

Context	Characters	
<p>Orwell wrote the novel as an allegorical tale that links with the history of the Soviet Union. The book was viewed as incredibly controversial and rejected by several publishers before being published.</p> <p>Old Major represents Karl Marx, Snowball represents Communism, and Napoleon represents Stalin.</p> <p>The book charts the corruptions of Communist ideals of equality, where workers are promised equality and freedom and are eventually repressed and treated as bad, if not worse, as under the previous rule of the capitalist 'Tsar'</p> <p>Old Major represents Karl Marx, putting forward the communist ideals which will free them from the tyranny of capitalism (represented by Jones).</p> <p>Snowball represents Trotsky, a passionate component of Animalism (Communism) who is expelled by Napoleon (Stalin).</p> <p>Napoleon follows a similar rise to power as Stalin, using fear and propaganda to control the masses, including show trials and executions.</p> <p>By the end of the novel, the ideals of communism have been so far abused and forgotten, that Napoleon meets and forms agreements with former oppressors.</p> <p>Orwell was a British journalist and author, who wrote two of the most famous political novels of the 20th century 'Animal Farm' and 'Nineteen Eighty-Four'. When Orwell saw a kid whipping a horse, he had an idea: "It struck me that if only such animals became aware of their strength we should have no power over them, and that men exploit animals in much the same way as the rich exploit the working class". This inspired him to write the novel.</p>	<p>Old Major: Wise, old pig. Starts the rebellion with his powerful speech about men.</p>	<p>Mr Whymper: Sly solicitor who helps Napoleon.</p>
	<p>Mollie: Shallow and childish mare; deserts the farm to continue to lead the life of a horse.</p>	<p>Mr Jones: drunken owner of Animal Farm. Symbolises the control and greed of men.</p>
	<p>Snowball: Hero of the Battle of the Cowshed, expelled by Napoleon and used as a scapegoat.</p>	<p>Napoleon: Controlling dictator. Leads by fear and propaganda.</p>
	<p>Clover: Caring and loyal, has very little control but realises what is happening as the pigs take control.</p>	<p>Pilkington and Frederick: Owners of the neighbouring farms and equally manipulative.</p>
	<p>Boxer: Innocent but hard working, very strong and selfless.</p>	<p>Squealer: Napoleon's mouthpiece, he uses propaganda to control the animals.</p>
Plot Summary		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Jones, the owner of Manor Farm falls asleep in a drunken stupor. All the animals of Manor Farm meet in the big barn where <i>Old Major</i> delivers a speech arguing for a rebellion against the men. The Animals sing 'Beasts of England', a song from Old Major's dream. <i>Old Major dies and the pigs adapt his speech, forming the principles of Animalism. The pigs plan the rebellion even though some animals (like Mollie) are concerned. Napoleon steals milk.</i> The animals complete the harvest faster than ever. Napoleon teaches the sheep 'four legs good two legs bad' and takes the dogs for 'education'. Cow's milk and windfall apples are given to pigs, Squealer convinces the animals that this is a good idea. News of the rebellion spreads, In October, a group of men try to seize the farm. Led by Snowball's brilliance, the animals fight off the humans which is named 'The Battle of the Cowshed'. Mollie deserts the farm. The pigs grow in influence, suggesting ideas on which the animals must vote. When the Windmill is put to vote, Snowball is expelled from animal farm. Later, Napoleon announces that the Windmill will be built. Napoleon begins trading with humans and hires Mr Whymper. Jones gives up trying to reclaim the farm. The animals begin sleeping with beds, and Muriel and Clover notice a change in the commandments 'with sheets'. Squealer persuades the animals that this is acceptable. In November, a storm topples the half complete windmill. Napoleon blames this on Snowball. The animals struggle against starvation. After learning that they must sacrifice their eggs, the hens stage a demonstration. Napoleon denies their rations and 9 hens starve as a result. In spring, Napoleon calls a meeting and several 'traitors' are executed. Beasts of England is outlawed. The next year brings more work and less food, despite Squealer's figures and statistics to the contrary. More executions occur. Napoleon sells a pile of timber to Frederick, who tricks Napoleon with forged banknotes.. Frederick, with 14 other men, attack the farm and blow up the windmill, which rallies the animals to fight back. Several animals die, Boxer is injured but Squealer convinces the animals of their victory. 31 pigs are born, and Napoleon orders for a schoolhouse to be built for their education. Rations are yet again reduced. Boxer is injured working and Napoleon sends for a vet. A van arrives, Boxer is taken away but Benjamin reads the its side and learns that Boxer is being slaughtered.. Boxer is never seen again. Years pass. No animal has ever retired. The farm has grown in size and population. Two windmills are complete. Clover notices the pigs walk on two legs. The commandments are replaced with "All animals are equal but some are more equal than others.". The pigs and humans play cards. A quarrel breaks out. On-looking animals can not tell the difference between pigs and humans. 		

Animal Farm is an allegorical novel by George Orwell where animals are in charge rather than humans.

Key Quotations	Key Vocabulary	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" 2. "If you have your lower animals to contend with," he said, "we have our lower classes!" 3. "The pigs did not actually work, but directed and supervised the others. With their superior knowledge it was natural that they should assume the leadership." 4. "At this there was a terrible baying sound outside, and nine enormous dogs wearing brass-studded collars came bounding into the barn. They dashed straight for Snowball, who only sprang from his place just in time to escape their snapping jaws." 5. "The pigs now revealed that during the past three months they had taught themselves to read and write" 6. "The birds did not understand Snowball's long words, but they accepted his explanation, and all the humbler animals set to work to learn the new maxim by heart." 7. "Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings?" 8. "The flag was green, Snowball explained, to represent the green fields of England, while the hoof and horn signified the future Republic of the Animals which would arise when the human race had been finally overthrown." 9. "All that year the animals worked like slaves. But they were happy in their work; they grudged no effort or sacrifice, well aware that everything that they did was for the benefit of themselves and those of their kind who would come after them, and not for a pack of idle, thieving human beings." 	<p>Benevolent - kind Communism - a system of social organisation in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs. Comrade - friend Conquer – take control of Cynical – distrustful or doubtful Deception - trickery Dictator – a ruler with total power over a country, typically one who has obtained control by force Dictatorship – leadership by a dictator Overthrow - remove forcibly from power. Overwhelm - give too much of something to; inundate; defeat completely</p>	<p>Propaganda - information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view. Prosperity – the state of being prosperous (rich / successful) Rebellion - an act of armed resistance to an established government or leader. Seize – take hold of suddenly and forcibly; to grab. Tyrant - a cruel and oppressive (harsh and aggressive) ruler. Unity -the state of being united or joined as a whole. Victorious - having won a victory; triumphant</p>

Themes

- **Leadership, Control, Lies and Propaganda, Violence, Pride and Belonging, Dreams and Hopes**

Key vocabulary

Allegory – a text that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.	Moral - concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour.	Dramatic irony – when the audience knows something that characters don't	Symbolism – the use of objects or items to represent other ideas or concepts	Characterisation – the building or crafting of a fictional person	Cyclical narrative – a narrative where the beginning and ending are connected	Foreshadowing – hinting at events that are yet to happen (usually negative events)	Theme – an idea that recurs in or runs through a work of art or literature	Tension – Mental or emotional strain
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