**1984 – Reviewing our understanding**

1. What “an inconceivably stupid thing” for Winston to have done?
2. “Discountenance” is a very formal way of saying “does not approve of”. Why would George Orwell choose to use this word in the following sentence: “'Mrs' was a word somewhat discountenanced by the Party”
3. ‘Repairs, except what you could do for yourself, had to be sanctioned by remote committees which were liable to hold up even the mending of a window-pane for two years.’ What is the impact of this Party policy on Winston’s life?
4. Describe 3 aspects of setting in Mrs Parson’s flat.
5. Invertebrates are animal species lacking a backbone, such as a mollusc. Why did Mrs Parsons suddenly ‘become invertebrate’ when Winston asked her for a spanner?
6. Winston had to remove a “clot of human hair that had blocked up the pipe”. Reading beyond the text, what does this tell you about the characters of Mr and Mrs Parsons?
7. How do you think Winston felt when he heard a savage voice yell “Up with your hands!”
8. What does it say about the culture that the children dress in the uniform of spies?
9. Orwell uses a simile - “like the gambolling of tiger cubs which will soon grow up into man-eaters” to describe the children. What is the implication for the future society in the province of Oceania?
10. Orwell uses repetition at the start and end of the passage to emphasise to the reader that “there actually was dust in the creases” of Mrs Parson’s face. What does this tell you about a) the setting of Victory Mansions and b) Mrs Parsons. Why does George Orwell want to emphasise the dust?

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