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Who is the main character in 1984

The protagonist of George Orwell's novel, 1984, is Winston Smith, who serves as both the main character and narrator. He embodies the struggle against oppression and represents a force of "good" in the face of "evil". The totalitarian government, led by Big Brother, is the primary antagonist, with the Thought Police playing a crucial role in Winston's downfall. The other main characters include Winston's lover Julia, who symbolizes living in the moment; O'Brien, a mysterious figure representing the obscurity of the Inner Party; Mr. Charrington, an old man who appears to be an artist but is actually a double agent working for The Party. Winston lives in a part of town called the "prole" district where there is little supervision, so he feels safe enough to let his guard down somewhat. On the other hand, his boss Mr Charrington appears to be harmless but is actually working for the Thought Police and ultimately brings about Winston's downfall. Winston Smith is the main protagonist of George Orwell's novel 1984, working in the Records Department at the Ministry of Truth where he alters media to conform to the Party's ever-changing narrative. Winston, a low-level Party member, starts keeping a diary as he begins to doubt the validity of state ideology and yearns for individual expression amidst omnipresent surveillance and authoritarian state violence. His job grants him insight into the Party's machinations, but also fuels his desire to trust his own thoughts over propaganda. As Winston navigates this treacherous landscape, he risks being discovered for his dissenting views. The novel introduces several key characters, including Comrade Withers, who is vaporized and becomes an unperson; Comrade Ogilvy, a fictional hero created by Winston to replace the disappeared Withers; Julia, his lover with whom he shares feelings of rebellion against the Party's restrictions on love and pleasure. Winston and Julia differ in their views on revolution, with Winston seeking a more profound change, while Julia seeks small acts of rebellion. Despite their efforts to keep their relationship secret, they are eventually discovered by the authorities, forcing them to go into hiding. Winston's descent into totalitarianism is marked by his increasing devotion to Big Brother, despite initial reservations about the Party's ability to alter fundamental beliefs. His relationship with Julia offers a counterpoint, as she adopts an ostracized approach to survival, focusing on individual feeling and pleasure in the face of overwhelming surveillance. In contrast to Winston's existential and structural analysis, Julia seeks to create small spaces for emotional connection, such as their illicit love affair. As Winston's fixation on resistance grows, it is unclear whether they would have endured if he had not pursued organized opposition. O'Brien serves as a symbol of state violence, embodying the Party's crushing authority over individual freedom. Winston found himself inexplicably drawn to O'Brien's presence, sensing a subtle hint of imperfection in his political convictions during the Two Minutes Hate. The brief exchange between them seemed to suggest that O'Brien harbored similar sentiments towards the Party. This shared understanding was not new to Winston; he had long regarded O'Brien as a figure with significant importance in his psyche. In fact, O'Brien's voice had appeared to him in a dream seven years prior, uttering an enigmatic phrase: "We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness." At that time, Winston perceived this destination as a haven of positivity, representing a vision of the future that one could intuitively connect with. Winston's misplaced trust in O'Brien led him to accept his invitation to visit his home, under the guise of receiving an updated Newspeak dictionary. Unbeknownst to Winston, this gesture was actually a ruse orchestrated by the Thought Police. It would later become apparent that O'Brien was indeed a member of this organization. The phrase "the place where there is no darkness" took on a starkly different meaning for Winston as he found himself imprisoned and subjected to physical and psychological torture by O'Brien, who aimed not at extracting confessions but at reshaping Winston's very being. This experience served as a harsh reality check, stripping away any illusions of a utopian future that Winston may have harbored. Syme is a colleague of Winston's in the Records Department, and an expert on Newspeak. He is described as "venomously orthodox" yet this orthodoxy comes from an intellectual perspective rather than one driven by ideology. This makes his eventual fate seem puzzling to Winston. According to him, Syme's greatest flaw lies not with his intellect but rather with being too cautious, discrete, and avoiding unnecessary conflict.