

Designed by Kimberly Tjandra 4.7 ♥



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#19

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The Legend of Aang: *The Last Airbender*



Digital piracy and the leak of the movie

One click was all it took for an unreleased movie to escape the studio and spread across the internet within days. Spanning from 2005 to 2008, 'Avatar the Last Airbender' has gained millions of fans across the globe. The main series has 3 seasons and 61 episodes, along with a spin-off series titled 'The Legend of Korra'. An upcoming movie by the name of 'The Legend of Aang: The Last Airbender' was announced in February 2021, set to be released to Paramount+ on October 9th, 2026. However, in mid-April 2026, the movie was leaked in its entirety, with clips surfacing from 11th to 12th April and the full movie circulating by the 13th.

When the movie was illegally released online, an X user claimed that the movie was mistakenly emailed to him by a creator in Nickelodeon. However, after further investigation by authorities, it was revealed that the person responsible had obtained illegal and unauthorised access to a content server and downloaded the film, later sharing clips of it online. After Paramount+ issued copyright claims to have the footage taken down, the suspect, a 26-year-old man, was arrested in Singapore less than a week after. He was taken into police custody between the 16th and 17th of April, with multiple electronic devices being seized. A copy of the movie was found on these devices.



As the leak gained attention, the footage was reposted and spread rapidly across the internet, further contributing to the unauthorised circulation of the movie. Paramount+ responded by issuing takedown notices and attempting to stop the circulation of the footage. Despite this, the clips continued to resurface, emphasising the difficulty in mitigating the spread of unlawfully distributed digital media once it enters the online world. The arrest of the suspect also marked a turning point as it showed that authorities are taking digital piracy seriously and enforcing serious legal repercussions.

This incident is paramount (no pun intended) in highlighting how vulnerable digital content can be, even when stored on supposedly secure servers. Film studios like Nickelodeon and Paramount+ rely heavily on cloud storage and internal servers to manage unreleased media. However, unauthorised access whether through hacking, weak passwords, or insider leaks can lead to major breaches in media being released and exported easily.

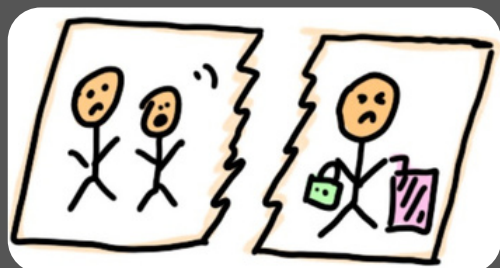
Digital piracy is not just about illegally watching content; it often involves breaking into protected systems, distributing copyrighted material, and bypassing security measures along with spreading that information. This case stresses that cybersecurity is not merely a technical issue, but a critical part of protecting intellectual property in the entertainment industry, while the rapid circulation of the film emphasises how a single security breach can lead to the rapid spread of copyrighted material. The leakage serves as a warning and reminder that strong cybersecurity is of great importance, especially in this time and age where digital content can be copied and shared instantly.



How rising oil prices can change the world

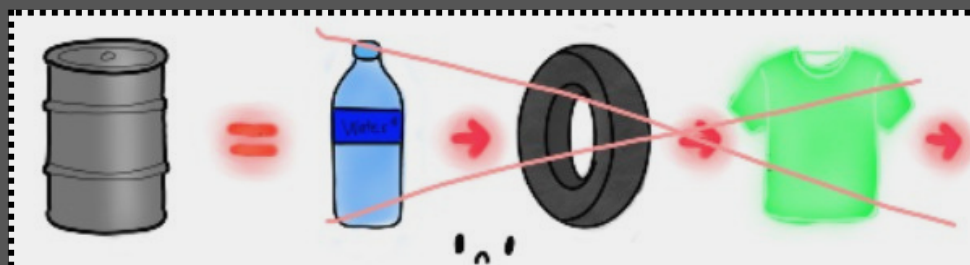
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Have you noticed petrol prices rising higher than usual? The reason behind this phenomenon is due to the current US-Iran war, where the United States targeted the Straits of Hormuz, leading to most of the Straits to shut down. Tanks have carried an estimated amount of about 15 million barrels a day of crude oil through the Straits of Hormuz, while Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait the UAE and Iran all shipped oil through Hormuz. However, most suppliers around the Persian Gulf now have no other sea route to take for their exports, resulting in the majority of these cargoes facing difficulties in being transported to Asia.



In February, oil prices hit the roof, with growing speculation that Trump could order military strikes on Hormuz. Not only that, grocery prices increased significantly over the past month, due to the increasing price of transportation, specifically through air. As the war continues, planes are unable to take off, and foreign passengers cannot go home to their families. However, for the people stuck in the Middle East, the situation is even more complicated. Imagine being stuck in the middle of a war, not knowing whether you will get to go home or not — this is exactly what tens and thousands of people getting caught in between a war are thinking. The US urged all Americans to leave the region immediately, while Russia brought home 4500 citizens, and Germany had to charter flights home for the remaining Americans.

"Oil prices have nowhere to go but up," said Vandana Hari, founder of energy market analysis firm Vanda Insights. As of the 30th of April, oil prices briefly surpassed \$126 a barrel, its highest price in four years recorded. Some traders worry about an escalation so bad in the US-Iran war that Iran would choose to permanently close the Straits of Hormuz. Until the permanent reopening of the Straits of Hormuz, there is no say in what may happen with the oil prices. Moreover, economists warn that if the disruption of oil supply extends for too long, it could affect the whole world, not just in the demand and supply of oil, but by causing the price of products derived from petroleum to increase such as plastic, synthetic rubber, or textiles. To make matters worse, the demand for rubber products is already increasing rapidly. However, as mentioned earlier, the materials needed to make these products are running low, causing additional difficulties in keeping up with the demand.



Some countries are already facing fuel shortages. Factories have to stop production of certain products because of the lack of oil to fuel the machinery needed. Certain countries are facing a massive increase in oil prices for cars. Many netizens complain about having to pay so much just for a few litres of gasoline.

Currently, 95% of Singapore's electricity is imported natural gas. "We are monitoring the situation very closely, because we want to also make sure that we have dry powder for us touse when the situation gets worsening," said Dr Tan, Minister-in-charge of Energy and Science and Technology. He also urged Singaporeans and businesses to manage their energy spending wisely. Fortunately, the situation in Singapore is stable. An increase in the number of solar panels installed have made it not only more cost-efficient, but an environmentally-friendlier option compared to using the traditional way of getting electricity.

To be able to through this energy crisis and oil lag, we must all play a part in being vigilant and not use so much electricity when not needed. Only then can we stretch out the rest of the energy we have left for as long as possible.



The Mirror Metamorphosis Gave Me

Written by Gold Finalist for The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Writing Competition – Esther Sim En (4.4)

Designed by Esther Sim (4.4j)

I picked up *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka during a period when I was quietly crumbling under the weight of expectations – whether it was academics, the pressure of a bustling social life or even the emotional toll I placed on myself. That's how I found myself inside *Metamorphosis*, a book which I had assumed to be just another classic to tick off my reading list. Instead, I found myself connecting with a man that had woken up one morning as an insect – strange, unexplainable, and no longer being recognised by those who once sought him out.

Gregor's slow transformation – not just physically, but emotionally and socially – resonated with me, making me feel seen in a way I hadn't expected.

As he became more insectile, the people he once loved and waited on stopped seeing him as a person. I couldn't help myself but draw parallels between his psyche and mine. The more I tried to keep up with everything, the more I felt like I was fading, going unnoticed and slowly losing the sense of who I was. Demands, social expectations and the emotional weight of trying to live up to other people's ideas of success were pulling me apart. There were days I walked through school, with a smile, but inside I felt like I was speaking a language no one understood.

Gregor's silent struggles – this desire to please, his fear of being a burden – echoed with the inner monologue I held tightly. Like Gregor, I began to slowly feel like I was no longer viewed for who I was, but only for my usefulness.

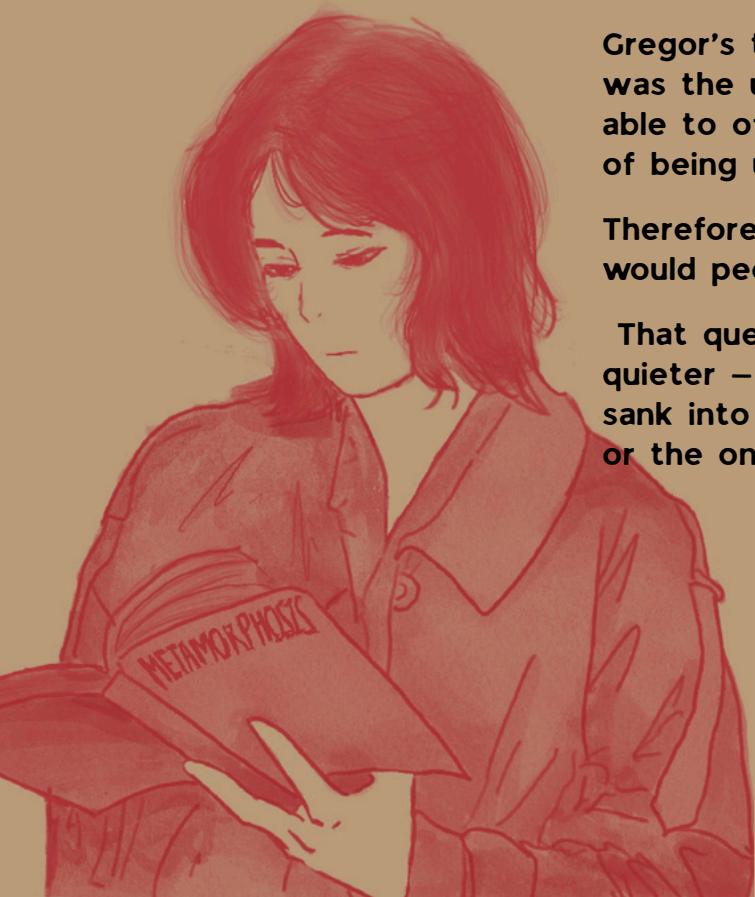
It was a suffocating realisation; like how Gregor's world grew smaller, mine mirrored it. As Gregor faded into a memory in his family's eyes, I began to realise how often I'd hide my own feelings behind a mask of smiles, pretending I wasn't burnt out or that I wasn't hurt after being left out or misunderstood. Kafka didn't just give me a surreal story, he handed me an unsettling, yet painful familiarity.

Gregor's transformation wasn't just about isolation, but it was the universal refusal to see him beyond what he was able to offer – being reduced to his usefulness, the pain of being unseen once he could no longer provide.

Therefore I started thinking: if I stopped being productive, would people still notice me?

That question scared me. But it also gave me something quieter – awareness. I slowly reflected on the moments I sank into the roles of a good friend, the dependable one or the one who never said she was tired.

But *Metamorphosis* made me think of a daunting question. The question of 'What happens to someone who is only seen for their achievements, not who they are? And what happens when they can no longer play that part?'. Gregor's devastation is that even before his transformation into an insect, he was already trapped – stuck to routines, restricted by responsibilities and socially starved of real





connections. It made me pause, it made me reflect on how we often associate and reduce people to roles. His writing was honest, it wasn't covered up by metaphors or disguised alienation as strength. Instead, I was being shown what it meant to break quietly, to hold the weight of being unseen because of dehumanisation.

Kafka's writing didn't offer comfort, instead, it provided a space to be confused, disoriented or being tired without needing a reason why. In that sense, *Metamorphosis* was my escape – maybe not from reality, but from the pressure I had built up inside myself. It was being able to be given emotional permission

to be seen as less than human in society's eyes. Gregor's life allowed me to sit through my own contradictions, reminding me that I didn't have to fix or understand everything, that sometimes, simply being present is enough. To witness it. I began to ask myself what it would look like to value rest, emotion or even silence. I don't miraculously escape burn out or suddenly understand everything that goes wrong in life. But I started listening intently to the quieter parts of me, that I had so forcefully pushed down.

What surprised me the most, was how literature could be so healing. Even though *Metamorphosis* didn't give me resolutions or played a hero, it made me feel seen. In doing so, it gave me permission to see myself more clearly. Literature doesn't just take you to places, sometimes it brings you back to yourself. It reminds us that being human isn't always free and easy – sometimes it's messy, and hard to understand. And yet, through *Metamorphosis*, it explains how pain isn't isolated, it's something much bigger that we must face as it connects us. And with that shared experience, we began to heal.

Literature, I realized, doesn't have to be beautiful to be significant. Sometimes, it's grotesque and uncomfortable. But in its simplicity, it delivers something much more powerful – recognition. Kafka didn't hand me answers, he handed me a mirror. He handed me a reflection of myself, to allow me to change. To grow.

In *Metamorphosis*, I saw how easily a person's individuality can crumble when their humanity is overlooked. The story kept me humble, in how I treated myself, how I viewed others and how to escape the idea of worth only coming from provision. It grounded me to remind myself that even the most surreal stories can help us find the deeper meaning towards what it is to be human.

Queen Camilia, when saying that literature offers both wisdom and escapism, I thought of books filled with magic, romance or maybe even uplifting. But *Metamorphosis*, it was different. That magic within Kafka's writing was special. He guided me into my thoughts, feelings, fears and my own silence that restricted me.

I closed the book with a strange feeling stirring in my heart. It was heavy – not with sadness, but with the quiet weight of feeling seen.

In the end, *Metamorphosis* didn't send me away to an imaginative world, it took me somewhere. It took me inward. Gently, almost like a parent, walking me through discomforts, and allowed me to sit through the silence I often had struggles facing. It didn't look like an escape, more like feeling recognised, facing the pain I paused.

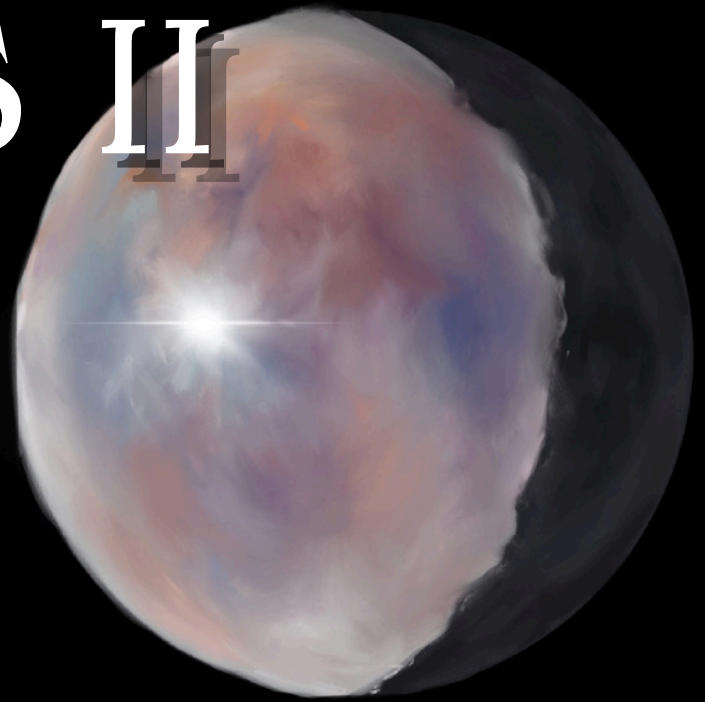
That was the journey *Metamorphosis* took me on. And it changed the way I saw myself.

ARTEMIS II

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What is Artemis 2?

The Artemis II is the first crewed mission of NASA's Artemis program, and it is the first time since 1972, during the Apollo era, that humans have gone this far into space. The 10-day mission was considered a test flight of NASA's Exploration Ground Systems, which are the systems involved in launching and recovery rockets and spacecraft, the SLS rocket, and the Orion spacecraft. The mission was a follow-up mission to the uncrewed Artemis 1 in 2022, and allowed NASA to test Orion's life-support systems with astronauts on board.



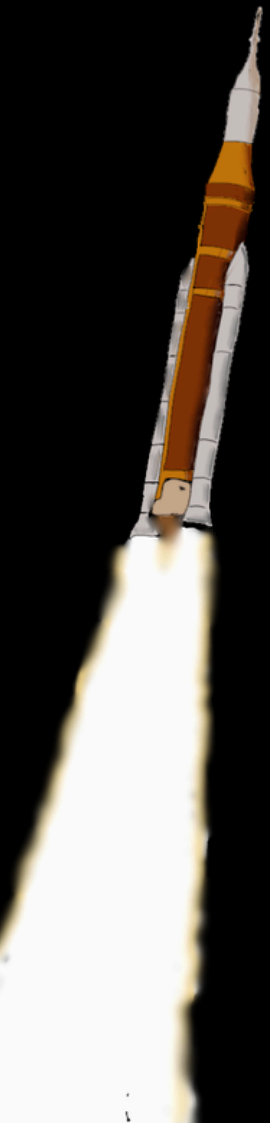
The goal of Artemis II was to get humans back near the moon, as the last time humans were on the moon was all the way in 1972, during the Apollo 17 mission over 50 years ago. This Artemis mission could bring us one step closer to landing on the moon again. The purpose was to get eyes on the moon and begin mapping it out in hopes of establishing a long-term human presence on the moon to serve as a stepping stone for future missions to Mars. As said by Libby Jackson, Head of Space at the Science Museum, "Going to the Moon and staying there for a sustained period is much safer, much cheaper, and much easier to be a test bed for learning how to live and work on another planet."

Key Accomplishments of the Artemis 2 Mission

Now, you may be wondering: with all these goals, what has Artemis II accomplished?

Well, first of all, the Artemis II spacecraft carried the first woman to go that far into space and the first non-American on a lunar mission. For decades, lunar missions like Apollo 11 only involved American men. Including women and non-Americans shows that space exploration is becoming more inclusive and accessible to everyone, and now reflects a wider range of people.

Besides that, Artemis II had major scientific experiments done onboard. Artemis II was the first mission to collect human data beyond low Earth orbit. It studied radiation exposure and its effects on the astronauts by monitoring how their bodies reacted to deep-space conditions such as microgravity. It also tested life-support technology and evaluated the reliability and sustainability of such current systems.

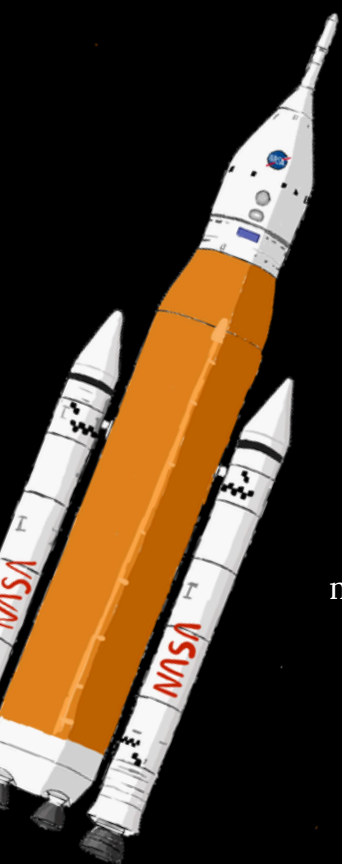




Furthermore, the Artemis II validated the performance of the Orion spacecraft in deep space, testing the navigation and communication systems over long distances and the heat shield performance during its high-speed re-entry. These, along with a few other achievements and research, will provide more information and opportunities for further research of space, supporting the development of long-term lunar exploration and even paving the way for human missions to Mars in the future.

What's next for the Artemis program?

Following the successful return of the Artemis II crew in April 2026, the Artemis programme will proceed with more missions. While Artemis III was originally planned as the first crewed lunar landing since Apollo 17 in 1972, under a recent major programme revision, it will now be a late-2027 Earth-orbit demonstration, planned to test docking with SpaceX and Blue Origin Landers, along with new Axiom spacesuits.



This shift moves the Artemis crewed lunar landing to Artemis IV in early 2028. With Artemis V set to follow no earlier than late 2028, NASA plans to have yearly lunar landings to develop a permanent lunar base.



As Neil Armstrong once said, "One small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind." NASA's Artemis programme has not only taken a step towards human missions to deeper space, but has also inspired humanity through the recent Artemis II mission to challenge their own boundaries.

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George Orwell's 1984



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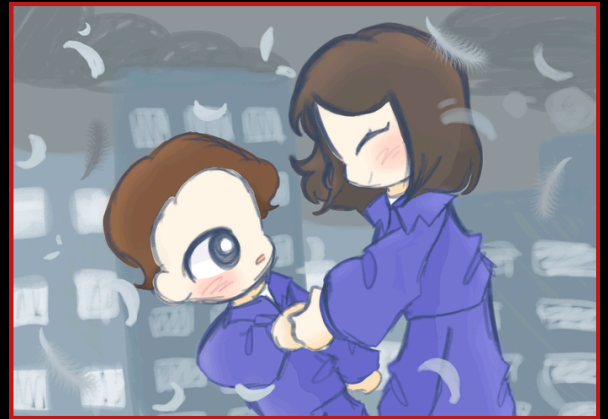
Introduction

"Reality exists in the human mind and nowhere else" is a quote from George Orwell's 1984. What it means is that truth is subjective, and shaped entirely by perception, belief, and interpretation rather than external facts. Two people may encounter the same situation, but their reality depends on their perspectives, awareness, and responses. 1984 is a novel that portrays a chilling dystopia with intense political themes.

Brief summary of the book

Orwell's 1984 drops you into a grey, airless world where everyone and everything they do is constantly being watched, leaving no space for any freedom, whether in speech, actions or even thoughts. The story follows Winston Smith, a quiet, worn-down man living in Oceania, a superstate in which the ruling party, 'The Party', controls everything, from their actions to how they live, and what they think, even going so far as to have a type of police known as the Thought Police.

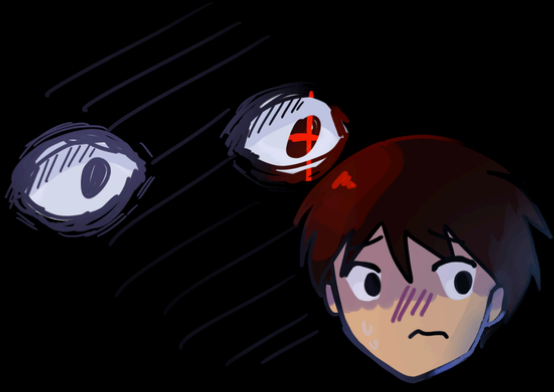
However, as the book progresses, Winston finds himself writing his own thoughts of rebellion against the Party in a little notebook he has, even teaming up with a lady named Julia and rebelling against them in their small ways. They chance upon O'Brien — a high-ranking party member who seemingly appears to have the same ideologies as them.



Julia and Winston are ultimately betrayed and arrested by the Thought Police, and Winston is then handed over to the Ministry of Love, where he undergoes torture and is psychologically manipulated. In the end, Winston is broken completely — The Party forces him to betray Julia and abandon all his beliefs and values, representing their totalitarian control over the citizens' minds and bodies.

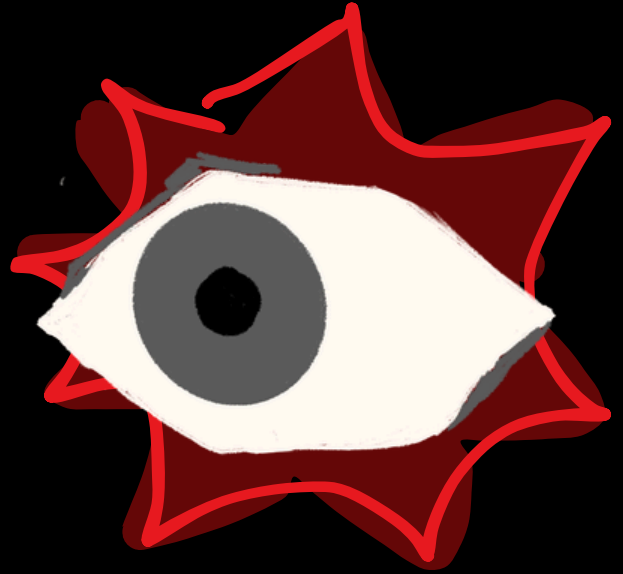


About 1984



Written just after World War II ended, *1984* was written with the purpose of serving as a warning to readers against totalitarianism. Orwell wanted to be certain that the kind of future presented in the novel should never come to pass, even though the practices that contributed to the development of such a state were prevalent in Orwell's time, when the government kept an iron fist on its citizens, freedom was limited, and hunger, forced labour, and mass execution were common.

Orwell's fiction often contains elements of the world around him — of the wars and struggles he has witnessed, of the terrible nature of politics, and of the severe toll totalitarianism takes on the human spirit. From the time he began to write at the age of twenty-four, Orwell longed to capture the struggles of "real" people, to live among the less fortunate, and to tell their stories. He certainly did this in *1984*, a novel filled with political purpose, meaning, and warning.



The society in *1984*, although fictional, mirrors the political weather of the societies that existed all around Orwell. In the book, Oceania is a terrifying society reminiscent of Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union — complete repression of the human spirit, absolute governmental control of daily life, constant hunger, and the systematic "vaporisation" of individuals who do not, or will not, comply with the government's values.

Newspeak: the restriction of expression

Orwell was certain that the decline of a language had political and economic causes. Although he had no solid proof, he presumed that the languages of countries under dictatorships, such as the Soviet Union or Germany, had deteriorated under their respective regimes. "When the general atmosphere is bad, language must suffer," Orwell wrote in his essay, "If thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought."



To illustrate this idea that language can corrupt thought and that totalitarian systems use language to restrict, rather than broaden ideas, Newspeak was created as the official language of Oceania. Without a word for freedom, for example, the concept of freedom cannot exist.

Compared to English, Newspeak strangely loses words by removing words that represent opposing concepts. For example, because the word "good" presumes the opposite of "bad," the word "bad" is unnecessary. Similarly, all degrees of "goodness" can be expressed simply by adding standard prefixes and suffixes to this one root word: ungood (bad), plusgood (very good), and doubleplusgood (wonderful).



By doing so, Newspeak not only eliminates "unnecessary" words, but it also promotes a narrowing of thought and, therefore, awareness. The idea behind Newspeak is that, as language becomes less expressive, the mind is more easily controlled. Through his creation and explanation of Newspeak, Orwell warned the reader that a government that creates the language and mandates how it is used can control the minds of its citizens.

Conclusion

While the dark elements and overall depressing nature can make the book hard to finish, the novel remains highly important today. Orwell's portrayal of surveillance, truth, and loss of freedom encourages readers to reflect on the direction of modern society and question whether aspects of the novel can already be seen in our world. Ultimately, 1984 is not just a story about a dystopian future, but also a powerful warning that reminds one to value truth, individuality, and freedom before they are lost.

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DANGERS OF LASER POINTERS

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Introduction

In today's world, technology has become increasingly integrated into daily life, bringing both convenience and potential risks. One such example is the laser pointer, a compact device that is widely accessible and commonly used across different settings. Despite its simple appearance, its impact can be incredibly significant, making it crucial to determine its role and implications in society.

What are laser pointers?

Laser pointers are often used for presentations and educational purposes, pet entertainment and even signaling and emergency. Firstly, laser pointers are helpful for teachers especially to direct students to what teachers are reading, highlight or point out key details on screens from a distance. For example, teachers use laser pointers to trace diagrams or emphasise key content on screens. Secondly, the moving bright light of a laser pointer is often used to engage animals like cats and dogs to play catch. For example, cats are known to stay at home the majority of the time, so owners engage with them by playing with laser pointers. This game helps provide mental stimulation and physical activity keeping the cat healthy. Lastly, because laser pointers are highly concentrated, they can be seen from miles away, making them effective for search and rescue. For example, in survival situations, a laser pointer can be essential to point to an aircraft or search team. This helps to signal your location to the rescue team even during the day. Sometimes, hikers may use laser pointers to signal their distress or indicate their position.

Why are laser pointers dangerous?

Laser pointers that are bought at stores are typically harmless. However, some strong ones can cause significant damage to the eye. Some common injuries suffered by laser pointers are blurred vision and blind spots. In serious cases, it can cause burnt corneas and permanent blindness.

It is also important to note that it is very dangerous to shine laser pointers at aircrafts. The reason is because shining the laser pointer at an aircraft can, whether unknowingly or knowingly, strike at the cockpit of the aircraft, and cause discomfort, distraction or confusion to the pilot. This would put the safety of the flight at risk. In more severe cases, the pilot might experience temporary blindness and thus not be able to carry out their duty. This could endanger the flight, especially if it is during take off or landing. There are penalties for individuals who intentionally shine lasers at aircrafts. Such punishments include a fine up to \$20,000, and/or imprisonment of up to 15 months.

Due to the danger of high power laser pointers, they are banned in Singapore. Any import, export, possession or use of any high power laser pointer in Singapore without a licence from the National Environment Agency (NEA) is considered an offence. Those that do commit such offences can be charged in court and be fined up to \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for a term up to 5 years.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the use of laser pointers highlights the importance of responsibility when handling even the simplest forms of technology. While they may appear insignificant, their effects can be far-reaching if misused. Greater awareness, coupled with adherence to regulations, is essential to ensure that such devices do not pose unnecessary risks to individuals or the wider community.

Sources





About Us

PL Parcel is a student-initiated project —
Our school's very own student publication!

We aim to cover a wide range of content and share timely topics with our readers. We also hope these publishes can spark PL-Lites to discover the joy and benefits of reading, as well as to keep up-to-date with global and school-related matters.

We'd like to thank everyone who put in the effort and contributed to this publish, and those who read our works!

PL PARCEL '26

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