atmosphere in a dystopian novel

Contents

1. Atmosphere

- color
- weather
- connotation
- setting
- smell
- environment
  ‣ buildings
  ‣ nature
- mood
  ‣ oneself
  ‣ others
- behaviour

plenum:

- Atmosphere
  ‣ settings/circumstances
    – place
    – time
    – weather
    – objects
    – situation
  ‣ characters
    – appearance
    – behaviour
    – language
    – interaction
  ‣ narrator's voice
    – choice of words
    – use of imagery, contrasts and other devices
    – allusions, e.g. also previous/future events

1.1. setting of the excerpt

- places
  - ‣ hallway (ll. 1-6)
    - – smell: boiled cabbage, old rag mats → negative, discomfort
  - ‣ stairs (ll. 6-12)
    - – lift can't be used → negative
  - ‣ outside the stairs (ll. 12-17)
  - ‣ flat (ll. 17-24)
  - ‣ outside the window (ll. 31-44)
- time
  - ‣ daytime
  - ‣ spring ("winter had just ended" ll. 29-30)
- weather
  - ‣ blue sky (l. 34)
  - ‣ windy (ll. 32-33)
- objects
  - ‣ telescreen
    - – records whatever one does (ll. 45-46) → negative
    - – broadcasts news permanently with no way of turning it off (ll. 23-24) → negative
  - ‣ helicopter
  - ‣ posters plastered everywhere (ll. 35-39) of "BIG BROTHER" → negative
    - – nothing else has color (ll. 34-35) → negative
    - – seems to watch the viewer from every point of view → negative
- situation
  - ‣ Winstons comes back home (ll. 1-17)
    - – has to excert much energy to make it up the stairs → negative
  - ‣ looks outside window
  - ‣ being watched (telescreen) the whole time (ll. 45-46)
    - – permanent surveillance → negative
  - ‣ electric is cut off during daylight hours (l. 9) → negative
    - – unable to use lift

as a group:
- constant surveillance → uncanny
- cabbage smell, non-working electrics → dismal

1.1.1. **other groups**

- characters
  - ‣ physical appearance: smallish frail figure → glooming, depressing
  - ‣ allusion: Hitler → tensive
- narrator's voice
  - ‣ few contrasts between environment and posters
  - ‣ no conversations → lonly, no one to talk to
  - ‣ choice of words → eerie, dismal
  - ‣ no color in anything → lifeless, dismal
  - ‣ formal and complex words
  - ‣ third person limited narrator