

Themes		Characters	
<p>Power: Orwell explores how power is wielded by the powerful. He suggests that power leads to corruption 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 power and dictatorship. 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 the exploited can rise up and be powerful e.g. the animals have the power to take control of the farm and overcome human control. Orwell also suggests that 'knowledge is power'. 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>Language: Orwell suggests that language can be dangerous. 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 language is manipulative: 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>Old Major is very intelligent, well-respected, an excellent speaker and an inspiration to the animals. 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. <i>Old Major shows how even the most worthy of ideas can be corrupted and distorted: the pigs twist and abuse Old Major's ideas just as Orwell believed Stalin took socialist ideas and twisted them for his own benefit.</i></p>	<p>Napoleon is a threatening and ruthless 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. <i>Napoleon represents the nightmare of dictatorship. Orwell uses him to demonstrate what happens when people surrender their power to someone else. His rise to power shows how leaders become tyrants and how they keep themselves in power.</i></p>
<p>Equality: Orwell suggests that equality can be fought for, and that a perfect society is an equal one. 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 equality must be protected and that within humanity, there will be those who seek to undermine it. Orwell seems to suggest that humanity makes equality vulnerable, and even doomed to failure.</p>	<p>Social class: Orwell suggests that class divides cause hardship and suffering. 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 class divides cause inequality. 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 class and education are linked. 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>	<p>Snowball is one of the pigs who takes Old Major's teachings and turns them 'Animalism'. He is intelligent, inventive and thoughtful. 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. <i>Orwell uses Snowball to show the power of intelligence and thought. He is also as a foil to Napoleon.</i></p>	<p>Squealer is another of the three most important pigs. Like Snowball, he is clever and a skilled speaker 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. <i>Orwell uses Squealer to demonstrate how politicians use propaganda to control people. Squealer shows how language can be a powerful tool to exploit people and build power.</i></p>
		<p>Boxer, a horse, is a tragic character. This "enormous beast" is the revolution's most loyal disciple 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>Clover, like Boxer, symbolises the proletariat. She is also a loyal disciple of the rebellion, right to the end. <i>Orwell uses Clover to show the fear of the animals and their disbelief at their final betrayal.</i></p>
		<p>Moses, the raven, symbolises religion (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. <i>Orwell uses Moses to explore how rulers exploit religion and use it to pacify and control their people, giving them false hope and making them accept their oppression.</i></p>	<p>Benjamin is an old and pessimistic donkey. He is presented as a realist who observes events from afar. He refuses to question or interfere with the changes that happen on the farm...until it is too late. <i>Orwell uses Benjamin to show the consequences of being passive: he symbolises what happens to those who see wrongdoing but do nothing to stop it.</i></p>
		<p>Mr Jones owns Manor Farm but he is incapable of running it humanely 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>Mollie 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 vain, spoiled and selfish.</p>
		<p>The dogs symbolise Stalin's secret police - they are an instrument of Napoleon's rule and show how his control of the farm was plotted from the beginning. They act and think as one terrifying force.</p>	<p>The sheep symbolise ignorance and blind faith, 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>The pigs are the intelligentsia, the most intelligent and capable creatures. 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>Mr Pilkington, a fellow farmer, exploits 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. Mr Frederick, another farmer, is a hard, greedy and argumentative businessman, but he is also shrewd and crafty. He is cruel and is an allusion to Hitler. Mr Whymper, a solicitor, profits from the animals' misery and suffering. He is sly and symbolises selfishness and exploitation.</p>		

Viewpoint writing techniques	Example
Emotive language: words/ phrases deliberately used to evoke a powerful feeling from the reader e.g. sympathy, anger.	<i>An innocent bystander suffered facial injuries when the thug viciously launched his glass across the bar.</i>
Flattery: deliberately complimenting the reader.	<i>Being such a clever and knowledgeable person, I know that you will agree with my train of thought.</i>
Hyperbole: deliberately exaggerated language.	<i>I am drowning in the amount of homework I need to do. The deadlines are killing me!</i>
Imperative: a sentence that is used to issue a command or instruction, make a request, or offer advice.	<i>Remember this moment.</i>
Listing: when the writer includes several words/ phrases/ ideas, one after the other.	<i>The reins, the halters, the blinkers, the degrading nosebags, were thrown on to the rubbish fire which was burning in the yard.</i>
Modal verb: these are auxiliary verbs (also called helping verbs) like <i>can, will, could, shall, must, would, might, and should</i> . Modal verbs add different meanings to the main verb in a sentence, and can make something sound more forceful or likely to happen.	<i>We must act now and then change will happen.</i>
Pronoun: <u>first-person</u> pronouns (<i>I, me, my, we</i>) can be used to make a speaker sound more convincing and truthful. <u>Second-person</u> pronouns (<i>you, your</i>) address the reader directly. They help to manipulate the thinking of the audience.	<i>You are the key to this entire idea succeeding - we will be with you all the way. I can't thank you enough!</i>
Repetition: when a word/ phrase is noticeably repeated throughout a sentence/ paragraph/ whole text.	<i>No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free.</i>
Rhetorical question: a question asked in order to prompt further thought or to make a point rather than to get an answer.	<i>Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings?</i>
The rule of three: the use of 3 word, phrases or sentences one after the other to describe something in a memorable way.	<i>Homes have been lost; jobs shed; businesses shattered.</i>

Key terminology	Definition
Allegory	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.
Allusion	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.
Anthropomorphism	A description of animals that are seen to behave like humans. They talk, think and are given human characteristics.
Cyclical structure	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.
Dystopia	An imagined world of great suffering and injustice - usually set in the future - which is far worse than our own.
Fable	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).
Fairy story	Fairy stories tend to explore the conflict between good and evil and involve fantastical events, the supernatural, magic and transformations. However, there is no happy ending to this fairy story.
Foil	A character whose purpose is to emphasise or contrast with the qualities of another character e.g. Snowball acts as a foil for Napoleon.
Foreshadowing	When the writer hints what is going to happen later on in the text.
Irony	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.
Narrative perspective	The voice telling the story or relating a sequence of events (the viewpoint from which a story is told).
Omniscient narrator	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.
Oxymoron	A phrase or group of words that contradict each other, such as 'dark light', 'a deafening silence' and 'ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS'.
Pathetic fallacy	A type of personification where emotions are given to a setting, a natural object or the weather.
Pathos	A moment that makes us feel pity or sorrow. Orwell uses pathos to describe the animals' suffering at various points in the novella.
Propaganda	The deliberate and organised spread of information (especially biased or misleading) to make sure people unquestioningly believe what you want them to believe.
Rhetoric	The art of speaking (and writing) effectively in order to persuade an audience.
Satire	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.
Symbolism	Where an object or person is used to represent something else or a bigger idea.

HT2 'Animal Farm' - Vocabulary List

Chapter 5	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
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
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
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 to vote for who you really want.	Authoritarian Oppressive
Chapter 6	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
Assuage	To make an unpleasant feeling less intense; to make something feel better.	The Prime Minister's speech tried to assuage the fears of the country.	Ease Relieve
Foreboding	A feeling that something bad will happen; a state of fearful apprehension.	The darkening sky and stormy clouds established a sense of foreboding.	Unease Disquiet
Hypocrisy	When someone pretends to believe something that they do not really believe, or that is the opposite of what they do or say at another time.	The newspaper condemned the hypocrisy of those politicians who do one thing and say another.	Pretence Insincerity
Subservient	To be prepared to obey others unquestioningly.	Traditionally, women were expected to adopt a subservient role in society.	Obedient Dutiful
Chapter 7	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
Antithesis	A person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else.	Democracy is the antithesis of dictatorship.	Opposite Contrast
Collude	To cooperate in a secret or unlawful way in order to deceive or gain an advantage over others.	She accused her opponents of colluding with one another.	Conspire Plot
Depravity	Moral corruption; wickedness.	War often leads people to behave with depravity.	Corruption Immorality
Treachery	A complete betrayal of trust.	Many people died because of his treachery.	Betrayal Disloyalty
Chapter 8	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
Blatant	Something bad that is done openly and unashamedly.	Despite the blatant foul, the player escaped a yellow card.	Undisguised Flagrant
Distorted	To give a misleading or false account of something.	The programme presented a completely distorted version of the truth.	False Twisted
Duplicious	Deceitful; to cheat or lie.	He's deeply duplicious and not to be trusted.	Dishonest Underhand

Futile	Something that is pointless as it will not achieve anything; a wasted attempt. Futility	He made a futile attempt to defend himself but the court found him guilty.	Pointless Useless
Chapter 9	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
Audacity	Bold or arrogant disregarding of normal rules of behaviour.	The notorious criminal had the audacity to pretend that she was innocent.	Arrogance Nerve
Discard	To get rid of someone or something that is no longer useful or desirable.	She bundled up the clothes she had discarded carelessly on the floor.	Reject Cast aside
Farcical	Something that is absurd or ridiculous.	She thought the whole idea was farcical from start to finish.	Preposterous Absurd
Perfidy	The state of being deceitful and untrustworthy.	The lies he told were just one example of his perfidy.	Deceit Dishonesty
Chapter 10	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
Grotesque	Something that is astonishing or inappropriate to a shocking degree. Something that is repulsively distorted.	Some celebrities live a life of grotesque luxury. Her Halloween costume was topped off by a grotesque mask.	Outrageous Monstrous Unnatural Malformed
Indoctrinate	The process of teaching a person or group to accept a set of beliefs uncritically.	He was able to indoctrinate the people through his rhetoric.	Convince Instruct
Unveil	To show or announce something publicly for the first time.	Her evil was unveiled for all to see.	Expose Reveal
Violate	To treat (something sacred) with carelessness, thoughtlessness or disrespect.	The students violated the rules and they were punished for it.	Destroy Defile