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George Orwell

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Everyone was born with an uncertainty path that led to a certain future. Travelling from country to country around the world. Working as a policeman in Burma, a dishwasher in France, a teacher in England and finally a writer. George Orwell, one of the world famous English novelist and journalist, is well known for his strong stand against totalitarianism and communism¹. The views on these two political systems were written in his two most popular novels called “Animal Farm” and “Nineteen Eighty Four”. People called him an observer of society as he writes every thing he sees and feels especially on politics. Other than politics, he also wrote about his experiences during Spanish civil war and poverty situation in England that he both experienced it himself. He even predicted the future. As a writer, George Orwell had made some contributions to the humanity by influencing on the use of language and writing, providing his past knowledge, showing the world about poverty.

George Orwell’s writings had contributed to the society positively. In one of his book called “Nineteen Eighty Four”, he has created several words and phrases such as “Big Brothers”, “Thought Police”, “Newspeak” and “Doublethink”.² As a result, these words had turned out to be the famous language. Because of the unique languages and writing style, George Orwell’s works were very popular in schools as teachers used it for teaching as well as examinations. These books were used for the

¹ Wikipedia. “George Orwell.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 2 September 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell>

² Wikipedia. “George Orwell.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 2 September 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell#Influence_on_language_and_writing>

school literature curriculum in England. For example, the text “Animal Farm”, the book that he turned politics writing into an art. Even though this book is a story about politics and everyone knows that politics is always complicated, the book was still often used for the final examination in secondary school education (GCE O Level). Another text called “Nineteen Eighty Four” was also used for final examination in Junior college (A Level).³ By using these two texts as the resources, students would be able to learn better as they would often be asked what does a certain words means or stand for. This teaches students to think critically and interpret the mysterious words used in the texts as well as learning new phrases. Therefore, these two books have turned out to be on most of the school reading list. This causes George Orwell’s books to be one of the best sellers in the market and had contributed greatly for the society by providing a source of reading materials for the school⁴.

It had been 62 years since the death of George Orwell. Despite his death, George Orwell works still produce an impact on the people life today. His two most popular novels are still being print out and are available in many book’s stores. He came out with his own rules of writing for the other writers who wished to adopt it from him. Some of the rules are using short words instead of the long word, get rid of the unnecessary words and use active instead of passive⁵. He teaches the other writers as well as the readers to write a shorter number of words in a clearer manner. In addition, he also thought writer how to use words as a tool to fight back by stating that

³ Wikipedia. “George Orwell.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 2 September 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell#Influence_on_language_and_writing>

⁴ John Rossi. “George Orwell was as important to language as he was to ideas.” Popmatters. 2 September 2012. <<http://www.popmatters.com/pm/article/120673-george-orwell-was-as-important-to-language-as-he-was-to-ideas/>>

⁵ Erin Falconer. “George Orwell’s rules for effective writing.” Pick The Brain. 8 September 2012. <<http://www.pickthebrain.com/blog/george-orwells-5-rules-for-effective-writing/>>

“But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.”⁶ Besides his writing style, he also taught and provided his view on totalitarianism, communism, socialism, capitalism and imperialism through his writings and his experiences.⁷ For example, in one of his book called “Burmese days”, he wrote that he went to work as an imperial police in Burma and witness many executions and other developments that were under imperial rule so he regards imperialism as something immoral.⁸ Through his writing rules and his view on politics, he has provided useful knowledge and writing techniques to the world of education as well as politic readers all over the world.

“Down and out of Paris and London” was one of the books George Orwell wrote after going through the world of poverty for several years himself.⁹ This could be one of the good books that would contribute greatly to the society of the younger generation because it shows the true experiences of poverty. During these years, he encountered lots of things such as robbing, smuggling, earning only 6 Francs a day, hunger and boredom.¹⁰ So why did he write this book? And why did he choses to live among the poor people? Other than the sake of writing, he also wanted to show the world of how is it liked to be poor and to live without home or family. For example, in the chapter 3 of the book, he wrote, “You thought it would be quite simple; it is extraordinary complicated. You thought it would be terrible; it is merely squalid and

⁶ Brain. “The weapon of words.” Badger Blue, Times Two. 8 September 2012.

<<http://cops4labor.blogspot.com/2012/06/weapon-of-words.html>>

⁷ Timothy Garton Ash. “Orwell For Our Time.” The guardian. 8 September 2012.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2001/may/05/artsandhumanities.highereducation>>

⁸ Rudy Sedlak 1996. “Orwell On Totalitarianism.” The Orwell reader. 8 September 2012.

<<http://www.theorwellreader.com/essays/sedlak.html>>

⁹ Wikipedia. “Down and Out in London and Paris.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 9 September 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Down_and_Out_in_Paris_and_London>

¹⁰ Nick Lewis. “George Orwell Reflects on his Days in Poverty.” Nick Lewis: The Blog. 9 September 2012. <<http://www.nicklewis.org/ideology/capitalism/george-orwell-reflects-on-his-days-in-poverty>>

boring”.¹¹ This example shows that by experiencing in the real situation yourself, it is even worst than you thought it would be. This book shows the younger generation of how fortunate they were and taught them to spend their life wisely by studying hard and have a good future. Moreover, it could motivate the younger generation to spend their time wisely and to be more aware of their future. Showing the younger generation about poverty has helped the society by contributing to the younger generation. Therefore, they would be able to have a better thinking about their life and thus creating an even better future for the world.

In conclusion, George Orwell had made a great contribution to the society as well as the world by influencing the new language and writing, providing and sharing the past knowledge and his experiences and showing the world about the poverty. Many schools had benefited from using his book as one of the reading materials. George Orwell also went through many hard times such as wars and poverty to fight for his will and to keep his will as a writer. He did everything he wants until his last breath. What if George Orwell is still alive today? What do you think will be his thought on today’s political system? Event though he is dead, his history as a political writer will still be remain as a part of a great history in this world.

¹¹ Nick Lewis. “George Orwell Reflects on his Days in Poverty.” Nick Lewis: The Blog. 9 September 2012. <<http://www.nicklewis.org/ideology/capitalism/george-orwell-reflects-on-his-days-in-poverty>>