George Orwell

Animal Farm

BACKGROUND INFO

AUTHOR BIO

Full Name: Eric Arthur Blair
Pen Name: George Orwell
Date of Birth: 1903
Place of Birth: Motihari, India
Date of Death: 1950

Brief Life Story: Eric Blair was born and spent his youth in India. He was educated at Eton in England. From 1922-27 he served in the Indian Imperial Police in Burma. Through his autobiographical work about poverty in London (Down and Out in Paris and London, 1933), his experiences in colonial Burma (Burmesedays, 1934) and in the Spanish Civil War (Homage to Catalonia, 1938), and the plight of unemployed coal miners in England (The Road to Wigan Pier, 1937), Blair (who wrote under the name George Orwell) exposed and critiqued the human tendency to oppress others politically, economically, and physically. Orwell particularly hated totalitarianism, and his most famous novels, Animal Farm (1945) and 1984 (1949), are profound condemnations of totalitarian regimes. Orwell died at the age of 47 after failing to treat a lung ailment.

KEY FACTS

Full Title: Animal Farm - A Fairy Story
Genre: Novel / Fairy Tale / Allegory
Setting: A farm somewhere in England in the first half of the 20th century
Climax: The pigs appear standing upright and the sheep bleat "Four legs good, two legs better!"
Antagonist: Napoleon
Point of View: Third person omniscient

HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT

When Written: 1944-45
Where Written: England
When Published: 1945
Literary Period: Modernism
Related Literary Works: Orwell subtitled Animal Farm "A Fairy Story." Characters in fairy tales tend to be two-dimensional stereotypes used to reveal some broad observation about life. As the critic C.M. Lodgehouse wrote in a piece on Animal Farm in 1954, a fairy tale has no moral. It simply says, "Life is like that—take it or leave it." Animal Farm uses the format of a fairy tale to expose the evils of totalitarian exploitation. Rather than attack totalitarianism directly, the book shows its offenses plainly and clearly and lets the reader deduce the dangers posed by totalitarian governments. The literary work most often mentioned alongside Animal Farm is 1984, another Orwell novel. 1984, published in 1949, envisions a future in which a dictator monitors and controls the actions of all of its citizens. Like Animal Farm, 1984 depicted the horrific constraints that totalitarian governments could impose on human freedom.
Related Historical Events: In 1917, two successive revolutions rocked Russia and the world. The first revolution overthrew the Russian monarchy (the Tsar) and the second established the USSR, the world’s first Communist state. Over the next thirty years the Soviet government descended into a totalitarian regime that used and manipulated socialist ideas of equality among the working class to oppress its people and maintain power. Animal Farm is an allegory of the Russian Revolution and the Communist Soviet Union. Many of the animal characters in Animal Farm have direct correlations to figures or institutions in the Soviet Union.

EXTRA CREDIT

Rejection. Though Animal Farm eventually made Orwell famous, three publishers in England rejected the novel at first. One of those who rejected it was T.S. Elliot, the famous poet and an editor at the Faber & Faber publishing house. Several American publishing houses rejected the novel as well. One editor told Orwell it was "impossible to sell animal stories in the U.S.A."

Outspoken Anti-Communist. Orwell didn't just write literature that condemned the Communist state of the USSR. He did everything he could, from writing editorials to compiling lists of men he knew were Soviet spies, to combat the willful blindness of many intellectuals in the West to USSR atrocities.

PLOT SUMMARY

Manor Farm is a small farm in England run by the harsh and often drunk Mr. Jones. One night, a boar named Old Major gathers all the animals of Manor Farm together. Knowing that he will soon die, Old Major gives a speech in which he reveals to the animals that men cause all the misery that animals endure. Old Major says that all animals are equals and urges them to join together to rebel. He teaches them a revolutionary song called "Beasts of England." Old Major dies soon after, but two pigs named Snowball and Napoleon adapt his ideas into the philosophy of Animalism. Three months later, the animals defeat Jones in an unplanned uprising. The farm is renamed "Animal Farm."

The ingenuity of the pigs, the immense strength of a horse named Boxer, and the absence of parasitical humans makes Animal Farm prosperous. The animals post the Seven Commandments of Animalism on the side of the barn. The commandments state that all animals are equal and no animal may act like a human by sleeping in a bed, walking on two legs, killing other animals, drinking alcohol, and so on.

A fight for power soon develops between the two pigs Snowball and Napoleon. The rivalry comes to a head over Snowball's idea to build a windmill. At the final debate about the windmill, Napoleon summons dogs he has secretly reared to be his own vicious servants and has them chase Snowball from Animal Farm. Napoleon tells the other animals that Snowball was a "bad influence," eliminates the animals' right to vote, and takes "the burden" of leadership on himself. He sends around a pig named Squealer, who persuades the animals that Napoleon has their best interests at heart.

Three weeks later Napoleon decides they should build the windmill after all. The animals set to work, with Boxer leading. Focusing on the windmill reduces the productivity of the farm, and all the animals but the pigs get less to eat. The pigs begin to trade with other farms, move into Mr. Jones's farmhouse, and start to sleep in beds. This confuses the animals who considered this forbidden behavior. But when they check the Commandment about beds, it reads: "No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets."

Over the next few years, Animal Farm battles with its human neighbors. The windmill gets destroyed first by a storm and then by a human attack. Napoleon blames all catastrophes on the "traitor" Snowball, and uses fear tactics, information control, and deadly purges of anyone he considers an enemy to strengthen his power over the farm. Meanwhile, the pigs secretly continue to rewrite the Commandments and all of Animal Farm's history to support their lies. They give the animals less food and demand more work, while eating more and working less themselves. The other animals, duped by the pigs' misinformation, continue to consider themselves part of a great revolution. When Boxer, the most devoted worker on the farm, is no longer able to work, the pigs sell him to a glue factory and use the proceeds to buy whiskey.

Years pass. Now only a few of the remaining animals on the farm experienced the revolution. Even fewer remember its goals. The pigs teach themselves to walk on two legs and begin carrying whips. When the animals look at the Seven Commandments, they have been replaced by the statement: "All animals are equal. But some animals are more equal than others."
The pigs make peace with their human neighbors and have a feast. The other animals are shocked to discover that they can no longer tell the pigs from the humans.

CHARACTERS

Old Major – A pig. He creates the ideas behind Animalism and inspires the other animals to rebel. As a prize boar, Old Major has lived a relatively privileged life among the animals. This privileged life has given him the time to

©2013-2014 www.LitCharts.com | 1
Animal Farm

George Orwell once wrote: “Every line of serious work that I have written since 1936 has been ... against totalitarianism.” Animal Farm is no exception. Totalitarianism is a form of government in which the state seeks to control every facet of life, from economics and politics to each individual’s ideas and beliefs. Different totalitarian states have different justifications for their rule. For instance, Mr. Jones runs Manor Farm based on the idea that human domination of animals is the natural order of things, while Napoleon and the pigs run Animal Farm with the claim that they are fighting for animals against evil humans.

Orwell’s underlying point is that the stated goals of totalitarianism don’t matter because all totalitarian regimes are fundamentally the same. Every type of totalitarianism, whether communist, fascist, or capitalist, is founded on evil humans. The pigs run Animal Farm with the claim that they are fighting for animals against human exploitation. The revolution in Animal Farm depicts a revolution in progress. Old Major gives the animals a new perspective on their situation under Mr. Jones, which leads them to envision a better future free of human exploitation. The revolution in Animal Farm, like all popular revolutions, arises out of a hope for a better future. At the time of the revolution, even the pigs are excited by and committed to the idea of universal animal equality. So what undermines the animal’s revolution and transforms it into a totalitarian nightmare? Animal Farm shows how the high ideals that fuel revolutions gradually give way to individual and class self-interest. Not even Napoleon planned to become a dictator before the revolution, but as his power grew, he took more and more until his power became absolute. Revolutions are corrupted in a slow process. Animal Farm portrays that process.

CLASS WARFARE

One of the main tenets of Animalism is that all animals are equal. But quite quickly the pigs begin to refer to themselves as “mindworkers” to distinguish themselves from the other animals, who are physical laborers. Over time, this sense of separation takes hold: the pigs begin to discourage their children from playing with the children of the other animals, and then establish themselves as absolute rulers of the “lesser” menial laborers. Animal Farm shows how differences in education and occupation lead to the development of class, which leads inevitably to class warfare, in which one class seeks to dominate the other. Animal Farm suggests that the “mindworking” class will almost always prevail in this struggle.

REVOLUTION AND CORRUPTION

Animal Farm depicts a revolution in progress. Old Major gives the animals a new perspective on their situation under Mr. Jones, which leads them to envision a better future free of human exploitation. The revolution in Animal Farm, like all popular revolutions, arises out of a hope for a better future. At the time of the revolution, even the pigs are excited by and committed to the idea of universal animal equality.

So what undermines the animal’s revolution and transforms it into a totalitarian nightmare? Animal Farm shows how the high ideals that fuel revolutions gradually give way to individual and class self-interest. Not even Napoleon planned to become a dictator before the revolution, but as his power grew, he took more and more until his power became absolute. Revolutions are corrupted in a slow process. Animal Farm portrays that process.

CLASS WARFARE

One of the main tenets of Animalism is that all animals are equal. But quite quickly the pigs begin to refer to themselves as "mindworkers" to distinguish themselves from the other animals, who are physical laborers. Over time, this sense of separation takes hold: the pigs begin to discourage their children from playing with the children of the other animals, and then establish themselves as absolute rulers of the “lesser” menial laborers. Animal Farm shows how differences in education and occupation lead to the development of class, which leads inevitably to class warfare, in which one class seeks to dominate the other. Animal Farm suggests that the “mindworking” class will almost always prevail in this struggle.

Themes

Animal Farm doesn't just focus on the upper classes, however. In fact, it focuses more closely on the oppressed working class. The farm animals work so hard that they have no time to learn or educate themselves or think deeply about their world. Instead, they're taught that work is their contribution to society, their way to freedom. Boxer believes that "I will work harder" is the answer to every problem, though he never perceives that the pigs exploit his effort. Benjamin occupies the other extreme: he recognizes what's going on, but his cynicism stops him from taking action against the pigs. In the end, Animal Farm implies that whether because of ignorance, inaction, or fear, the working class allows itself to be dominated by the "mindworkers."

**LANGUAGE AS POWER**

Animal Farm shows how the minority in power uses vague language, propaganda, and misinformation to control the thoughts and beliefs of the majority in the lower classes. The pigs, especially Squealer, become extremely sophisticated and effective in their attempts to rewrite the rules of Animal Farm and Animalism. They even revise the farm's entire history in order to mislead the other animals into believing exactly what they say. By the end of the novel, the animals on the farm believe Snowball fought against them at the Battle of the Cowshed even though they saw him fight with them. They believe life on the farm has improved even though they have less food than ever, and that Napoleon has their best interests at heart even though he kills those who disagree with him. As the only literate animals on the farm, the pigs maintain a monopoly on information that they use to build and hold their power.

**THE SOVIET UNION**

While Animal Farm condemns all forms of totalitarianism, it is most explicitly a bitter attack on the Soviet Union. Though Orwell supported the ideas of Socialism, he strongly opposed the Soviet Union's descent into totalitarianism under Stalin. Animal Farm satirically attacks the Soviet Union by mirroring many events from Soviet history in the novel. The events of Animal Farm that mirror historical events in the Soviet Union, such as the revolution and the subsequent corruption of its ideals, will be highlighted and discussed in the Summary and Analysis sections.

**SYMBOLS**

**CHARACTER NAMES**

Orwell wrote Animal Farm as an allegory, a symbolic representation of real events. Many characters and events in the novel symbolize people in the Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union. Here are some of the animals who symbolize individuals or groups in Soviet society: Mr. Jones (Russian Tsar and the aristocratic order); Old Major (Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin); Napoleon (Stalin); Snowball (Trotsky); Squealer (the press); the pigs (ruling bureaucrats); and Moses the Raven (organized religion). Nearly all of the other animals represent the working class and Soviet peasants. For a more complete list, see the "Character" section.

**THE WINDMILL**

The windmill represents the massive infrastructure constructions projects and modernization initiatives that Soviet leaders instituted immediately after the Russian Revolution. In Animal Farm, the windmill also comes to symbolize the pigs' totalitarian triumph: the other animals work to build the windmill thinking it will benefit everyone, and even after it benefits only the pigs the animals continue to believe that it benefits all the animals.

**CHAPTER 1 QUOTES**

Man is the only real enemy we have. Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever. Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk; he does not lay eggs; he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals. He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving, and the rest he keeps for himself.

Why then do we continue in this miserable condition? Because nearly the whole of the produce of our labour is stolen from us by human beings.

Remember, comrades, your resolution must never falter. No argument must lead you astray. Never listen when they tell you that Man and the animals have a common interest, that the prosperity of the one is the prosperity of the others. It is all lies. Man serves the interests of no creature except himself. And among us animals let there be perfect unity, perfect comradeship in the struggle. All men are enemies. All animals are comrades.

**CHAPTER 2 QUOTES**

**THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS**

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.3. No animal shall wear clothes.4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.5. No animal shall drink alcohol.6. No animal shall kill any other animal.7. All animals are equal.

**CHAPTER 3 QUOTES**

Nobody stole, nobody grumbled over his rations, the quarreling and biting and jealousy which had been normal features of life in the old days had almost disappeared.

I will work harder!

Four legs good, two legs bad.

"Comrades!" he cried. "You do not imagine, I hope, that we pigs are doing this in a spirit of selfishness and privilege? Many of us actually dislike milk and apples. Milk and apples (this has been proved by Science, comrades) contain substances absolutely necessary to the well-being of a pig. We pigs are brainworkers. The whole management and organization of this farm depend on us. Day and night we are watching over your welfare. It is for your sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples."

**CHAPTER 4 QUOTES**

I have no wish to take life, not even human life,' repeated Boxer, and his eyes were full of tears.

**CHAPTER 5 QUOTES**

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.

No one believes more firmly than Comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal. He would be only too happy to let you make your decisions for yourselves. But sometimes you might make the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where should we be?

Napoleon is always right.

**CHAPTER 6 QUOTES**

Comrades, do you know who is responsible for this? Do you know the enemy who has come in the night and overthrown our windmill? SNOWBALL!

**CHAPTER 7 QUOTES**

If a window was broken or a drain was blocked up, someone was certain to say that Snowball had come in the night and done it, and when the key of the store-shed was lost, the whole farm was convinced that Snowball had thrown it down the well. Curiously enough, they went on believing this even after the mislaid key was found under a sack of meal.

If she herself had had any picture of the future, it had been of a society of animals set free from hunger and the whip, all equal, each working according
George Orwell

Animal Farm

to his capacity, the strong protecting the weak... Instead - she did not know why - they had come to a time when no one dared speak his mind, when fierce, growling dogs roamed everywhere, and when you had to watch your comrades torn to pieces after confessing to crimes.

Animal Farm, Animal Farm, Never through me shalt thou come to harm!

CHAPTER 8 QUOTES

At the foot of the end wall of the big barn, where the Seven Commandments were written, there lay a ladder broken in two pieces. Squealer, temporarily stunned, was sprawling beside it, and near at hand there lay a lantern, a paint-brush, and an overturned pot of white paint. None of the animals could form any idea as to what this meant, except old Benjamin, who nodded his muzzle with a knowing air, and seemed to understand, but would say nothing.

CHAPTER 9 QUOTES

"Besides, in those days they had been slaves and now they were free, and that made all the difference, as Squealer did not fail to point out."

CHAPTER 10 QUOTES

Somehow it seemed as though the farm had grown richer without making the animals themselves any richer—except, of course, for the pigs and the dogs.

Four legs good, two legs better!

All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which.

©2013-2014 www.LitCharts.com | 4

SUMMARY & ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 1

On the Manor Farm in England, Mr. Jones, drunk as usual, goes to sleep without properly securing the animals.

Mr. Jones's drunkenness symbolizes the Russian Tsar's decadence.

As their leader weakens, the privileged citizens see the chance for revolution.

Notice the solidarity and sense of mutual concern among the animals. Yet the seating position of the pigs and dogs hints at the existence of class divisions among the animals, despite their united stance against Mr. Jones.

CHAPTER 2

Old Major dies three nights later, but his message takes hold. The pigs are the smartest of the animals, and over the next three months two pigs in particular emerge as leaders: the lively Snowball and the powerful Napoleon. A third pig, Squealer, gives eloquent speeches that can convince anyone of anything. These three pigs turn Old Major's ideas into a philosophy called Animalism.

The pigs teach Animalism to the animals, overcoming the worry, apathy, and selfishness of the others. For instance, Mollie worries that after the revolution she won't get any more sugar or be able to wear ribbons in her hair. Snowball tells her she shouldn't want sugar and ribbons, since these are signs of her slavery.

Old Major addresses the animals, calling them "comrades." He says he won't live much longer, then describes all the hardships the animals face on the Farm—long hours, little food, and death in the slaughterhouse when they've ceased to be useful. He asks: What's the cause of all these problems? He answers his own question: Men, who produce nothing, but take whatever they want from the animals.

All animals, Old Major concludes, are comrades. Just then, the dogs notice some rats listening to Old Major's speech and leap at them. The rats barely escape. Old Major calls for a vote: are wild animals friends of farm animals or enemies? The animals vote unanimously: friends.

Old Major says that whatever goes on four legs or has wings is a friend, that no animal should ever kill another animal, that no animal should ever act like a man, and that the ultimate goal for animals, whether in this lifetime or the future, must be the overthrow of humans. Old Major describes his dream of a future without men, in which the words and melody came to him of a song called "Beasts of England." All the animals learn the words and sing.

The sound wakes Mr. Jones, who fires his gun into the wall of the barn. The animals scatter to their sleeping-places.

Jones asserts his authority, but he's unaware of the mounting revolution.

Old Major's ideas mirror the main tenets of socialism: equality and freedom from exploitation. Old Major's words are revolutionary: they are the first time the animals understand that they're slaves to men, but don't have to be.

It's ironic that the dogs attack the rats just as Old Major calls all animals comrades. Old Major smooths over the conflict now, but he won't always be around.

Not all the animals understand Old Major's ideas. With "Beasts of England" Old Major gives the animals something they can feel. All the animals rally around the song, even though some don't understand exactly what they're fighting for.

Like Karl Marx, Old Major dies before the revolution that his ideas inspired takes place. Like Lenin, his leadership is inherited by two underlings. At this point, the pigs believe in Old Major's ideas completely.

Differences already divide the animals. The pigs understand Animalism, while the less intelligent animals don't. Mollie's ridiculous concerns reflect the middle-class's selfishness materialism.
George Orwell

Animal Farm

The pigs also have to contend with Moses the raven, who spreads tales of a wonderful place called Sugarcandy Mountain where animals go when they die. Most of the animals dislike Moses because he never does any work, but many also believe in Sugarcandy Mountain.

Boxer and Clover show the most devotion to Animalism. Neither is very smart, but their belief in animal equality never wavers, and they never miss a secret meeting.

The revolution happens much earlier and more easily than the animals expect. In June, on Midsummer’s Eve, Mr. Jones gets so drunk in town that he forgets to feed the animals, and his lazy workers ditch their farm work to go hunting. The hungry animals break into the feed shed, which wakes up the sleeping Mr. Jones. He and his men start whipping the animals, who grow furious and attack, driving the men and Mr. Jones from the farm. Moses the raven flies after them.

The joyful animals destroy Mr. Jones’s whips, reins, and halters. They sing “Beasts of England,” treat themselves to double rations, and go to sleep happy. The next morning the animals run around the farm surveying their territory. They break down the farmhouse door, tour it, and decide it should be preserved as a museum. The pigs are the first to come. They paint the wall: Back in the barn, the pigs paint the read: Animal Farm.

In the previous three months, the animals taught themselves to read and write — a wonderful place called Sugarcandy Mountain.

The early days are idyllic. Animalism results in a successful harvest and happy animals. Yet already signs of class difference between the pigs and other animals have arisen based on their intellectual differences.

The meetings show Animalist equality, but the non-pigs don’t use their equal rights. Instead, they let the pigs dominate. So it’s not just that the pigs seize power, it’s that the other animals let them.

Now that Jones is gone, Napoleon’s self-interest separates him from the other animals: he wants the milk for himself. And Napoleon, who clearly cares more about himself than about Animalism, realizes he can manipulate the animals’ revolutionary spirit to get what he wants. A minute after the Commandments are posted, Napoleon has started to undermine them.

The pigs fear belief in the afterlife might make the animals less revolutionary, Moses symbolizes the Russian Orthodox Church, which the Tsars used to control the lower classes.

Though unsophisticated, Boxer and Clover value the essence of Animalism: equality among animals.

Like the Russian Revolution, the animals’ revolution results from their rage at what they perceive, correctly, as mistreatment. Later on, when the pigs seize power, they take special care to make sure that the animals don’t perceive their mistreatment.

The Seven Commandments are the animals’ version of a constitution. The public posting of the Commandments seems to ensure that the animals’ rights will never be violated again and that corrupt human behavior will be permanently outlawed.

The early days are idyllic. Animalism results in a successful harvest and happy animals. Yet already signs of class difference between the pigs and other animals have arisen based on their intellectual differences.

The early days are idyllic. Animalism results in a successful harvest and happy animals. Yet already signs of class difference between the pigs and other animals have arisen based on their intellectual differences.

The early days are idyllic. Animalism results in a successful harvest and happy animals. Yet already signs of class difference between the pigs and other animals have arisen based on their intellectual differences.
Napoleon sees little value in Snowball’s committees, but he says he believes in the importance of educating the young. When two dogs give birth, Napoleon trains their nine puppies in a secret place.

The mystery of the missing milk is solved when the pigs declare that only they can use all apples and milk on the farm. The other animals grumble, but Squealer explains that the pigs are crucial to the running of the farm and need the milk and apples to stay healthy. If the pigs fail, Squealer says, Mr. Jones will return. The animals agree that the pigs should get the milk and apples.

CHAPTER 4

It’s late summer and news of the revolution at Animal Farm spreads. Snowball and Napoleon send out flights of pigeons to teach “Beasts of England” to the animals of nearby farms.

Mr. Jones spends his time getting drunk and complaining about his fate. The owners of the farms neighboring Animal Farm, the gentleman farmer Mr. Pilkington of Foxwood and the shrewd Mr. Frederick of Pinchfield, are concerned that the revolution might spread to their own farms. But they dislike each other so much that they can’t even agree on defending themselves. Instead, the Frederick and Pilkington spread rumors about the misery of life on Animal Farm. No animals anywhere believe them. "Beasts of England" spreads across England with incredible speed.

One day in October, pigeons fly into Animal Farm with news that Mr. Jones, along with men from Pilkington and Frederick, are headed to attack the farm. Snowball has a defense planned out: he draws the men into an ambush, then leads the charge against them. The animals rout the other men. The animals harvest the fields and bring in the crops.

In 1918, anti-Communist forces (Jones), helped by Western nations (Frederick and Pilkington), attacked the Russian Communists (the animals). After two years of Civil War, in which Trotsky (Snowball) showed great bravery, the Communists defeated the anti-Communists.

Pilkington and Frederick symbolize the capitalist Allies and Fascist Germany. These nations feared the rise of Communism because it threatened their own countries: what if their own working classes, inspired by Communism, revolted? But these nations hated and feared each other too much to band together against the Soviet Union.

In Chapter 5, One day, Clover spots Mollie at the boundary of Foxwood letting one of Mr. Pilkington’s men stroke her nose. On a hunch, Clover searches Mollie’s stall and finds sugar cubes. Mollie denies all of it, but three days later she disappears. Weeks after that, a pigeon spots Mollie pulling a man’s cart, with ribbons in her hair. No one on Animal Farm ever mentions Mollie again.

The pigs plan for the next year, which involves focusing on more pressing needs like electrical tools that will make power to warm stalls and run electrical tools that will make more hay. They also decide to build a windmill.

As the animals bury the sheep, Snowball emphasizes that animals must be willing to die to defend Animal Farm. Snowball and Boxer receive the award of Animal Hero, First Class. They name the battle the “Battle of the Cowshed,” and agree that twice each year they’ll fire Mr. Jones’s gun, which they found lying in the mud, to celebrate both this battle and the anniversary of the revolution.

Napoleon’s followers trust each other because they’re all animals. Napoleon exploits the animals’ blind idealism in his rise to power.

The pigs begin to define themselves as a separate class deserving of special privileges, and use fear tactics and confusing language to convince the other animals that the privileges are in the common interest. Even Snowball is willing to sacrifice Animalism for his own self-interest.

The mystery of the missing milk is solved when the pigs declare that only they can use all apples and milk on the farm. The other animals grumble, but Squealer explains that the pigs are crucial to the running of the farm and need the milk and apples to stay healthy. If the pigs fail, Squealer says, Mr. Jones will return. The animals agree that the pigs should get the milk and apples.

CHAPTER 4

It’s late summer and news of the revolution at Animal Farm spreads. Snowball and Napoleon send out flights of pigeons to teach “Beasts of England” to the animals of nearby farms.

Mr. Jones spends his time getting drunk and complaining about his fate. The owners of the farms neighboring Animal Farm, the gentleman farmer Mr. Pilkington of Foxwood and the shrewd Mr. Frederick of Pinchfield, are concerned that the revolution might spread to their own farms. But they dislike each other so much that they can’t even agree on defending themselves. Instead, the Frederick and Pilkington spread rumors about the misery of life on Animal Farm. No animals anywhere believe them. "Beasts of England" spreads across England with incredible speed.

One day in October, pigeons fly into Animal Farm with news that Mr. Jones, along with men from Pilkington and Frederick, are headed to attack the farm. Snowball has a defense planned out: he draws the men into an ambush, then leads the charge against them. The animals rout the other men. The animals harvest the fields and bring in the crops.

In 1918, anti-Communist forces (Jones), helped by Western nations (Frederick and Pilkington), attacked the Russian Communists (the animals). After two years of Civil War, in which Trotsky (Snowball) showed great bravery, the Communists defeated the anti-Communists.

Pilkington and Frederick symbolize the capitalist Allies and Fascist Germany. These nations feared the rise of Communism because it threatened their own countries: what if their own working classes, inspired by Communism, revolted? But these nations hated and feared each other too much to band together against the Soviet Union.

In Chapter 5, One day, Clover spots Mollie at the boundary of Foxwood letting one of Mr. Pilkington’s men stroke her nose. On a hunch, Clover searches Mollie’s stall and finds sugar cubes. Mollie denies all of it, but three days later she disappears. Weeks after that, a pigeon spots Mollie pulling a man’s cart, with ribbons in her hair. No one on Animal Farm ever mentions Mollie again.

The pigs plan for the next year, which involves focusing on more pressing needs like electrical tools that will make power to warm stalls and run electrical tools that will make more hay. They also decide to build a windmill.

As the animals bury the sheep, Snowball emphasizes that animals must be willing to die to defend Animal Farm. Snowball and Boxer receive the award of Animal Hero, First Class. They name the battle the “Battle of the Cowshed,” and agree that twice each year they’ll fire Mr. Jones’s gun, which they found lying in the mud, to celebrate both this battle and the anniversary of the revolution.

CHAPTER 5

One day, Clover spots Mollie at the boundary of Foxwood letting one of Mr. Pilkington’s men stroke her nose. On a hunch, Clover searches Mollie’s stall and finds sugar cubes. Mollie denies all of it, but three days later she disappears. Weeks after that, a pigeon spots Mollie pulling a man’s cart, with ribbons in her hair. No one on Animal Farm ever mentions Mollie again.

The pigs plan for the next year, which involves focusing on more pressing needs like electrical tools that will make power to warm stalls and run electrical tools that will make more hay. They also decide to build a windmill.

In the Sunday meetings, Snowball and Napoleon now argue about everything. The most intense point of disagreement between the two is Snowball’s plan to build a windmill. He says the windmill will produce electric power to warm stalls and run electrical tools that will make everyone’s life easier. Napoleon, though, argues that the farm should focus on more pressing needs like food production.

The animals take sides: some support Snowball’s windmill, while others favor Napoleon and food production. Only Benjamin refuses to join sides, observing that no matter who wins, life will go on as it always has—badly.

As the animals bury the sheep, Snowball emphasizes that animals must be willing to die to defend Animal Farm. Snowball and Boxer receive the award of Animal Hero, First Class. They name the battle the “Battle of the Cowshed,” and agree that twice each year they’ll fire Mr. Jones’s gun, which they found lying in the mud, to celebrate both this battle and the anniversary of the revolution.

CHAPTER 5

One day, Clover spots Mollie at the boundary of Foxwood letting one of Mr. Pilkington’s men stroke her nose. On a hunch, Clover searches Mollie’s stall and finds sugar cubes. Mollie denies all of it, but three days later she disappears. Weeks after that, a pigeon spots Mollie pulling a man’s cart, with ribbons in her hair. No one on Animal Farm ever mentions Mollie again.

The pigs plan for the next year, which involves focusing on more pressing needs like electrical tools that will make power to warm stalls and run electrical tools that will make more hay. They also decide to build a windmill.

In the Sunday meetings, Snowball and Napoleon now argue about everything. The most intense point of disagreement between the two is Snowball’s plan to build a windmill. He says the windmill will produce electric power to warm stalls and run electrical tools that will make everyone’s life easier. Napoleon, though, argues that the farm should focus on more pressing needs like food production.

The animals take sides: some support Snowball’s windmill, while others favor Napoleon and food production. Only Benjamin refuses to join sides, observing that no matter who wins, life will go on as it always has—badly.

Snowball's position seems noble: the animals should be willing to die for Animal Farm, right? But the implication is that whatever Animal Farm does must always be right, even if it results in the killing of animals.

Class differences continue to take hold. The animals allow the pigs to take nearly absolute power.

These disputes mirror Trotsky and Stalin’s main disagreement: Trotsky favored modernizing the USSR while Stalin emphasized more immediate concerns. Note that the disagreements intensify only after the human threat is gone.

Benjamin believes that in the relationship between individual and state, the individual always ends up oppressed.

The rules of Animal Farm and Animalism state that if Snowball convinces the majority, he wins.
CHAPTER 6

To build the windmill and keep the farm running at the same time, the animals have to work like slaves, enduring long hours. The animals make the sacrifice happily, since it’s for their own benefit rather than for a human master. Boxer works the longest and hardest. Despite all the effort, the time spent working on the windmill makes the harvest slightly worse than it was the previous year.

CHAPTER 7

Despite the hard, bitter winter, the animals work to rebuild the windmill, which the humans claim fell because of its thin walls. Though the pigs say the humans’ claim is a lie, they make the new windmill’s walls three feet thick.

In January, the farm’s food supply runs out. Even though it seems possible the animals could starve, the pigs hide the food trouble from the humans, escorting Mr. Whymper through a storehouse made to appear full of food.

The animals trust the pigs’ lies rather than the obvious truth because they still believe blindly that “Four legs good, two legs bad!”

Under Stalin’s catastrophic Five Year Plan, the USSR suffered famines that killed millions. Stalin covered up the tragedy.
Napoleon now issues almost all orders through Squealer, who one day announces that the hens must give up four hundred eggs a week to pay for grain and feed. The hens angrily refuse. Napoleon responds by cutting the hens’ rations. He also declares that any animal that feeds the hens will be killed. After five days, during which nine hens starve to death, the hens give in.

At about the same time, Napoleon enters negotiations to sell some wood to either Pilkington or Frederick. Whenever he’s close to a deal with Pilkington, rumors circulate that Snowball is hiding at Frederick’s farm, and vice versa.

In addition, Squealer soon announces that Snowball has been sneaking onto Animal Farm at night: Napoleon can smell him. Squealer tells the animals that Snowball was Jones’s “secret agent” from the beginning. He reminds them how Snowball tried to betray them at the Battle of the Cowshed and Napoleon saved the day.

Boxer disagrees. He says he thinks Snowball was loyal at the beginning, even if he later turned traitor. When Squealer responds that Napoleon himself has stated that Snowball was a traitor from the beginning, Boxer changes his mind and says then it must be true. Still, Squealer gives Boxer a dark look and warns the animals to be on the lookout for Snowball’s secret agents.

Four days later, Napoleon calls for an assembly in the yard. When the animals gather, Napoleon whimpers and his dogs attack Boxer and the four pigs that had questioned Snowball’s removal. The pigs are bloodied, but Boxer repels the attack and pins one of the dogs to the ground. Boxer glances at the stunned Napoleon to ask what he should do. Napoleon orders him to let the dog go and then commands the pigs to confess. They confess, and the dogs kill them as traitors to Animal Farm. A series of other animals also confess: all are killed.

By tricking the animals into thinking Animalism and Animal Farm are the same, the pigs can kill or punish anyone who disagrees with their orders and claim they’re defending Animalism. It’s slavery disguised as freedom.

In the aftermath of the assembly, the animals are miserable, having witnessed the first killings on the farm since Mr. Jones was defeated. Boxer thinks he must work harder to make things better. Clover leads the animals in a rendition of “Beasts of England.” Squealer soon announces that “Beasts of England” has been forbidden: it was a song of revolution, and the revolution has ended. A pig named Minimus has composed a new song: “Animal Farm, Animal Farm, Never through me shalt thou come to harm.”

CHAPTER 8

Clover and some other animals remember that the Sixth Commandment forbade killing. But when they get Muriel to read it for them, it says, “No animal shall kill any other animal without cause.”

The animals work harder than ever to rebuild the windmill with walls twice as thick. Sometimes they feel like they’re working harder and getting less food than back when Jones was master. But each Sunday Squealer reads off figures proving the animals are happier and better off than ever.

Napoleon almost never appears in public anymore, and when he does only with great ceremony. Minimus composes songs that honor Napoleon. Napoleon’s birthday becomes a holiday, and all animals are encouraged to praise Napoleon for every good thing that happens.

Meanwhile, Napoleon’s negotiations with Frederick and Pilkington for the wood intensify. Napoleon wavers back and forth between selling the wood to one or the other. Whichever farm falls out of favor in the negotiations is the subject of nasty, and temporary, rumors around Animal Farm. Napoleon at last seems ready to come to a deal with Pilkington, and his mantra of “Death to Humans” is changed to “Death to Frederick!”

The animals joyfully finish the windmill in autumn. But Animal Farm still lacks the machinery to produce electricity, and two days later Napoleon announces a deal to sell the wood to Frederick. (His mantra is changed to “Death to Pilkington!”). The sudden reversal shocks the animals. The pigs explain that Napoleon planned all along to play Pilkington and Frederick against each other to raise the price of the wood.

After the purge, Napoleon and his pigs officially kill the revolution by banning the song “Beasts of England.” As the new masters of the farm, the pigs fear the ideas in that utopian and idealistic song, and replace it with a propaganda song that defines the state as more important than the individual.

The pigs continue to rewrite and corrupt the tenets of Animalism for their own benefit.

Now the pigs begin to manipulate facts. The uneducated animals now have no reality they can trust. They trust the pigs just because it’s too tiring not to.

Napoleon inflates his image through propaganda, making himself bigger than life and all-powerful. Stalin used propaganda similarly to increase his power.

As WW II approached, the USSR’s negotiations with the Allies and Fascists intensified. When the Soviets leaned toward a treaty with the Allies, the Soviet propaganda machine spouted anti-German rhetoric, and vice versa.

Similarly, at the last minute the Soviet’s signed a Non-aggression Pact with the Germans, rather than the Allies. All the propaganda in the USSR changed immediately to favor the Germans over the Allies.
The Germans signed the Non-aggression Pact as a fake-out, a move intended to mislead the USSR. The Germans then invaded the USSR almost immediately.

Soon, four sows give birth to over thirty young pigs. From the piglet's markings, it's clear they're Napoleon's children. He discourages the piglets from playing with the other young animals, and teaches them himself until a schoolhouse can be built for them.

Festive processions and weekly Spontaneous Demonstrations celebrating the triumphs of Animal Farm now dominate life on the farm. The celebrations remind the animals that they are working as their own masters, which alleviates their hunger somewhat.

In April, the farm is declared a Republic, and an election takes place. Napoleon, the only candidate, wins unanimously. On the same day, it's announced that Snowball fought openly against the animals at the Battle of the Cowshed.

Moses the raven suddenly reappears, talking of Sugarcandy Mountain. The pigs say it's all nonsense, but give him an allowance of beer.

One day, while working on the new windmill, Boxer's lung fails and he falls, no longer able to work. Squealer announces that Napoleon has decided to send Boxer to a human veterinary doctor. The idea of a human examining Boxer disturbs the animals, but Squealer says a vet can do more for Boxer than they can. Boxer stays in his stall until a van comes to pick him up. The animals yell their goodbyes, but Benjamin shouts that side of the van reads, "Horse Slaughtering and Glue Boiler." The animals cry out, Boxer tries to break down the door of the van with his hoofs. But he's now too weak to escape.

Three days later, Squealer announces that Boxer died in the hospital, and that his last words were "Napoleon is always right." In response to the "dark rumors" the animals had heard about the van, Squealer explains that the vet had just bought the van from the glue boiler and had not yet repainted it. A few days later the pigs buy a new crate of whiskey.

A steadfast idealist, Boxer continues to believe in Animalism even though most of its rules and laws have been broken or rewritten by the pigs.

The pigs' willingness to sell Boxer to a glue producer proves that they view the other animals merely as means to their own profit and luxurious indulgences, such as alcohol. Mr. Jones viewed the animals the same way.

Napoleon makes official the class distinctions between pigs and the other animals; the pigs get special privileges and don't interact with the other animals.

The ceremonies here are obviously not spontaneous: they're designed by the pigs to manipulate the animals' feelings.

With this crucial bit of misinformation about Snowball, the pigs have now completely rewritten Animal Farm's history.

The pigs use religion just as Jones once did: to make the animals forget their misery.

Boxer gave up his freedom without knowing it by trusting the pigs' words instead of analyzing their actions: he allowed them to take power but never held them accountable. By the time he realizes he's been betrayed, Boxer is too weak to do anything about it. In a tragic irony, his strength has been sacrificed to the regime that now sacrifices his life for its own benefit.

CHAPTER 9

Boxer still works harder than everyone else, but his strength begins to wane. He comforts himself with thoughts of retirement. In the first days of Animal Farm, it was decided that a horse could retire at age twelve and receive a pension.

Food during the winter is even scarcer than in the previous year, and the animals' rations the animals are reduced. In contrast, the rations for pigs and dogs remain at their normal levels. Squealer continues to claim that they're all better off than ever, and explains that a rigid equality in rations would be against Animalism.

About 25-30 million Soviets died while pushing back the Germans. The war annihilated Soviet infrastructure, symbolized in Animal Farm by the destruction of the windmill.

The Germans destroyed 35 to 40 million Soviets daily during their three-year'march on Moscow'. About 25-30 million Soviets died while pushing back the Germans. The war annihilated Soviet infrastructure, symbolized in Animal Farm by the destruction of the windmill.

The pigs honor their citizens' sacrifices to increase the power of the state—the state that forced them to sacrifice in the first place.

The Germans signed the Non-aggression Pact as a fake-out, a move intended to mislead the USSR. The Germans then invaded the USSR almost immediately.

The pigs make a mockery of the animals' sacrifice by indulging in alcohol. They reveal their inexperience (in comparison to the capitalist humans) by failing to distinguish Napoleon's hangover from imminent death.

Napoleon makes official the class distinctions between pigs and the other animals; the pigs get special privileges and don't interact with the other animals.

The ceremonies here are obviously not spontaneous: they're designed by the pigs to manipulate the animals' feelings.

With this crucial bit of misinformation about Snowball, the pigs have now completely rewritten Animal Farm's history.

The pigs use religion just as Jones once did: to make the animals forget their misery.

Boxer gave up his freedom without knowing it by trusting the pigs' words instead of analyzing their actions: he allowed them to take power but never held them accountable. By the time he realizes he's been betrayed, Boxer is too weak to do anything about it. In a tragic irony, his strength has been sacrificed to the regime that now sacrifices his life for its own benefit.

A steadfast idealist, Boxer continues to believe in Animalism even though most of its rules and laws have been broken or rewritten by the pigs.

The pigs control over information ensures that animals can't properly evaluate their situations. They must trust the pigs, even if it's obvious the pigs are lying.

George Orwell

Animal Farm

©2013-2014 www.LitCharts.com
CHAPTER 10

Years go by. Only Clover, Benjamin, Moses the raven, and some of the pigs remember the revolution. Animal Farm is more prosperous than ever. The windmill is finished, though instead of producing electricity it’s used to mill flour, and brings in a hefty profit. Although the farm is richer, only the pigs and dogs seem better off. Still, the animals can’t remember any other way of life, and even those that don’t remember the revolution are proud to be free.

One day Squealer brings the sheep out to a distant field with him and keeps them there for a week. Just after the sheep return, Clover lets out a terrified neigh: Squealer is walking on two legs! All the pigs then walk out of the farmhouse on two legs. Napoleon appears last, carrying a whip. The pigs’ power is so complete that they now feel free to act exactly like humans. Napoleon’s whip is a symbol of oppression.

The animals are silent and seem poised to protest. Just then the sheep begin to bleat “Four legs good, two legs better!” over and over, and the prospect of protest passes. Napoleon agrees wholeheartedly with Pilkington, and announces plans to eliminate all signs of Animal Farm’s revolutionary past, including its name. From now on it will be called by its original and proper name: Manor Farm.

The similarity of all totalitarian governments is represented by the changing of the farm’s name back to its original name.

Clover asks Benjamin to read the Seven Commandments to her. But the wall now only reads, “All Animals Are Equal. But Some Are More Equal Than Others.” Animalism has been entirely rewritten to benefit the pigs. It now reads like nonsense.

The next day, all the pigs start carrying whips and wearing clothes. A week later, they invite humans from nearby farms to look around and stay for dinner at Animal Farm. That night, the animals, led by Clover, sneak up and watch the pigs and humans through the window. Pilkington and Napoleon toast each other. Pilkington says he’s pleased to have their history of mistrust behind them. He expresses admiration that the pigs can feed their animals so little yet get so much work out of them. He adds that pigs and men have similar problems: pigs have lower animals to deal with, while men have lower classes.

The men and pigs return to a game of poker and the farm animals turn to leave, but a shout from within stops them. Napoleon and Pilkington have discovered each other cheating at cards. A fight has broken out. In the chaos, the animals can’t tell the pigs from the humans.

The similarity of all totalitarian governments is represented by the changing of the farm’s name back to its original name.

In their petty greed, the Animalist and Capitalist leaders are indistinguishable. The animals are back where they started: enslaved by oppressive leaders.