

Context
<p><b>George Orwell</b> was the pseudonym of Eric Arthur Blair. He was born in India in 1903 and died in 1950. His experiences in life led him to become a life-long socialist, and his writing explored humanity's tendency to exploit and oppress others. He was appalled by oppressive political regimes and he was particularly concerned about the welfare of ordinary people. He was also disillusioned by revolutionaries who initially fought to overthrow such oppressive regimes but who then eventually allowed that level of power, control and inequality within society to return. For this reason, he based his allegorical fable 'Animal Farm' on events in Russia in the first half of the twentieth century.</p>
<p>'<b>Animal Farm</b>' - a <b>political allegory</b>: Orwell condemns the dictatorship that Stalin had established in Russia from 1929 onwards. He writes about certain events and ideas in Russian history – particularly the revolution of 1917 that helped bring about Stalin's rise to power - and characters are used symbolically e.g. Napoleon represents Stalin and his brutal regime. However, the novella isn't just about Russia: he also criticises power, selfishness and greed generally. The novella was published in 1945, at the end of World War 2. Orwell – and the world as a whole - had witnessed the devastating impact of dictatorships for persecuted people, individual countries and world peace. At this time, Russia was seen as an important British ally against the Nazis, which is one reason why Orwell found it so hard to get the story published. It is now regarded as one of the 20th century's most important and influential novels. 'Animal Farm' is also subtitled 'A Fairy Story' but Orwell subverts this genre. Fairy stories tend to be about a battle between good and evil, but in 'Animal Farm', good is punished rather than rewarded, and evil triumphs.</p>
<p><b>Russia before 1917</b>: Russian society was unequal - a tiny minority controlled most of the country's wealth, while the vast majority of the country's inhabitants were impoverished and oppressed peasants. Communism arose when the workers and peasants, assisted by a class of concerned intellectuals known as the intelligentsia, rebelled against the wealthy and powerful capitalists and aristocrats. They hoped to establish a socialist utopia based on the principles of Karl Marx.</p>
<p><b>Karl Marx</b> was a German philosopher who believed that in a capitalist society, workers were exploited by the people they worked for. Orwell wrote that Major's speech was intended to show "Marx's theory from the animals' point of view". Orwell's ideal society was a socialist one because the nobody would be oppressed and all people would live as equals.</p>
<p><b>The Russian Revolution</b>: after an initial uprising in February 1917, Tsar Nicholas II, the leader of Russia, was forced to abdicate the throne. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, led another uprising in October 1917 and took control of Russia. Lenin aimed to turn Russia into the world's first socialist state. The Communist Party was formed, and the new regime took land and industry from private control and put them under government supervision. Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin vied for power after Lenin's death. Trotsky was a popular and charismatic leader, famous for his impassioned speeches, while Stalin was a more crafty and manipulative politician who preferred to build his power behind the scenes.</p>
<p><b>Stalin</b> was the dictator of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) from 1929 to 1953. He transformed the Soviet Union from a peasant society into an industrial and military superpower. However, he ruled by terror, and millions of his own citizens died during his brutal reign (Stalin was responsible for more deaths than Adolf Hitler). Trotsky was made the scapegoat for all the problems that Russia suffered under Stalin.</p>
<p><b>Orwell and the truth</b>: unlike many British socialists in the 1930s and 1940s, Orwell felt that Stalin had betrayed the revolution's original, socialist ideals. He could not turn a blind eye to the cruelty, hypocrisy and dictatorship of Stalin. He felt Stalinism was no better than the Tsarist system it had replaced. Overall, Orwell was opposed to any system that seeks to control human beings in an unjust way.</p>

Themes	
<p><b>Power:</b> Orwell explores how power is wielded by the powerful. He suggests that <b>power leads to corruption</b> e.g. many of the characters are eventually corrupted by the power they have: humans mistreat their animals and use them for their own profit; the pigs use their leadership to exploit their fellow animals. Orwell links <b>power and dictatorship</b>. He warns about the abuse of power and the dangers of unlicensed and unchecked power e.g. Napoleon is driven by power and his tyranny leads to a shocking conclusion. Orwell suggests that <b>the exploited can rise up and be powerful</b> e.g. the animals have the power to take control of the farm and overcome human control. Orwell also suggests that <b>'knowledge is power'</b>. The pigs are the most intelligent animals on the farm – Snowball uses this for good and tries to empower the other animals. However, the other pigs use their knowledge and learning to benefit themselves. It allows them to achieve and hold on to their power.</p>	<p><b>Language:</b> Orwell suggests that <b>language can be dangerous</b>. He suggests that language stops the animals from seeing the reality of their situation and blinds them to the truth e.g. Squealer's speeches show how language can be dangerous. Orwell suggests that <b>language is manipulative</b>: the powerful use propaganda and misinformation to control thoughts and to present outrageous ideas in such a way that they seem acceptable e.g. the pigs rewrite the Seven Commandments; they rewrite history; they reshape memories and beliefs. The pigs use language and information to build and hold their power</p>
<p><b>Equality:</b> Orwell suggests that equality can be fought for, and that <b>a perfect society is an equal one</b>. After the rebellion, the animals are free from the tyranny of Mr Jones and seek to establish equality amongst themselves. One of the Commandments is 'All animals are equal'. The animals achieve more when they are united e.g. their first successful harvest and the Battle of the Cowshed. Orwell also suggests that <b>equality must be protected</b> and that within humanity, there will be those who seek to undermine it. Orwell seems to suggest that <b>humanity makes equality vulnerable</b>, and even doomed to failure.</p>	<p><b>Social class:</b> Orwell suggests that <b>class divides cause hardship and suffering</b>. The animals highlight the hardship of the working classes in Russia: they lived in terrible conditions and what they farmed was taken from them leaving them to face starvation and poverty. Mr Jones symbolises the lazy, neglectful and ignorant rule of the aristocracy who held power. Orwell suggests that <b>class divides cause inequality</b>. The farm is a microcosm of society: there is a strict hierarchy, with humans ruling the animals. This extends to the animals: some are stronger, bigger and are seen as more valuable (in different ways) than others. The setting reflects any country where the working class, or proletariat, is unfairly treated by the ruling class. Orwell suggests that <b>class and education are linked</b>. The pigs create a divide by calling themselves "mindworkers" to distinguish themselves from the other animals. The other animals work so hard that they have no time to learn or educate themselves or think deeply about their world. Orwell implies that whether because of ignorance, inaction, or fear, the working class allows itself to be dominated by the "mindworkers."</p>

Characters	
<p><b>Old Major</b> is very <b>intelligent, well-respected, an excellent speaker and an inspiration to the animals</b>. He is Mr Jones' "highly regarded" prize boar. His passionate speech inspires the rebellion. It is a mix of Marxism and Leninism, and it presents a socialist view of life as a struggle against tyranny, and the need to strive for a free and equal society. Marx was a German philosopher who lived during the 19th-century. Marx's ideas formed the basis of communism - his ideas are collectively known as 'Marxism', like 'Animalism' in the novella. Lenin was a Russian revolutionary who established a form of Marxism in Russia after the 1917 revolution.</p>	<p><b>Napoleon</b> is a <b>threatening and ruthless</b> boar. Alongside Snowball, he takes Old Major's ideas and turns them into 'Animalism'. He is not a gifted speaker but is known for getting his own way. He uses the other animals to strengthen his position. Napoleon is an allusion to the dictator, Joseph Stalin - he was involved in the Russian Revolution and ruled Soviet Russia after the death of Lenin in 1924, until his own death in 1953. The name is also an allusion to Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821), a military officer who rose to power during the French Revolution, then named himself emperor of France in 1804 and then became a dictator for life.</p>
<p><b>Snowball</b> is one of the pigs who takes Old Major's teachings and turns them 'Animalism'. He is <b>intelligent, inventive and thoughtful</b>. He disappears halfway through the novella and his good deeds are systematically erased from history and memory. He is used by Napoleon as a scapegoat. He is an allusion to Leon Trotsky, one of the leading figures of the Russian Revolution. He opposed Stalin's decisions and eventually was forced into exile from the Soviet Union in 1929.</p>	<p><b>Squealer</b> is another of the three most important pigs. Like Snowball, he is <b>clever and a skilled speaker</b> and he is excellent at persuading the other animals. He becomes Napoleon's voice: he delivers Napoleon's orders, explains his choices and tells lies to support Napoleon.</p>
<p><b>Boxer</b>, a horse, is a tragic character. This "enormous beast" is the <b>revolution's most loyal disciple</b> who is prepared to make huge sacrifices for the farm's success. He symbolises people who are exploited by the powerful, such as the proletariat who hoped for a better world and the peasant workers of Russia who were exploited by Tsar Nicholas II.</p>	<p><b>Clover</b>, like Boxer, symbolises the proletariat. She is also a <b>loyal disciple</b> of the rebellion, right to the end.</p>
	<p><b>Benjamin</b> is an old and pessimistic donkey. He is presented as a <b>realist who observes events from afar</b>. He refuses to question or interfere with the changes that happen on the farm...until it is too late.</p>
<p><b>Moses</b>, the raven, symbolises <b>religion</b> (specifically, the Russian Orthodox Church). He convinces many of the animals that there is a better life on Sugarcandy Mountain. He persuades the animals to accept their misery, and to see it as something to be endured before they find eternal peace and happiness in paradise.</p>	
<p><b>Mr Jones</b> owns Manor Farm but he is <b>incapable of running it humanely</b> and he neglects his animals. He is an allusion to the Tsar, who was deemed to be incapable of leading Russia and caring for his people, as well as capitalists who profit from exploiting the proletariat.</p>	<p><b>Mollie</b> is an allusion to the so-called White Russians - members of the middle classes who opposed the revolution because they enjoyed a privileged life under the Tsar. She is not committed to the rebellion as she doesn't want to lose her privileges. She is <b>vain, spoiled and selfish</b>.</p>
<p><b>The dogs</b> symbolise Stalin's secret police - they are <b>an instrument of Napoleon's rule</b> and show how his control of the farm was plotted from the beginning. They act and think as one terrifying force.</p>	<p><b>The sheep</b> symbolise <b>ignorance and blind faith</b>, as well as the most mindless elements of society, or the 'mob'. No individual sheep is given a name. They act, behave and follow as one, without any thought or question. They show how an unthinking mob can prop up a tyrant.</p>
<p><b>The pigs</b> are the intelligentsia, the <b>most intelligent and capable creatures</b>. They understand Animalism and translate it into easy slogans for the other animals. They are the decision-makers on the farm and become an elite class, exploiting the animals and living a life of luxury that is unimaginable to the rest.</p>	<p><b>Mr Pilkington</b>, a fellow farmer, <b>exploits</b> his workers like Napoleon. His farm is neglected while he enjoys fishing, hunting and pursuing his own pleasure. He is an allusion to Winston Churchill.</p> <p><b>Mr Frederick</b>, another farmer, is a <b>hard, greedy and argumentative</b> businessman, but he is also shrewd and crafty. He is cruel and is an allusion to Hitler.</p> <p><b>Mr Whymper</b>, a solicitor, profits from the animals' misery and suffering. He is <b>sly</b> and symbolises selfishness and exploitation.</p>

Key terminology	Definition
<b>Allegory</b>	A story with two different meanings, where the straightforward meaning on the surface is used to reveal a deeper meaning underneath. In this allegory, Orwell explores political power and corruption.
<b>Allusion</b>	A reference to something else, such as a historical event, a person, a place or another text. Orwell makes many allusions to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the events that followed.
<b>Anthropomorphism</b>	A description of animals that are seen to behave like humans. They talk, think and are given human characteristics.
<b>Cyclical structure</b>	A structural technique where the ending of the text mirrors the opening. In this novella, the animals end up in the same position they were at the beginning: exploited by a tyrannical leader.
<b>Dystopia</b>	An imagined world of great suffering and injustice - usually set in the future - which is far worse than our own.
<b>Fable</b>	A short story that contains a moral. Orwell makes use of the beast fable form (stories in which animal characters are used to make serious moral points e.g. to raise questions about equality, power and corruption).
<b>Fairy story</b>	Fairy stories tend to explore the conflict between good and evil and involve fantastical events, the supernatural, magic and transformations. However, there is <b>no happy ending to this fairy story</b> .
<b>Foil</b>	A character whose purpose is to emphasise or contrast with the qualities of another character e.g. Snowball acts as a foil for Napoleon.
<b>Foreshadowing</b>	When the writer hints what is going to happen later on in the text.
<b>Irony</b>	When a writer uses deliberate contradictions to make either a humorous or serious point. The meaning behind the words is usually completely opposite to the literal meaning.
<b>Narrative perspective</b>	The voice telling the story or relating a sequence of events (the viewpoint from which a story is told).
<b>Omniscient narrator</b>	A god-like, all-knowing figure, who sees everything that happens in the story. Orwell uses a third person omniscient narrator who knows everything the animals see, say, know and do as a group.
<b>Propaganda</b>	The deliberate and organised spread of information (especially biased or misleading) to make sure people unquestioningly believe what you want them to believe.
<b>Rhetoric</b>	The art of speaking (and writing) effectively in order to persuade an audience.
<b>Satire</b>	Literature that targets an issue, institution or idea and attacks it in such a way as to make it look ridiculous or worthy of contempt. 'Animal Farm' is a satire on political power.
<b>Symbolism</b>	Where an object or person is used to represent something else or a bigger idea.

## HT1 'Animal Farm' - Vocabulary List

Chapter 1	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
Oppression	The cruel and unjust treatment of others.	Throughout history, people have risen up against oppression.	Persecution Abuse
Exploit	To selfishly take advantage of someone in order to profit from them.  Exploitation	To exploit someone is to make them feel powerless and desperate.	Manipulate Use
Tyrant	A person who governs their people in an unjust and violent way.  Tyranny Tyrannical	Tyrants rule through fear and the abuse of their position.	Dictator Oppressor
Visionary	Thinking about or planning the future with imagination or wisdom.	The visionary leader inspired her people to believe in a better future.	Idealist Prophet
Utopia	An imagined perfect place or society. The term is taken from Sir Thomas More's book of the same name (published in 1516), which describes such a society.	The people imagined a utopia where they were free and safe from harm.	Paradise Idyll
Capitalist	According to Karl Marx, a capitalist is someone who has money and invests it in a business. This person then makes a profit if the business does well.  In a capitalist society, property, business, and industry are privately owned, directed towards making the greatest possible profits for successful organisations and people.	Capitalists are motivated by the idea of personal profit and success.	
Proletariat	The working class of people who do unskilled jobs in industry and own little or no property.	The needs of the proletariat could no longer be ignored by their employers.	
Socialist	Socialists believe that all people are equal and should share equally in a country's money. In a socialist society, the state owns all of a country's assets and services. All wealth is divided equally among its citizens.	The socialist belief in equality for all is admirable.	
Chapter 2	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
Neglect	To fail to care for properly.	The government neglected its citizens' wellbeing.	Mistreat Abandon
Usurp	To take (a position of power or importance) illegally or by force.	The revolutionaries usurped the throne and seized control of the country.	Seize Overthrow

Democracy	A system of government whereby everyone (who is eligible) has a say in the way things are run. The word democracy itself means 'rule by the people'. People can change their rulers in a peaceful manner and the government is given the right to rule because the people vote for it.	In the UK, we like to think we live in a democracy.	Egalitarian Just
Disciple	A follower or pupil of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.	Loyal disciples of democracy believe in freedom of speech.	Supporter Follower
Intelligentsia	Intellectuals or highly educated people as a group, especially when regarded as possessing culture and political influence.	The intelligentsia proclaimed that everyone had a right to be educated.	Scholars Intellectuals
Euphoric	Feeling intense excitement and happiness.  Euphoria	The euphoric team celebrated their unlikely victory.	Elated Ecstatic
Covert	Not openly acknowledged or displayed.  Covertly	During the lesson, the student's covert actions went unnoticed by the oblivious teacher.	Secretive Surreptitious
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>In a sentence</b>	<b>Synonyms</b>
Insidious	To behave in a gradual, subtle way, but with very harmful effects.	Insidious rumours were spread about her.	Stealthy Deceptive
Hierarchy	A system in which members of an organisation or society are ranked according to relative status or authority.	His dominant position in the hierarchy went unchallenged.	Ranking Order
Disparity	A great difference.	Recent events exposed the disparity between rich and poor.	Discrepancy Imbalance
Guile	Sly or cunning intelligence.	It was well known that the politician used guile to get her own way.	Slyness Dishonesty
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>In a sentence</b>	<b>Synonyms</b>
Corrupt	Having or showing a willingness to act dishonestly in return for money or personal gain.	The dictator's behaviour became increasingly corrupt.	Dishonourable Amoral
Vengeance	Punishment inflicted or retribution exacted for an injury or wrong.	The victim of the crime soon became consumed by a desire for vengeance.	Revenge Retribution
Accolade	An award or privilege granted as a special honour or as an acknowledgement of merit.	The Oscars are the highest accolade an actor can receive for their work.	Tribute Honour
Valour	Great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle.	The soldier's valour diminished as war took its toll.	Fearlessness Heroism
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>In a sentence</b>	<b>Synonyms</b>
Totalitarian	A government that has absolute control over its citizens' lives and does not allow them to raise any opposition. Most dictatorships are totalitarian in nature.	In totalitarian regimes, all democratic principles are removed, such as the right	Authoritarian Oppressive

		to vote for who you really want.	
Propaganda	The deliberate and organised spread of information (especially biased or misleading) to make sure people unquestioningly believe what you want them to believe.	The government's insidious propaganda deflected attention from their own wrongdoings.	Publicity Spin
Schism	A split or division between strongly opposed sections or parties, caused by differences in opinion or belief.	The schism between rich and poor grows ever deeper.	Rift Breach
Duplicitous	Deceitful; to cheat or lie.	He's deeply duplicitous and not to be trusted.	Dishonest Underhand
Acquiesce	To accept something reluctantly but without protest.  Acquiescence  Acquiescent	Although I didn't want to go to the show, I had to acquiesce in the end as I felt so guilty.	To give in Accept
Audacity	Bold or arrogant disregarding of normal rules of behaviour.	The notorious criminal had the audacity to pretend that she was innocent.	Arrogance Nerve