



ENGLISH

Welcome to the English Super Curriculum. Below you'll find a whole host of things to do to stretch yourself beyond the classroom curriculum.

Let's take a look at this month's focus: George Orwell. Did you know that this is a pen name, or *nom de plume*? His real name is Eric Arthur Blair.

READ

Animal Farm has been a staple in the classroom as its themes remain highly relevant and continue to resonate with us. The allegorical tale offers sharp insight into how power and corruption shape societies, and Orwell's fable still prompts readers to question the dangers of simply accepting the status quo.

Aware that his political allegory would be difficult to get published, Orwell eventually found a publisher willing to take the risk. He writes in a proposed preface:

If liberty means anything at all it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.

What does he mean by this?

LISTEN

This clip provides more context about why Orwell held certain beliefs and how key experiences in his life – from fighting in Spain to periods of living in poverty – shaped and adjusted his political outlook. He and his wife also adopted a son, though tragically she died not long after the adoption. Their son later spoke briefly to the Orwell Foundation about his father:

[George Orwell and the Battle for Animal Farm](#) - YouTube

WATCH

Listen to why *1984* is still one of the most well-known works of dystopian fiction, and how many of Orwell's coined terms have become part of everyday language. Big Brother, doublethink and Room 101 are just a few of the concepts Orwell created for the oppressive regime that dominates the life of his protagonist, Winston Smith:

[George Orwell's 1984: Why it still matters - BBC News](#) - YouTube

DO

A dystopia is a world gone wrong. Imagine a society in which your blood type determines your position in the social hierarchy. Perhaps those with the rarest types are hunted, farmed and treated only as valuable commodities.

Plan and write the opening paragraph of a dystopian narrative. You could begin in medias res or with a flashback.