



# Animal Farm (YEAR 8 UNIT 1)



## Challenge Terminology

**Allegory** A type of fiction that has multiple levels of meaning or a overarching moral

**Satire** The use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues

**George Orwell** Famous for writing books such as Animal and nineteen Eighty Four

**Totalitarianism** A system of government that is centralized and dictatorial

**Communism** A system in which goods are owned in common and are available to all as needed

**Russian Revolution** Transformation of the Russian Empire into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), replacing Russia's traditional monarchy with the world's first Communist state.

**Stalin** A dictator of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) from 1929 to 1953

**Trotsky** A Russian-Ukrainian Marxist revolutionary, political theorist and politician.

**Dictator** A ruler with total power over a country, typically one who has obtained control by force

**Propaganda** An organized spreading of often false ideas or the ideas spread in such a way which may mislead the masses.

**Purge** To remove (a group of people considered undesirable) from an organization or place in an abrupt or violent way

**Commandments** A divine rule, especially one of the Ten Commandments

**Literary Device** A tool used by writers to hint at larger themes, ideas, and meaning in a story or piece of writing

**Fable** A short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral

## Themes

- Character development
- Dystopia
- Power: leadership and corruption
- Power: control over the intellectually inferior
- Lies and deceit
- Rules and order
- Foolishness and folly
- Dreams , hopes and plans

## Reading Wise Vocabulary

lantern - majestic - stout

universal -devoted -cheeping foreleg

dainty -comrades slaughter- fertile

plough -labour abolish -foal

confinement

ration -knacker- tyranny

victorious -prosperity hindquarters dis-

sentient -resemble

Infancy- hoarse -shrill rebellion

counteract -idle

## Main Characters

**Snowball** 'a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive'

**Boxer** 'an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, and as strong as any two ordinary horses put together.'

**Napoleon** 'a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire boar...not much of a talker, but with a reputation for getting his own way.'

**Clover** 'a stout motherly mare approaching middle life.'

**Squealer** 'a brilliant talker...very persuasive'

**Benjamin** the oldest animal on the farm ... 'He seldom talked, and when he did, it was usually to make some cynical remark.'

**Mollie** 'the foolish, pretty white mare who drew Mr. Jones's trap'



## Book Overview

A masterpiece of political satire, Animal Farm is a tale of oppressed individuals who long for freedom but ultimately are corrupted by assuming the very power that had originally oppressed them. The story traces the awful conditions of mistreated animals who can speak and who exhibit many human characteristics. After extreme negligence by their owner, the animals revolt and expel Mr. Jones and his wife from the farm. The tale of the society the animals form into a totalitarian regime is generally viewed as Orwell's critique of the communist system in the former Soviet Union.

