

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 (*Burmese Days*, 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. Wodehouse 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 dictatorship 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. Eliot, 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 equal 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

and 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 think about and understand fully the ways that humans exploit and enslave animals. Old Major's ideas inspire the animals' revolution, though Old Major dies before the revolution occurs. *Old Major symbolizes both Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, the fathers of Communism.*

Napoleon – A pig. One of **Old Major's** main disciples. A "fierce-looking Berkshire boar," Napoleon prizes power over ideas, unlike **Snowball**, Napoleon's other main disciple. Napoleon is cowardly, shrewd, calculating, and selfish. While he fully supports the revolution against **Mr. Jones**, he cares more

about his own power than he does about the ideals of the revolution. His selfishness leads him to build a totalitarian government based on terror and lies that gives him more power over the other animals than Mr. Jones ever had. *Napoleon symbolizes Stalin, who led the Soviet Union from 1930 until his death in 1953.*

Snowball – A pig. Alongside **Napoleon**, one of **Old Major's** main disciples. Snowball is a more lively, original, and intelligent pig than Napoleon, but he is less shrewd in the ways of power. Snowball values the ideals of the revolution more than Napoleon does, though at times Snowball does seem willing to sacrifice the principle of animal equality for his own personal comfort. In the end, despite Snowball's bravery in supporting the revolution, his political naiveté is no match for Napoleon's

cunning. *Snowball symbolizes Trotsky, a rival of Stalin exiled from Russian and assassinated on Stalin's orders in Mexico in 1940.*

Squealer – A pig. Short and fat, Squealer is a terrific speaker who prioritizes his personal comfort above all else. Whenever the pigs violate the tenets of Animalism, Squealer persuades the other animals that the pigs are actually acting in everyone's best interest. *Squealer represents the Soviet press, which Stalin controlled throughout his rule.*

Minimus – A pig who writes propaganda poems and songs praising **Napoleon** and Animal Farm. *Minimus represents the takeover of art by propaganda in a totalitarian state that aims to control what its citizens think.*

Boxer – A horse. Strong and hardworking, Boxer is extremely honorable, though not so intelligent. Boxer believes deeply in the revolution, so much so that he thinks the Animal Farm leader, who also leads the revolution, must be virtuous and wise. One of Boxer's favorite sayings is "**Napoleon** is always right." Boxer has the strength to overthrow Napoleon's dictatorship, but not the wit to realize that it is a dictatorship. Boxer devotes all his strength to supporting Napoleon, yet when that strength finally fails him, Napoleon betrays him. *Boxer symbolizes the male working class and peasants of the Soviet Union.*

Clover – A horse. Clover is a gentle, motherly, and powerful mare, who supports the revolution, but becomes dismayed by the direction it takes under **Napoleon**. Yet she has neither the will nor the personality to resist the pigs. She becomes a witness to the corruption of the revolution as it turns into a totalitarian state, though she only vaguely understands that something has gone wrong. *Clover symbolizes the female working class and peasants of the Soviet Union.*

Mollie – A vain horse who loves sugar and wearing pretty ribbons in her mane, Mollie never much cares about the revolution. She abandons Animal Farm and puts herself into service for another human well before totalitarianism even takes hold

on the farm. *Mollie symbolizes the selfish and materialistic middle-class.*

Benjamin – A donkey. Guided by a skeptical philosophy that life will always be difficult and painful, Benjamin is not surprised when the pigs corrupt the revolution and transform Animal Farm into a totalitarian state. Though Benjamin's skepticism proves to be correct, it also makes him powerless. Alone among the other animals, Benjamin seems to understand what's going on, but he does nothing to stop it. In the end, his inaction comes back to haunt him when his dear friend **Boxer** is betrayed and killed. *Benjamin represents those who were aware of Stalin's unjust and oppressive policies but did nothing to try to stop them.*

The Dogs – Jessie, Bluebell, Pincher, and the nine attack dogs provide the pigs with the brute force necessary to terrorize the other animals. In return, the dogs receive special privileges. The dogs don't rule, but they live comfortably. *The dogs symbolize the Soviet secret police.*

Moses – A tame raven who constantly speaks about a beautiful place called Sugarcandy Mountain where all animals go when they die. *Moses represents organized religion.*

The Sheep – Dumb animals who believe whatever propaganda is told to them and follow orders. *The sheep represent the duped citizens of a totalitarian state.*

Muriel – A goat. One of the few animals other than the pigs and dogs who becomes fully literate.

Mr. Jones – The owner of Manor Farm, and once a strict and fierce master, Mr. Jones has in recent years become drunk, careless, and ineffective, though he remains as casually cruel and arrogant as ever. *Mr. Jones symbolizes the Russian Tsar in the early 20th century.*

Mr. Frederick – The owner of the neighboring farm of Pinchfield. A vicious, cruel, and calculating man, *Frederick symbolizes the Fascist Germans.*

Mr. Pilkington – The gentleman owner of the neighboring farm of Pilkington. A man who prefers recreation to farm work, *Pilkington represents the Allies before World War II, particularly the British.*

Mr. Whymper – The human that the pigs use as their connection to the outside world, *Whymper symbolizes capitalists who got rich doing business with the USSR.*

Themes

In LitCharts, each theme gets its own corresponding color, which you can use to track where the themes occur in the work. There are two ways to track themes:

- Refer to the color-coded bars next to each plot point throughout the *Summary and Analysis* sections.
- Use the *ThemeTracker* section to get a quick overview of where the themes appear throughout the entire work.

Totalitarianism

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 the 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 oppression of the individual and the lower class. Those who hold power in totalitarian regimes care only about one thing: maintaining their power by any means necessary. While the story of Napoleon's rise to power is most explicitly a condemnation of totalitarianism in the Soviet Union, Orwell intends *Animal Farm* to criticize all totalitarian regimes.

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.

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

Symbols are shown in **red** text whenever they appear in the *Plot Summary* and *Summary and Analysis* sections of this LitChart.

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 construction 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.

Summary and Analysis

The color-coded bars in *Summary and Analysis* make it easy to track the themes through the work. Each color corresponds to one of the themes explained in the Themes section. For instance, a bar of  indicates that all five themes apply to that part of the summary.

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.



Word had spread among the animals during the day that **Old Major**, an old and respected prize boar, had a strange dream and wants to speak to them.

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



The animals gather in the barn to hear what **Old Major** has to say: the dogs arrive first; then the pigs, who sit in front of Old Major's speaking platform. Next come the hens, pigeons, sheep, and cows; two cart horses, the enormous **Boxer**, and the motherly **Clover** who lets some orphaned ducklings shelter between her legs; **Muriel** the goat and **Benjamin** the donkey; **Mollie**, a white horse showing off the red ribbons in her hair; and finally, the cat. Only **Moses**, the tame raven, fails to come.

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.



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.

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.



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.

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.



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.

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.



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.



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.

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.



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.

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 selfish materialism.



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.

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.



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.

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



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.

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 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. Finally, the pigs, who had secretly taught themselves to read and write in the previous three months, repaint the sign at the gate of the farm to read: Animal Farm.

Old Major's utopian dream seems to have come true. Orwell describes the animals as a single group, indicating their equality. The tools Jones used to enslave them are destroyed. The renaming of the farm symbolizes their self-mastery, and mirrors the change from Russia to the Soviet Union.



Back in the barn, the pigs paint the Seven Commandments of Animalism on the wall:

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.



- 1) Whatever has two legs is an enemy.
- 2) Whatever has four legs or 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.

Snowball cries out that it's time to go to the hayfield, where the animals should aim to finish the harvest more quickly than **Jones** and his men ever did. But just then the cows begin to moo because they haven't been milked in a day. After a little work the pigs figure out how to milk the cows, and produce five pails of milk. **Napoleon** then shouts that they must get to the harvest, that Comrade Snowball will lead them to the fields and that he, Napoleon, will follow a little later. When the animals return from the fields that night the milk is gone.

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.



Chapter 3

The animals work hard but happily at the harvest. The pigs, the smartest animals, soon start directing the other animals' work. The pigs' cleverness and **Boxer's** immense strength and work ethic help solve all the problems the animals encounter in their work. Boxer even adopts the motto "I will work harder" in response to every problem. The harvest is the biggest the farm has ever seen.

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.



Everyone pitches in, each according to his or her own abilities. The animals have more food and leisure, and they enjoy being their own masters. Though **Mollie** does tend to disappear when there's work to be done, and **Benjamin** the donkey remains cynical, refusing to voice an opinion about the revolution.

Though most animals are happy, Mollie, the symbol of the materialistic middle class, isn't thrilled with the revolution. Benjamin, a skeptic, refuses to believe the good times will last.



On Sundays the animals don't work. Instead, they raise and salute their flag (a hoof and horn on a field of green) and hold a meeting to plan the next week. At the meeting, everyone is allowed to put forward resolutions and vote, but only the pigs ever come up with resolutions. **Snowball** and **Napoleon** are the most active debaters, but they almost never agree.

Snowball soon starts setting up committees such as the Whiter Wool Committee to improve life on the farm. But only the reading and writing classes generate any interest. Soon **Muriel** and **Benjamin** can read as well as the pigs and dogs.

The **sheep** can't read or memorize the Seven Commandments. To help them, **Snowball** summarizes all of Animalism with the single phrase "Four legs good, two legs bad." Soon the sheep start bleating this phrase whenever they feel like it.

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 **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 the men. Jones scars **Snowball** with a blast from his shotgun, but **Snowball** still manages to knock Jones down. **Boxer's** strength, meanwhile, terrifies the other men. The animals rout the men with just a single casualty: a **sheep** that Jones shot dead.

Boxer is dismayed to learn that one of his kicks seems to have killed a stable boy. To console him, **Snowball** responds that the only good man is a dead man. Just then the animals realize that **Mollie** is missing: she hid in the stable throughout the fighting. When they return, it turns out the stable boy was only stunned, and has run off.

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.



Snowball's committees show his commitment to Animalism, but also his political naiveté. Trotsky set up similar committees in the Soviet Union.



Snowball's slogan creates a breakdown in language—four legs are good and two legs are bad only if four legs follow Animalism and two legs don't.



Animalism'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 the privileges are in the common interest. Even Snowball is willing to sacrifice Animalism for his own self-interest.



Soviet Communists also spread propaganda, hoping to make Communism global.



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 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.



Unlike Boxer, Snowball thinks the enemies of Animalism deserve death. Napoleon will later kill animals for "opposing" Animalism. It's a small step from Snowball's position to Napoleon's.



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.

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.



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.

Mollie, like the Russian middle-class, chooses comfortable slavery over less comfortable freedom, which makes all the other animals hate her. But later in this same chapter the other animals also choose comfortable slavery over less comfortable freedom.



The pigs plan for the next year throughout the winter. All the animals now accept that the pigs will decide all farm policy, subject only to a farm-wide majority vote.

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



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.

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.



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.

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



Snowball finally finishes his plans for the **windmill**. The next Sunday the animals gather to vote. **Snowball** speaks passionately about the paradise the windmill will create, while **Napoleon** just says the windmill is nonsense. **Snowball's** eloquence prevails.

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



Just as **Snowball** finishes speaking, **Napoleon** makes an odd whimpering sound. Suddenly nine vicious **dogs**, the dogs Napoleon had reared from pups, bound into the barn. The dogs jump at **Snowball**, who runs. The dogs chase **Snowball**, who flees through a hole in a hedge that leads out of Animal Farm. Once **Snowball** is gone, the dogs surround **Napoleon** like a guard. **Napoleon** announces to the terrified and silent farm animals that the Sunday meetings are over. A special committee of pigs will now decide all Animal Farm policy and give weekly orders on Sunday morning when the animals gather to salute the flag and sing "Beasts of England."

But Napoleon isn't playing by Animalist rules. By seizing power and denying the non-pigs' right to vote, Napoleon counters the fundamental idea of Animalism: animal equality. If the animals let Napoleon get away with this act, Animal Farm will no longer be Animalist and the animals' freedom will vanish. In the USSR, Stalin defeated Trotsky in a power struggle and exiled him.



Napoleon's announcement disturbs the animals, but few can muster any counterarguments. Four young pigs protest, but the **dogs** growl and silence the pigs. The **sheep** burst into an extended bleating repetition of "Four legs good, two legs bad."

Fear stops the animals from opposing Napoleon. Like Mollie, they choose comfort over freedom.



Later, **Squealer** comes around and explains that **Napoleon** took on the "burden" of leadership and eliminated voting only because he feared that the animals might make the wrong decisions. **Squealer** also says it was recently discovered that **Snowball** was a criminal. When the animals say **Snowball** fought bravely at the Battle of the Cowshed, **Squealer** says he thinks **Snowball's** actions at the battle may have been exaggerated. He adds that bravery is not nearly as important as discipline and obedience. Without those, **Jones** might return.

Squealer manipulates language in citing secret documents and using fear tactics to make it seem like Napoleon is defending freedom when really he's undermining it. Tricky language effectively misleads a poorly educated, frightened, and idealistic population.



None of the animals wants **Jones** back, and **Boxer**, after heavy thinking, says, "If Comrade **Napoleon** says it, it must be right."

Three weeks later, **Napoleon** announces that they'll build the **windmill** after all. **Squealer** explains: Napoleon opposed the windmill just to get rid of **Snowball**, who was a bad influence on everyone. The animals accept this explanation, especially since Squealer has the attack **dogs** with him.

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.

The farm suffers shortages of items it can't produce itself, like nails and iron. **Napoleon** announces Animal Farm will start trading hay, wheat, and possibly even eggs with its neighbors, not for commercial uses, but for the benefit of the **windmill**. The animals are uneasy because they had agreed never to use money. Napoleon hires a man named **Mr. Whymper** to represent the farm, while **Squealer** convinces everyone that no rule ever banned the use of money.

Though the humans outside Animal Farm still hate and fear it, they also develop a grudging respect for the farm's efficiency.

Squealer begins to refer to **Napoleon** as "The Leader" and the pigs move into the farmhouse and begin sleeping in beds. Though **Boxer** dismisses the change by saying "Napoleon is always right," **Clover** is certain that the Commandments ban beds. She gets **Muriel** to read her the Fourth Commandment, but they discover that they seem to have misremembered it. It says: "No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets."

By October the animals grow tired. Since the farm had to sell some food for money, the winter promises to be bad. The **windmill** is now half-finished, which pleases everyone (except **Benjamin**).

One night in November, a terrible storm knocks down the **windmill**. The animals are horrified. **Napoleon** sniffs around the rubble. He looks worried and his tail wiggles as if he's thinking fast. Suddenly Napoleon shouts "**SNOWBALL!**" He announces that Snowball destroyed the windmill. The animals are shocked and furious that Snowball could do such a thing. Napoleon vows they will start rebuilding the windmill that very day.

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.

Boxer thinks that because Animalism is good, Animal Farm must be good.



After exiling Trotsky, Stalin took many of his ideas. By making Napoleon appear always consistent, Squealers makes him seem all-powerful. Lies backed up by force are hard to resist.



The pigs' deception has worked. The animals still believe they are free even though they have no freedom at all. The pigs use Animalism to get the animals to sacrifice for the pigs' benefit.



To be fair, it's not clear how Animal Farm would get necessary supplies without resorting to trade. But the pigs don't explain the issue and then slightly modify Animalism. Instead, they lie, and use the threat of force to get the other animals to accept the lie.



Humans start accepting the farm as the pigs act more like humans.



Note the pigs' manipulation of language to increase their power and luxury. They take more privileges for themselves and justify those privileges by secretly rewriting the Commandments of Animalism.



By manipulating Animalism rather than overthrowing it, the pigs exploit the animals without angering them.



The destruction of the windmill shocks Napoleon: he fears the animals might question his authority now. To save himself, he cleverly shifts the blame to Snowball. Stalin demonized the exiled Trotsky in a similar way.



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.

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 sad 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."

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.



Before WW II, the USSR negotiated possible treaties with both the Allies and the Germans, playing the two sides against each other.



The pigs aim to rewrite Animalism and all of Animal Farm history. If they can get the animals to fear Snowball, they can use Snowball to justify their own rule, as they once used Jones.



Boxer believes so much in Animalism that he believes Napoleon's statement about what happened even over his own memories. But just the fact that he voices his memories at all makes Squealer see him as a threat.



Stalin "purged" the Soviet government by torturing those he considered enemies until they admitted to crimes they hadn't committed. Then he had them killed. Napoleon considers Boxer an enemy because Boxer remembers the past correctly. And Boxer can't comprehend that Napoleon just attacked him.



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.



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



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.

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 too.



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

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



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.

Three days later, **Whymper** rushes into the farmhouse. The animals hear **Napoleon** let out a roar of anger. As it turned out, **Frederick** paid for the timber with fake bills! Napoleon promises Frederick will be killed and warns the animals to brace for the worst.

The next morning, **Frederick** and his men attack. All the men have guns and push the animals back into the barn. The animals watch as the men blow up the **windmill**. The sight drives the animals into a rage, and they attack. Many animals die, and most, including **Boxer**, suffer injuries. But they manage to drive Frederick and his men from Animal Farm.

Though the animals are tired and bloody, the pigs lead two days of patriotic celebrations of their victory over the men. The animals' spirits rise and the memory of the forged bank notes fades.

A few days later, the pigs discover whiskey in the cellar of the farmhouse. There are shouts and revelry that night in the farmhouse. But the next morning the house is silent. When **Squealer** eventually appears he has awful news: Comrade **Napoleon** is dying! By evening Napoleon has recovered, and the pigs soon purchase machinery to build a still to produce alcohol.

Soon after, a crash in the middle of the night wakes the animals. They see **Squealer** unconscious on the ground next to a fallen ladder and a bucket of white paint beneath the commandments written on the barn. **Benjamin** seems to understand what's happened, but refuses to say. **Muriel** later discovers that she's misremembered the Fifth Commandment. It now reads "No animal shall drink alcohol to excess."

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.

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.

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 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.

The pigs immediately resume rewriting Animalism for their own benefit. The animals are too beaten down and uneducated to realize the pigs' deception even when the evidence makes it obvious. The pigs take power, but the animals let them.

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.



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.

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 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.

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."

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.

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.

The pigs rule Animal Farm as masters, just as Mr. Jones once did. However, they control language and thought on their farm so completely that their animals still consider themselves free citizens.

The pigs' power is so complete that they now feel free to act exactly like humans. Napoleon's whip is a symbol of oppression.

Once again the animals don't take their chance to rebel. The pig's propaganda overpowers them.

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 pigs, who once wanted to kill all humans, now seek friendly relations with nearby farmers. Animal Farm suggests that all totalitarian governments are fundamentally the same because their leaders share one goal: to maintain their own power by oppressing and exploiting individuals in particular and the lower classes in general.



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.



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.

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



Important Quotes

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 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 shocking 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.

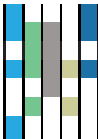

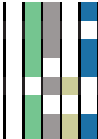
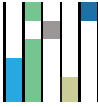
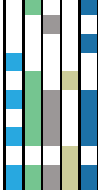
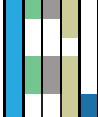
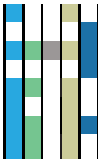
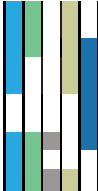
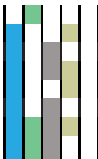
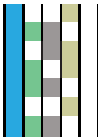
Four legs good, two legs better!

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."

ThemeTracker™

The LitCharts ThemeTracker is a mini-version of the entire LitChart. The ThemeTracker provides a quick timeline-style rundown of all the important plot points and allows you to track the themes throughout the work at a glance.

| Themes | Chapter |
|--|--|
|  | <p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Manor Farm, farmer Jones goes to sleep drunk, as usual. Old Major calls together all the animals. He reveals that the animals are slaves to humans, says that all animals are comrades, and encourages the animals to revolt. Old Major teaches the animals the revolutionary song "Beasts of England." |
|  | <p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Major dies. Snowball, Napoleon, and Squealer develop and teach the tenets of Animalism. Jones forgets to feed the animals. The animals drive Jones from the farm, and rename it Animal Farm. The pigs write the Seven Commandments of Animalism on the barn. The animals go to work with joy in their hearts. The milk disappears. |
|  | <p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The harvest that year is the best ever on the farm. The pigs' intelligence and Boxer's strength seems to solve all problems. Benjamin remains cynical. At the weekly Sunday meetings, only Snowball and Napoleon talk, but they seldom agree. Napoleon takes the puppies to "educate" them. Snowball forms committees and some animals learn to read. The sheep can't learn to read, though, so Snowball invents the phrase "Four Legs Good, Two Legs Bad!" The animals learn that the pigs have been taking all the milk. Squealer explains that the pigs must drink the milk so they can ensure that Jones never returns. |
|  | <p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilkington and Frederick fear the revolution on Animal Farm will spread to their own farms. But they dislike each other too much to act in concert. Jones, with some men from Pilkington and Frederick, attempts to retake the farm. The animals, led by Snowball and Boxer, defeat him at the Battle of the Cowshed. |
|  | <p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mollie deserts Animal Farm. At the debate over the windmill, Napoleon has his attack dogs chase Snowball from the farm. Napoleon cancels the weekly meetings. Squealer says Napoleon took power for the animals' benefit and that Snowball was a traitor. The animals are unsure, but Boxer finally says, "Napoleon is always right." Napoleon decides to build the windmill after all. |
|  | <p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The animals, especially Boxer, work long hours with reduced rations to build the windmill. Animal Farm runs into shortages. Napoleon hires Whymper. The pigs start sleeping in beds. Clover thinks this is against the Commandments, but on reading them discovers that it is sleeping in beds <i>with sheets</i> that's prohibited. A storm destroys the windmill. Napoleon blames Snowball. |
|  | <p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That winter, food supplies fail. Napoleon starves the hens until they agree to let him sell their eggs through Whymper. Squealer warns the animals that the traitorous Snowball, who tried to betray the animals at the Battle of the Cowshed, has been sneaking onto the farm at night. Napoleon plays Frederick against Pilkington in negotiating the sale of the wood. Napoleon "purges" the farm of his enemies. The song "Beasts of England" is outlawed. |
|  | <p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The animals complete the second windmill. Napoleon sells the wood to Frederick. Frederick pays with counterfeit money! Frederick and his men attack. The animals succeed in fighting the men off, but the windmill is destroyed in the process. The pigs discover whiskey, and get drunk. The animals catch Squealer in the process of rewriting the Commandment against alcohol, but only Benjamin understands what is going on and he won't say. |
|  | <p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The animals' rations are tiny, while the pigs and dogs' rations remain comfortable. Only the demonstrations that remind the animals that they are their own masters takes the edge off their hunger. Napoleon wins an election, as the sole candidate, to be the leader of the Republic of Animal Farm. Moses the raven returns. The pigs give him beer. Napoleon has children, who are discouraged from playing with non-pig children. Boxer collapses. Under the guise of sending Boxer to a vet, the pigs sell him to the glue-maker and use the money to buy whiskey. |
|  | <p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years pass. The windmill is complete and the farm is rich, but only the pigs and dogs seem well off. Even so, the animals are still proud to be their own masters. Squealer takes the sheep away to train them. The pigs start walking on their hind legs. The sheep bleat "Four legs good, two legs better!" The pigs rewrite the Seven Commandments to say "All Animals Are Equal. But Some Are More Equal Than Others." The pigs start carrying whips and wearing clothes. The farm is renamed Manor Farm. Pilkington comes to visit. The animals can't tell the pigs from the humans. |

Theme Key

-  Totalitarianism
-  Revolution and Corruption
-  Class Warfare
-  Language as Power
-  The Soviet Union