

## READING ORWELL

### *Assigned Books:--*

The Road to Wigan Pier (1935). 232 pp.

Homage to Catalonia (1937). 232 pp.

Animal Farm (1945). 141 pp.

These are each available to purchase new and used, and of course they are in many Maine libraries via Mainecat.

### *Collections of Essays, articles, stories, extracts from books, reviews, letters:--*

Easily the best collection is Orwell and Politics edited by Peter Davison (Penguin Classics, pb, 2020). 516 pp. Davison is a leading scholar of Orwell. His selection here is outstanding. However the font is too small for comfortable reading, and the footnotes – there are many – are microscopic. Available on Amazon for \$16.57 new and \$6.45 used. I don't believe it is available as an e-book. It is not available on Mainecat.

More obtainable and more readable is The Orwell Reader introduced by Richard Rovere (Harvest pb, reissued many times, most recent 1984) 456 pp.

Both of these collections include the essay "Politics and the English Language" (1946) and a substantial extract from The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius (1941)

Orwell lived during the long age when letters were the principal form of written communication and a genre of literature themselves. Peter Davison has edited an extensive collection of letters to and from Orwell in George Orwell: A Life in Letters (2010). 524 pp. Davison's excellent annotations make this in fact an outstanding biography of the adult Orwell. Available to purchase but not in Mainecat.

### *Biographies*

Bernard Crick, George Orwell: The First Complete Biography (1980). 406 pp.

Michael Shelden, Orwell: The Authorized Biography (1991). 497 pp.

Robert Colls, George Orwell: English Rebel (2013). 330 pp.

John Rodden, Becoming Orwell: Life and Letters, Legend and Legacy (2020) 360 pp.

These biographies are available to purchase and in MaineCat.