

Year 8 - Knowledge Organiser – Animal Farm

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

Context	Characters	
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.	Old Major: Wise, old pig. Starts the rebellion with his powerful speech about men.	Mr Whymper: Sly solicitor who helps Napoleon.
	Mollie: Shallow and childish mare; deserts the farm to continue to lead the life of a horse.	Mr Jones: drunken owner of Animal Farm. Symbolises the control and greed of men.
Old Major represents Karl Marx, Snowball represents Communism, and Napoleon represents Stalin.	Snowball: Hero of the Battle of the Cowshed, expelled by Napoleon and used as a scapegoat.	Napoleon: Controlling dictator. Leads by fear and propaganda.
Orwell is most famous for this novel and 1984, a dystopian book that wrote about an extreme version of the future. Several new words came from Orwell's work, including cold war, Big Brother, Thought Police, Room 101, memory hole, newspeak, doublethink, and <u>thoughtcrime</u>	Clover: Caring and loyal, has very little control but realises what is happening as the pigs take control.	Pilkington and Frederick: Owners of the neighbouring farms and equally manipulative.
	Boxer: Innocent but hard working, very strong and selfless.	Squealer: Napoleon's mouthpiece, he uses propaganda to control the animals.

Plot

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| <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. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <i>Beasts of England</i> 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. Onlooking animals can not tell the difference between pigs and humans. |
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Themes

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

Key vocabulary

Deceit	Influence	Scapegoat	Dictatorship	Manipulated	Corruption	Equality	Commandment	Tyranny	Allegory	Satire	Comrade
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