Worksheet 2 - Who Was George Orwell?

Re	eview: Lecture 1: Introduction
	hat was the name of Orwell's publisher, who famously said that the novel 'allows the reader no ope, no tiny flickering candlelight of hope'?
Re	ecall: Lecture 2: Who Was George Orwell?
Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.	
1.	. What was Orwell's real name?
	a) Nicholas Blake c) Arthur Blair
	b) Richard Bachman d) Samuel Clemens
2.	. Where did Orwell go after school to complete police training? a) Singapore c) Malaysia b) Burma d) Hong Kong
3.	Orwell descried the Indian Empire as a 'despotism' with what as its 'final object'? a) Theft c) Destruction b) Exploitation d) Greed
4.	. What does Dr Waddell say was Orwell's key life experience?
	a) The Spanish Civil Warb) The Second World Ward) His work as a journalist
	b) The Decond World War a) The Work as a journalist
Во	onus question: How many people sought shelter in London tube stations during The Blitz?
Ar	nalysis
	5. Read the extract below from George Orwell's essay 'Why I Write'. Using the 50 word grid below, summarise in your own words, in 50 words or less, Orwell's motivations for writing.

The Spanish War and other events in 1936-37 turned the scale and thereafter I knew where I stood. Every line of serious work that I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly, *against* totalitarianism and *for* democratic socialism, as I understand it. It seems to me nonsense, in a period like our own, to think that one can avoid writing of such subjects. Everyone writes of them in one guise or another. It is simply a question of which side one takes and what approach one follows. And the more one is conscious of one's political bias, the more chance one has of acting politically without sacrificing one's aesthetic and intellectual integrity.

What I have most wanted to do throughout the past ten years is to make political writing into an art. My starting point is always a feeling of partisanship, a sense of injustice. When I sit down to write a book, I do not say to myself, 'I am going to produce a work of art'. I write it because there is some lie that I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw attention, and my initial concern is to get a hearing. But I could not do the work of writing a book, or even a long magazine article, if it were not also an aesthetic experience. Anyone who cares to examine my work will see that even when it is downright propaganda it contains much that a full-time politician would consider irrelevant. I am not able, and do not want, completely to abandon the world view that I acquired in childhood. So long as I remain alive and well I shall continue to feel strongly about prose style, to love the surface of the earth, and to take a pleasure in solid objects and scraps of useless information. It is no use trying to suppress that side of myself. The job is to reconcile my ingrained likes and dislikes with the essentially public, non-individual activities that this age forces on all of us.

Evaluation

- 6. In the lecture [5:43], Dr Waddell quotes from Orwell's book *Homage to Catalonia*:
- "...One realized afterwards that one had been in contact with something strange and valuable. One had been in a community where hope was more normal than apathy or cynicism, where the word 'comrade' stood for comradeship and not, as in most countries, for humbug. One had breathed the air of equality."
 - a) Using the internet, research and make notes (you should aim for around a page) on Orwell's experiences during the Spanish Civil War. You may want to use the following links to help you:

https://hekint.org/2020/06/02/george-orwells-near-fatal-wounding-during-the-spanish-civil-war/https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/05/george-orwell-spain-barcelona-may-dayshttps://spartacus-educational.com/spartacus-blogURL114.htm

b) Based on what you have learnt, would you say Orwell's experiences in Spain were overall positive or negative? Why?

Glossary

Autocratic – Relating to a ruler who has absolute power.
 e.g. The autocratic leader was untouchable.

- **Tyrannical** Like a tyrant; exercising power in a cruel and oppressive way. e.g. Macbeth could be described as a tyrannical king.
- Despotism The exercise of absolute power; a country or political system under a dictatorship.
 - e.g. Some nations are democracies, others are despotisms.
- **Illegitimacy** Not being authorised or in accordance with laws. e.g. They rioted about the illegitimacy of the election results.
- **Propaganda** Information, usually of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
 - e.g. Propaganda is a powerful weapon in wars.