

personal english



Character #26

Big Brother

Big Brother is a fictional character and symbol of totalitarian rule in ***Nineteen Eighty-Four*** by **George Orwell (1949)**. He is ostensibly the leader (however, most likely a symbolic figurehead) of Oceania, a dictatorship where the ruling Party wields total power over the inhabitants, who are under **constant surveillance** by the authorities, mainly by telescreens. People are constantly reminded of their subjection by the slogan "**Big Brother is watching you**". Yet, they willingly accept it as part of being brainwashed into believing that individuality and free thinking are detrimental to the social order, thus creating a need for an **authoritarian leader** to enforce **gregariousness**. This explains why in modern culture the term 'Big Brother' is suffused with negative overtones connected with the **abuse of government power**, particularly with respect to civil rights, and often specifically related to mass surveillance.



Click on the Picture for a **VIDEO** on Big Brother... NOWADAYS!