



THE FLIPSIDE



ASSIGNMENT: Reactions to summer reading book, 1984.

“The only way to stop a government like the Party is to prevent it from gaining all the power in the first place.”

“Until they become conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled they cannot become conscious.”

Winston writes this about the Proles. He realizes that they are the only hope for a rebellion because they are the only group big and strong enough to overthrow the party. The problem is that the Proles don't know that they're being oppressed. They're perfectly content because they have no standards to compare their current conditions to, and they've been lied to and told that they were poorer before the Party came to save them, which leads to another of the many reasons why now the Party is almost impossible to overthrow. Once documents have been edited and the unrevised versions destroyed, the information will disappear forever, and there will be no evidence that it ever existed. The Party controls the past, or at least what people think happened in the past. If the party controls the past, then it will also control the future because whatever they say to people is the truth. Once a government like the party has the control, it's unstoppable, so it has to be prevented before it happens.

The book was an important warning to people all around the world. Though it is fiction, it could become a reality if people are too trusting of the government. 1984 thoroughly disturbed me, but in a good way. It showed how with a government like this, what makes people human is destroyed. They can no longer show emotions, and they can only love and trust Big Brother. Families have no loyalty, the councils decide if you can get married, and being different in any way can kill you. Throughout the book, you hang onto Winston's small hope that he will survive and the world he lives in will get better, but in the end, he turns into a brainless believer in the party, and you realize that there's no hope in the world once a government like that takes control. The lesson of 1984 is important for people to understand and remember.

NICASIA BEEBE-WANG
Ninth Grade

ASSIGNMENT: Personify the cat who made the 184-mile “Incredible Journey” across the Bass Strait as reported in a recent news article.

I'm “the cat” who made the 2,400 mile journey. Well, I had a chip under my skin, but still, how DID I do it? You are probably wondering how I got across the water parts. Humans think cats hate water. Well, you humans are right for once. Cats do

hate water, so I didn't swim. Even if the chip made me swim, the distance was 194 miles, a lot. So, this is what happened.

I came across water, a beach in a part of Australia. It was late at night, and I saw humans boarding a glorious, white ship. I went on it and hid in a small room. I stayed for a while. Then I heard screams. Water was flooding the ship! I went into someone's lifeboat, and “made friends” with the human in it. That is how I, “the cat” crossed the 194 miles of water.

RUDY MALCOM
Fifth Grade

I'm cold, hungry and lost. I want to go back to my owners and my warm house. In front of me lies a big black ocean. I wonder how I'm going to get across. Then my answer pops up ahead. I see some boats drifting into the darkness. I walk over there. I hear some men talking on the other side of the boat. Now's my chance! I quickly hop onto the boat before anyone sees or hears me. I hide in some sacks.

When I wake up, I see that we are approaching land. Finally! I leap off the boat and continue my journey home.

SUMMAR KHAN
Fifth Grade

I am the cat who traveled 250 miles. I got across the 184 mile sea by hopping on a ship shipping things to Australia. I got on the boat and hid in one of the carts, since the crewmen could see me, and I didn't want them to. After a couple of hours, we got to the other side, but I didn't know where I was, and I wandered off the boat confused.

RYAN WU
Fifth Grade

Probably one of my greatest adventures was when I went 184 miles across the Bass Strait. My journey started at the local dock. I'd always wanted to travel, and I thought “Now or never.” So I hopped onto a speed boat, which went 92 and a half miles and back. My first thought was that I should hop onto another boat. My second was that my girl might miss me, so I traveled for a week taking wrong turns and right turns. Finally, I made it home. I sat on the doorstep for an hour until my girl came back. She greeted me with a big hug.

SHAINA SILVERMAN
Fifth Grade