

SUBJECT: English

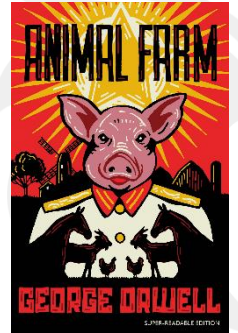
UNIT: Year 8 Animal Farm



Overview and Context

Animal Farm was written by George Orwell and published in 1945. This novel is an allegory - even though it is set on a farm and stars a cast of farm animals, it reflects the events of the Russian revolution of 1917.

The animals are all clever representations of Russian politicians, voters and workers. **Orwell used the novel to make his opinions on human power and dictatorships heard.**



Plot Summary

Animal Farm is a novel about a group of animals who take control of the farm they live on. The animals get fed up of their master, Farmer Jones, so they kick him out. Once they are free of the tyrant Jones, life on the farm is good for a while and there is hope for a happier future of less work, better education and more food. However, trouble brews as the pigs, Napoleon and Snowball, fight for the hearts and minds of the other animals on the farm. Napoleon seizes power by force and ends up exploiting the animals just as Farmer Jones had done. The novel ends with the pigs behaving and even dressing like the humans the animals tried to get rid of in the first place.

Chapter Breakdown

1. The animals gather to listen to old Major. He gives them a vision of a life without man.
2. The animals rebel and overthrow Jones. The commandments are written.
3. The animals' first harvest is a success. The pigs keep the milk and apples to themselves.
4. The Battle of the Cowshed: Jones attempts to reclaim the farm.
5. Snowball and Napoleon debate the windmill. Napoleon uses dogs to chase Snowball from the farm. Napoleon makes himself leader.
6. Work begins on the windmill. The pigs move into the farmhouse. Winds destroy the windmill.
7. Work on the windmill starts again. Napoleon demands eggs from the hens. Napoleon slaughters animals at the show trials.
8. Napoleon betrays Mr. Pilkington and sells timber to Mr. Frederick. Frederick pays with counterfeit money. Frederick attacks the farm. The animals suffer losses in the Battle of the Windmill. The windmill is destroyed.
9. Boxer is sold to the knacker's yard.
10. The pigs are leaders on the farm. They start walking on two legs and carrying whips. There is no difference between the pigs and the humans they sought to overthrow at the start of the novel.

Key Vocabulary

- **Tyranny** - cruel and oppressive government or rule.
- **Dictatorship** - absolute authority in any sphere.
- **Allegory** - a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.
- **Autonomy** - autonomy is the capacity to make an informed, uncoerced decision.
- **Democracy** - Democracy is a form of government in which the people have the authority to deliberate and decide legislation, or to choose governing officials to do so.