possibilities are endless here.”