**Actuele lesbrief Engels – 1984**

**Voor de docent**

In Belarus mag Orwells *1984* niet langer worden verkocht.

**ERK-niveau**

*Lezen B2 – Lezen om informatie op te doen: Kan literaire en non-fictie teksten lezen met een redelijke mate van begrip voor het geheel en voor details. (LEB2-3b)*

*Kan informatie, ideeën en meningen ophalen uit zeer gespecialiseerde bronnen binnen zijn of haar vakgebied. (LEB2-3c – B2+)*

Leesstrategieën – *Kan gebruikmaken van uiteenlopende strategieën om tot tekstbegrip te komen, waaronder het letten op hoofdpunten.* – *Kan van minder frequente woorden en uitdrukkingen de betekenis controleren door gebruik te maken van websites, (online) fora en eentalige woordenboeken.*

**Intro**

Belarus has banned the sale of *1984*.

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https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/close-novel-by-george-orwell-germany-1980665366

Assignment 1

You may use English-language Internet sources to help you.

a Name 5 or more English-language writers.

b Name 3 or more titles of English-language books.

c Name 3 or more literary genres.

**1984**

Belarus has banned the sale of *1984*.

What is *1984*?

Read [this review in *The Guardian*](https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2016/may/29/1984-george-orwell-review) to find out.

Assignment 2

Read the text. Find (and mark) the following words in the text:

*cruel – dictators – to disobey – dystopian – frightening – keeping a diary – to manipulate – notion – novella – oppression – protagonist – rebellion – ruler – surveillance – totalitarianism*

Now read the definitions. Match all the above words and expressions with their correct definitions.

1. of an imaginary place where everything is as bad as it can be
2. a piece of fiction shorter than a novel but longer than a short story
3. a person who rules or governs a country, like a president or queen, etc.
4. an open fight or resistance by citizens against their government
5. the use of physical force to harm a person and/or damage things
6. to not do or behave as told or taught
7. close and constant observation of a person or groups of people
8. a political system with absolute and total control by the state authority
9. people who rule with total power and often in a mean or violent manner
10. to deal with or control or influence events in a clever and usually unfair way
11. the main character in a novel, play, movie, etc.
12. writing down your personal experiences and thoughts in a book each day
13. very mean or unfair treatment of a group of people
14. scary, terrifying
15. idea
16. causing pain and suffering

Assignment 3

a Who is the main character in *1984*?

1 George Orwell

2 George W Bush

3 Julia Smith

4 Winston Smith

b Who or what is Big Brother?

1 A dystopian novella published in 1984.

2 A low ranking member of ‘the Party’ in *1984*.

3 The cruel ruler of ‘the Party’ in *1984*.

4 The name of the opposition ‘Party’ in *1984*.

Assignment 4

“War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength.” These are the three slogans of the ruling party in *1984*.

a All three slogans are paradoxes, because...

1 They are ideas about how things should be done or thought about.

2 They are officially accepted rules about what should be done.

3 They are phrases that are easy to remember and attract attention.

4 They are statements that seem to say two opposite things.

b Think of one or more other paradoxical slogans. Write them down.

c Discuss: Why would a country like Belarus ban the sale (and reading) of the book *1984*?