

Name:
Animal Farm Unit Packet

Date:
Mrs. Seemayer



Unit Objectives

Know

- Students will know the differing forms of government/economic systems.
- Students will know the terms: foreshadowing, conflict, irony, characterization, and scapegoat.

Understand

- Students will understand how citizens are affected by their government/economy.
- Students will understand how totalitarians come to power.
- Students will understand how history impacts literature and vice-versa.
- Students will understand the positive and negative effects of propaganda.

Do

- Students will be able to write an essay comparing government/economic forms.
- Students will be able to read and annotate a text.
- Students will be able to analyze a text through close reading.
- Students will be able to recognize and dissect propaganda.

Introduction to the Novel



Animal Farm is written on many levels. It is already a children's story in its own right. . . . [It] is also a lament for the fate of revolutions and the hopes contained in them. It is a moving comment on man's constant compromise with the truth
—John Atkins, George Orwell

On the publication of *Animal Farm* in 1945, George Orwell discovered with horror that book-sellers were placing his novel on children's shelves. According to his housekeeper, he began traveling from bookstore to bookstore requesting that the book be shelved with adult works. This dual identity—as children's story and adult satire—has stayed with Orwell's novel for more than fifty years.

Animal Farm tells the story of Farmer Jones's animals who rise up in rebellion and take over the farm. Tired of being exploited solely for human gain, the animals—who have human characteristics such as the power of speech—vow to create a new and more just society.

Though the novel reads like a fairy story, and Orwell subtitles it as just that, it is also a satire containing a message about world politics and especially the former Soviet Union in particular. Since the Bolshevik revolutions of the early 1900s, the former Soviet Union had captured the attention of the world with its socialist experiment. Stalin's form of government had some supporters in Britain and the United States, but Orwell was against this system.

In a **satire**, the writer attacks a serious issue by presenting it in a ridiculous light or otherwise poking fun at it. Orwell uses satire to expose what he saw as the myth of Soviet socialism. Thus, the novel tells a story that people of all ages can understand, but it also tells us a second story—that of the real-life Revolution. Many critics have matched in great detail the story's characters to historical persons—for example, linking the power struggle between Napoleon and Snowball to the historical feuding between Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky for control of the Soviet Union. Critics also believe that Old Major represents Karl Marx, who dies before realizing his dream. Other comparisons include Moses as the Russian Orthodox church, Boxer and Clover as workers, the sheep as the general public, Squealer as Stalin's government news agency, the dogs as Stalin's military police, and Farmer Jones as Czar Nicholas II. The farm's neighbors, Pilkington and Frederick, are said to represent Great Britain and Germany, while Mollie suggests the old Russian aristocracy, which resists change.

A tremendous success when published, *Animal Farm* has since become part of school curriculums and popular literary culture. Readers and critics alike have enjoyed its imaginative premise and the engaging charm of its animal characters. Orwell's straightforward language draws readers into the farm's world, while the witty underlying satire invites serious analysis. In *George Orwell: A Personal Memoir*, T. R. Fyvel writes: [Orwell] *turned the domestic animals on the farm into immediately recognizable and memorable and sometimes lovable characters.*

Animal Farm is more than a fairy story. It is a commentary on the relevance of independent thought, truth, and justice.

THE TIME AND PLACE

An **allegory** is a narrative that can be read on more than one level. Critics often consider *Animal Farm* to be an allegory of the Russian Revolution. In the early 1900s, Russia's Czar Nicholas II faced an increasingly discontented populace. Freed from feudal serfdom in 1861, many Russian peasants were struggling to survive under an oppressive government. By 1917, amidst the tremendous suffering of World War I, a revolution began. In two major battles, the Czar's government was overthrown and replaced by the Bolshevik leadership of Vladimir Lenin. When Lenin died in 1924, his former colleagues Leon Trotsky, hero of the early Revolution, and Joseph Stalin, head of the Communist Party, struggled for power. Stalin won the battle, and he deported Trotsky into permanent exile.

Once in power, Stalin began, with despotic urgency and exalted nationalism, to move the Soviet Union into the modern industrial age. His government seized land in order to create collective farms. Stalin's Five Year Plan was an attempt to modernize Soviet industry. To counter resistance (many peasants refused to give up their land), Stalin used vicious military tactics. Rigged trials led to executions of an estimated 20 million government officials and ordinary citizens. The government controlled the flow and content of information to the people, and all but outlawed churches.

Did you know?

Orwell initially struggled to find a publisher for *Animal Farm*. Many liberal intellectuals in Europe admired the Soviet experiment with socialism. They believed socialism would produce a society in which everyone—workers and employers—was equal, and in which there were no upper, middle, or lower classes. In Orwell's words "they want[ed] to believe that, somewhere, a really Socialist country does actually exist." Also, British publishers were hesitant to publicly criticize their Soviet allies as World War II came to a close. The book was published in 1945, after Germany surrendered.

Orwell believed that the basis for society was human decency and common sense, which conflicted with the ideals for society that were prevalent at the time: socialism, capitalism, communism, and fascism, to name a few. As an individualist who believed that his own experiences should guide his philosophy, he was often at odds with these popular ideas. He believed that governments were encroaching on the individual's freedom of choice, love of family, and tolerance for others. He emphasized honesty, individuality, and the welfare of society throughout his writings.

“Beasts of England”

“Beasts of England”

Excerpted from Chapter 1 of Animal Farm.

Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,
Beasts of every land and clime,
Hearken to my joyful tidings
Of the golden future time.

Soon or late the day is coming,
Tyrant Man shall be o'erthrown,
And the fruitful fields of England
Shall be trod by beasts alone.

Rings shall vanish from our noses,
And the harness from our back,
Bit and spur shall rust forever,
Cruel whips no more shall crack.

Riches more than mind can picture,
Wheat and barley, oats and hay,
Clover, beans, and mangel-wurzels
Shall be ours upon that day.

Bright will shine the fields of England,
Purer shall its waters be,
Sweeter yet shall blow its breezes
On the day that sets us free.

For that day we all must labour,
Though we die before it break;
Cows and horses, geese and turkeys,
All must toil for freedom's sake.

Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,
Beasts of every land and clime,
Hearken well and spread my tidings
Of the golden future time

Animal Farm Language Analysis Exercise

Directions: Mark the following annotations in the text and take side notes.

- In YELLOW highlight all the words that show Old Major has an awareness of his whole audience.
- In GREEN highlight the words that show he is aware of individuals and groups within it.
- In BLUE highlight all examples of the rule of three.
- In RED draw a ? in the margin alongside all the occasions on which Old Major uses rhetorical questions and / or asks and answers questions.
- Mark in the margin with a BLACK line, all the occasions on which Old major talks negatively about his opposition.

Old Major's Speech

All the animals were now present except Moses the tame raven, who slept on a perch behind the back door. When Major saw that they had all made themselves comfortable and were waiting attentively, he cleared his throat and began:

'Comrades, you have heard already about the strange dream that I had last night. But I will come to the dream later. I have something else to say first. I do not think, comrades, that I shall be with you for many months longer, and before I die I feel it my duty to pass on to you such wisdom as I have acquired. I have had a long life, I have had much time for thought as I lay alone in my stall, and I think I may say that I understand the nature of life on this earth as well as any animal now living. It is about this that I wish to speak to you.

'Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short. We are born, we are given just so much food as will keep the breath in our our bodies, and those of us who are capable of it are forced to work to the last atom of our strength; and the very instant that our usefulness has come to an end we are slaughtered with hideous cruelty. No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. This life of ours is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth.

'But is this simply the order of nature? Is it because this land of ours is so poor, that it cannot afford a decent life to those who dwell upon it? No comrades, a thousand times no! The soil of England is fertile, its climate is good, it is capable of affording food in abundance to an enormously greater number of animals than now inhabit it. This single farm of ours would support a dozen horses, twenty cows, hundreds of sheep - and all of them living in a comfort and a dignity that are now almost beyond our imagining. 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. There, comrades, is the answer to all our problems. It is summed up in a single word-Man. 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. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and yet there is not one of us that owns more than his bare skin. You cows that I see before me, how many thousands of gallons of milk have you given during this last year? And what has happened to that milk which should have been breeding up sturdy calves? Every drop of it has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid this year, and how many of those eggs ever hatched into chickens? The rest have all gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are those four foals-you bore, who should have been the support and pleasure of your old age? Each was sold at a year old - you will never see one of them again. In return for your four confinements and all your labour in the field, what have you ever had except your bare rations and a stall?

'And even the miserable lives we lead are not allowed to reach their natural span. For myself I do not grumble, for I am one of the lucky ones. I am twelve years old and have had over four hundred children. Such is the natural life of a pig. But no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. You young porkers who are sitting in front of me, every one of you will scream your lives out at the block within a year. To that horror we all must come--cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone. Even the horses and the dogs have no better fate. You, Boxer, the very day that those great muscles of yours lose their power, Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will cut your throat and boil you down for the fox-hounds. As for the dogs, when they grow old and toothless, Jones tics a brick round their necks and drowns them in the nearest pond.

'Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings? Only get rid of Man, and the produce of our labour would be our own. Almost overnight we could become rich and free. What then must we do? Why, work night and day, body and soul, for the overthrow of the human race! That is my message to you, comrades: Rebellion! I do not know when that Rebellion will come, it might be in a week or in a hundred years I but I know, as surely as I see this straw beneath my feet, that sooner or later justice will be done. Fix your eyes on that, comrades throughout the short remainder of your lives! And above all, pass on this message of mine to those who come after you, so that future generations shall carry on the struggle until it is victorious.

'And 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.'

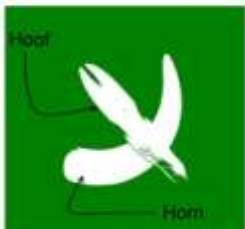
Directions: Looking back at the text, answer the following questions using COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. How does he draw attention to the main points of his argument?
2. What are the main points of Old Major's argument?
3. How does he lead up to those main points?
4. Why didn't Old Major begin his speech by describing the dream?
5. Predict: Look at the way the animals are described when they enter the barn. How might the actions of Boxer, Clover, Mollie and the cat foreshadow their possible behavior later in the novel?
6. How is Old Major's speech an example of propaganda?

Flag Comparison





Flag Symbolism: _____



The Pros and Cons of Communism

Directions: Read the passage below and complete the “pros and cons chart.”

Communism is an economic theory that was developed by a man named Karl Marx. Marx wanted to create a world in which no social classes existed – no one would be rich and no one would be poor. Instead, everyone would be given an equal share of resources (money, shelter, food, etc...). The economy would be driven by cooperation (people working together towards a common goal) instead of competition. Throughout the mid-late 20th century, many countries, such as the Soviet Union, China, Vietnam and Cuba, tried to create communist economic systems. When a country becomes communist, the resources are redistributed. This means that the government takes resources from the rich and gives some of them to the poor to create greater equality. The communist government promises to give every citizen the resources they need for free. The citizens are promised free education (even college), free housing and free health care. However, the quality of the education, housing and health care isn't always great. Sometimes a communist country may not have enough resources to provide for everyone. In order to redistribute the resources, the communist government must be very powerful. Dictators usually run communist countries. The government usually forbids people from speaking out against it and those that do criticize the government face severe consequences. Since communism's goal is equality, unity, and complete submission to the government, religion is forbidden.

Pros of Communism (benefits)	Cons of Communism (harmful aspects)
	

Chapters 1-4 Characterization

Characterization is the means by which an author reveals a character's personality. An author can develop a character in several ways: *indirect characterization*—showing the character acting and speaking; giving a physical description of the character; revealing the character's thoughts and feelings or what others think about the character—and *direct characterization*—commenting directly on the character.

Orwell characterizes Napoleon, Snowball, and Squealer as three different types of leaders, each with positive and negative traits. Provide two outstanding positive traits and two negative ones that characterize each pig. Then, underneath the traits, cite an incident, action, or speech that illustrates each characteristic.

Positive		Negative
	Napoleon	
	Snowball	
	Squealer	

Opinion: Which of the three pigs does Orwell characterize as the strongest leader? WHY?

Propaganda

propaganda (prop-a-gan-da) n. The systematic spreading of information, especially in a biased or misleading way, in order to promote a political cause or point of view. The aim of propaganda is to persuade people to accept certain beliefs or facts without question.

When wars are being fought it becomes important to keep up the spirits and morale of your own side/country and at the same time persuade the enemy that they are fighting a lost cause without any hope of victory.

In *Animal Farm*, propaganda is used to trick and deceive. The propaganda extolled, becomes a twisted mass of lies and half-truths intended to hide the reality of the situation from the animals. It is used to confuse and bewilder them. And above all, to stop them thinking for themselves.

Squealer is in charge of all the propaganda for Napoleon. Every time something happens which makes the animals question the way the revolution is progressing, Squealer uses his skills with language to persuade them that everything is for the best.

Some of these are outlined below:

Selection

Out of a mass of complex facts, the propagandist selects only those which support his arguments and assertions.

Lying

Telling lies is always a major tool of the propagandist. Remember what Hitler said: 'If you tell a BIG LIE often enough and loudly enough people will begin to believe it.'

Repetition

If you keep repeating a statement again and again, it will eventually be accepted by your listeners.

Pinpointing the enemy

The propagandist often tries to find an enemy, real or imagined, to attack. This unites everybody against the 'enemy' and encourages them to stop thinking for themselves (and to avoid viewing the propagandist as the enemy).

Assertion

The propagandist rarely argues. He just makes bold statements that he asserts to be true - and goes on and on making them.

Rhetorical questions

The propagandist often peppers his speeches with questions which he intends to answer himself. He does not want his listeners to answer them because he does not want them to think. He will do their thinking for them.

Squealer's Speech

Squealer uses many of the techniques of propaganda listed above.

Go through the speech in fine detail and highlight then annotate the bits which match the appropriate headings in the propaganda types outlined above.

Here, Squealer is justifying the fact that the pigs are keeping the milk and apples for themselves.

“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. I dislike them myself! Our sole object in taking these things is to preserve our health. Milk and apples (and this has been proved by Science, comrades) contain substances absolutely necessary to the well-being of a pig. We pigs are brain-workers. 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. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back! Yes, Jones would come back! Surely, comrades,” cried Squealer almost pleadingly, skipping from side to side and whisking his tail, “surely there is no one among you who wants to see Jones come back?”

Chapters 5-7: Conflict

Conflict is a struggle between two opposing forces or characters in a literary work. Conflict can take one of these forms: (1) a character versus another character; (2) a character versus society; (3) a character versus nature; (4) two or more emotions or ideas struggling for mastery within a character.

For each item below, identify the kind of conflict involved, the causes of the conflict, and the outcomes of the conflict.

Cause	Conflict	Outcome
	Clover confronts Mollie about Mollie’s contact with humans. TYPE OF CONFLICT:	
	Napoleon disagrees with Snowball’s plans for the windmill. TYPE OF CONFLICT:	
	The animals struggle with how to break up the stones to build the windmill. TYPE OF CONFLICT:	
	Napoleon makes a policy in opposition to Animalism, trading with “the enemy.” TYPE OF CONFLICT:	

“Comrade Napoleon”

Excerpted from Chapter 8 of Animal Farm.

Friend of fatherless!
Fountain of happiness!
Lord of the swill-bucket! Oh, how my soul is on
Fire when I gaze at thy
Calm and commanding eye,
Like the sun in the sky,
Comrade Napoleon!

Thou are the giver of
All that thy creatures love,
Full belly twice a day, clean straw to roll upon;
Every beast great or small
Sleeps at peace in his stall,
Thou watchest over all,
Comrade Napoleon!

Had I a sucking-pig,
Ere he had grown as big
Even as a pint bottle or as a rolling-pin,
He should have learned to be
Faithful and true to thee,
Yes, his first squeak should be
"Comrade Napoleon!"

Comparison of Characters to the Russian Revolution

<u>Animal Farm</u>	<u>Russian Revolution</u>
Mr. Jones	Czar Nicholas II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a poor leader at best, compared to western kings <input type="checkbox"/> cruel - sometimes brutal with opponents <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes kind - hired students as spies to make \$
Old Major	Karl Marx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> invented Communism <input type="checkbox"/> "workers of the world unite", take over gov't <input type="checkbox"/> dies before Russian Revolution
Animalism	Communism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> same <input type="checkbox"/> all people equal <input type="checkbox"/> gov't owns everything, people own gov't
Snowball	Leon Trotsky <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> other leader of "October Revolution" <input type="checkbox"/> pure communist, followed Marx <input type="checkbox"/> wanted to improve life for all in Russia <input type="checkbox"/> chased away by Lenin's KGB (Lenin's secret police)
Napoleon	Joseph Stalin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> not a good speaker, not educated like Trotsky <input type="checkbox"/> same as Napoleon, didn't follow Marx's ideas <input type="checkbox"/> cared for power, killed all that opposed him <input type="checkbox"/> used KGB, allowed church, and propagandized
Squealer	Propaganda department of Lenin's government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> worked for Stalin to support his image <input type="checkbox"/> used any lie to convince the people to follow Stalin <input type="checkbox"/> benefited from the fact that education was controlled
The Dogs	KGB - Secret Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> not really police, but forced support for Stalin <input type="checkbox"/> used force, often killed entire families for disobedience <input type="checkbox"/> totally loyal, part of Lenin's power, even over army

Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing is the use of hints and clues to suggest what will happen later in the plot.

In the graphic below, explain how the passage provided foreshadows a future event in the novel.

Early-event from the book	What event it foreshadowed
1. The shed where Snowball had drawn his plans of the windmill had been shut up and it was assumed that the plans had been rubbed off the floor.	
2. Napoleon took them [puppies] away from their mothers, saying that he would make himself responsible for their education.	
3. "I believe that the time will come when we shall find that Snowball's part in it [the Battle of the Cowshed] was much exaggerated."	
4. Tired out but proud, the animals walked round and round their masterpiece ... the walls were twice as thick as before. Nothing short of explosives would lay them low....	
5. And remember ... that in fighting against Man, we must not come to resemble him."	

Activity and Discussion: Re-read old Major's speech. What are two more events or actions foreshadowed in that passage?

Irony

Irony is the difference between appearance or expectation and reality. *Verbal irony* occurs when someone says one thing but means something else. *Dramatic irony* occurs when what a character believes to be true the reader knows is not. *Situational irony* occurs when there is a difference between what is expected or what would be appropriate and what really does happen.

In the table below, identify whether the passages are verbal, dramatic, or situational irony, and explain the irony in each passage.

Passage	Type of Irony	Explanation
Then there were lamp oil and candles for the house, sugar for Napoleon’s own table (he forbade this to the other pigs, on the ground that it made them fat)...		
Out of spite, the human beings pretended not to believe that it was Snowball who had destroyed the windmill.... The animals knew that this was not the case.		
But the luxuries of which Snowball had once taught the animals to dream... Napoleon had denounced such ideas as contrary to the spirit of Animalism. The truest happiness, he said, lay in working hard and living frugally.		
[T]hey were happy in their work; they grudged no effort or sacrifice, well aware that everything that they did was for the benefit of themselves and those of their kind... and not for a pack of idle, thieving human beings.		
[H]e personally congratulated the animals on their achievement, and announced that the mill would be named Napoleon Mill.		

Chapters 8–10: Summarizing

The Seven Commandments of Animalism created by Napoleon and Snowball before the Rebellion eventually are broken. First to be shattered is number four, which is revised to justify the pigs' move into the farmhouse.

In the table below, write when the Commandments are broken, and explain how they are altered, if they are altered.

Commandment	When broken	Revision (if any)
1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.		
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.		
3. No animals 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.		

Short answer: Illustrate how the single remaining Commandment in Chapter 10 sums up the attitude of the pigs that enables them to break all seven of the commandments.

The Isms

Term/Notes	Example Country	Who controls production?	Who benefits?	Pros	Cons
Capitalism					
Socialism					
Communism					
Fascism					

Government Comparison Essay

Prompt: Discuss how Communism and Capitalism are portrayed in Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* and George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

	The Jungle	Animal Farm
+ Capitalism +		
-Capitalism-		
+ Communism +		
-Communism-		

Nightly Homework

Directions: Each time reading is assigned you must write down 5 important events that took place and 3 important quotations (lines from the text that have a lot of meaning). Be prepared to use these notes for studying and participation in class discussions.

Important events from this section: (Pages -)	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
Important Quotations from this section:	
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