



WHY I WRITE

POLITICS & THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

THE PREVENTION OF LITERATURE

POLITICS VS. LITERATURE

In *Why I Write*, the first in the *Orwell's Essays* series, Orwell describes his journey to becoming a writer and his movement from writing poems to the works we remember him for. He also discusses what he sees as the 'four great motives for writing', and considers the importance of keeping these in balance. *Why I Write* is a unique opportunity to look into Orwell's mind, and it grants the reader a new vantage point from which to consider the rest of the great writer's oeuvre.

In *Politics and the English Language*, the second in the *Orwell's Essays* series, Orwell takes aim at the language used in politics, which, he says, 'is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind'. In an age where the language used in politics is constantly under the microscope, *Politics and the English Language* is just as relevant today, and gives the reader a vital understanding of the tactics at play.

In *The Prevention of Literature*, the third in the *Orwell's Essays* series, Orwell considers the freedom of thought and expression. He discusses the effect of the ownership of the press on the accuracy of reports of events, takes aim at political language, which 'consists almost entirely of prefabricated phrases bolted together', and calls for freedom from censorship, which he says must start with the writer themselves: 'To write in plain vigorous language one has to think fearlessly.'

Politics vs. Literature, the fourth in the *Orwell's Essays* series, is a review of Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. Orwell knows it inside out and thinks highly of it; it is 'pessimistic', though, he says – 'it descends into political partisanship of a narrow kind.' Using the book as an example of enjoying a book whose author one cannot stand, Orwell goes on to say that he considers *Gulliver's Travels* a work of art, leaving the reader to reconsider the books on their own shelves.

GEORGE ORWELL set out 'to make political writing into an art', and to a wide extent this aim shaped the future of English literature. This new series, **ORWELL'S ESSAYS** – beautifully produced paperback editions with flaps and a ribbon – seeks to bring a wider selection of his writing on politics and literature to a new readership.

'A writer who can – and must – be rediscovered with every age.' **IRISH TIMES**

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RENARD PRESS LTD, Kemp House, 152–160 City Road, London EC1V 2NX
 info@renardpress.com • 020 8050 2928

TRADE SALES
 Signature Book Representation (UK) Limited
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 sales@signaturebooksuk.com

WWW.RENARDPRESS.COM

Registered company number: 12559643

DISTRIBUTION
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