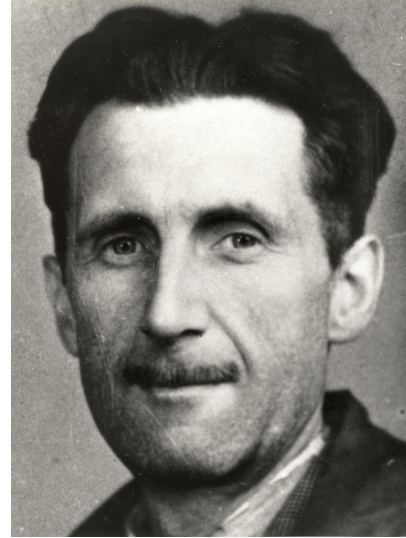


# Authorial Context



Aspects of George Orwell's life influencing 'Nineteen Eighty-Four'

# What is Authorial Context?

Authorial Context is how the author's own life has influenced how and why they write their works. In our case how George Orwell's life and experience has affected 'Nineteen Eighty-Four'. Aspects that can be considered when discussing Authorial Context can be social class, family life, tribulations, notable events during their lifetime and other literary works that the author has been inspired by.

# Orwell's Passion for Language

Though George Orwell's essay; 'Politics and the English Language' it is very easy to see how important the English language is to him.

"Most people who bother with the matter at all would admit that the English language is in a bad way, but it is generally assumed that we cannot by conscious action do anything about it." Obviously by reading this sentence it is clear that Orwell is very educated in the English language and cares about it very much.

"a writer who stopped to think what he was saying would avoid perverting the original phrase"

"This mixture of vagueness and sheer incompetence is the most marked characteristic of modern English prose". This gives the impression that Orwell believes that every single word used in a text should be necessary and be effective in conveying the message of the text.

Orwell seems to be convinced that the language has deteriorated extremely and he is dedicated to make a difference, to restore English and eradicate meaningless and tired forms of writing.

# Orwell's Passion for Language Continued

Again in George Orwell's essay "Why I write", the passion for language and writing is clear and is seen to have been ingrained in him from a very young age.

"When I was about sixteen I suddenly discovered the joy of mere words"

In having a 5 year age gap between Orwell and his siblings he "had the lonely child's habit of making up stories and holding conversations with imaginary persons"

Also in this text it is noted that Orwell hardly had a father present until he was eight years old.

# Social Class

George Orwell described his family's social status as "lower-upper-middle-class". By this he meant that he was at the lower end of the highest social class as his family were well-off. Which can be used to explain why Orwell chose the main character, Winston's social class.

In 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' there is the dictating political party simply known as 'The Party' consisting of Inner and Outer Party members. Winston is an Outer Party member meaning that he is a part of the main power of the novel but not entirely included and not one of the proles. This shows resemblance to Orwell's life as he was a part of the upper class but tittering on the edge.

# Tuberculosis

During his lifetime Orwell suffered many through many sicknesses, including tuberculosis a bacterial infection of the lungs that causes body wasting effects such as muscle atrophy and loss of appetite. This disease has been theorized to have inspired Winston's deterioration during his time in the Ministry of Love. O'Brien forces Winston to look at himself naked in a mirror to see the effects of weeks of torture on him and he sees a balding, weak skeleton version of himself. These symptoms are similar to that of a tuberculosis patient.