

Book Report on *Animal Farm*

Allegory/Political Fiction

I. Introduction

Animal Farm is a political allegory written by George Orwell and published in 1945. It belongs to the genre of political fiction and allegory, using a story about farm animals to comment on totalitarianism, corruption, and the Russian Revolution. The book explores how power can corrupt, how propaganda can control people, and the dangers of inequality. Orwell's writing combines simple storytelling with deep political and social commentary, making the novel accessible yet meaningful for both young adults and adult readers. Its central theme revolves around the misuse of power and the betrayal of ideals.

II. Summary

The story is set on Manor Farm, where Mr. Jones, the farmer, treats his animals poorly. Old Major, a wise boar, inspires the animals to rebel, promising a society where all animals are equal and free from human oppression. After Old Major dies, the animals, led by pigs Napoleon and Snowball, overthrow Mr. Jones and take control of the farm, renaming it Animal Farm.

At first, the animals work together and create rules called the Seven Commandments, which emphasize equality and cooperation. Snowball introduces plans to improve the farm, including building a windmill for electricity. However, Napoleon uses propaganda and fear to seize power.

He drives Snowball away, eliminates opposition, and slowly begins to take privileges for himself and the other pigs.

Over time, the pigs become indistinguishable from humans. They drink alcohol, sleep in beds, and engage in trade, betraying the original ideals of the rebellion. The Seven Commandments are altered to justify their actions. The other animals, especially Boxer, the hardworking horse, remain loyal but suffer under the pigs' oppressive rule. Eventually, the farm is no longer free; it mirrors the human oppression the animals once fought against. The story ends with the animals looking from pigs to humans and realizing they can no longer tell the difference.

III. Analysis and Evaluation

Orwell's writing style in *Animal Farm* is clear, concise, and symbolic. The simplicity of the story makes it easy to read, yet each character and event carries deeper meaning. The novel's greatest strength is its ability to convey complex political ideas through the behavior of farm animals, making abstract concepts like corruption, propaganda, and totalitarianism understandable.

Orwell uses allegory, symbolism, and satire effectively. For example, Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin, Snowball represents Leon Trotsky, and the farm itself symbolizes the Soviet Union. The repeated phrase "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" highlights the hypocrisy of those in power and the manipulation of ideals. These devices make the story memorable and thought-provoking.

One minor weakness is that the characters, especially the pigs, can feel exaggerated as villains, but this is intentional to emphasize moral and political lessons. The story is structured well, with

rising tension leading to a clear and impactful conclusion. Overall, Orwell's combination of fable-like storytelling and political critique makes *Animal Farm* a powerful and timeless work.

IV. Themes and Messages

The main themes include **power and corruption**, **inequality**, and **the dangers of propaganda**.

Orwell demonstrates that leaders can exploit loyalty and manipulate information to maintain control. Another theme is **betrayal of ideals**—the animals' rebellion starts with noble intentions, but these are gradually corrupted by the pigs' desire for personal gain.

The novel also explores **class struggle**. The working animals, like Boxer, represent the laboring class, whose hard work supports the ruling elite but leaves them vulnerable to exploitation.

Finally, **critical thinking and awareness** are central messages, as the animals' blind obedience allows the pigs to gain absolute power.

V. Character Analysis

Napoleon is the main antagonist, representing dictatorship and abuse of power. He manipulates others and eliminates opposition to maintain control.

Snowball is intelligent, innovative, and idealistic, representing reformers who are later opposed or eliminated by authoritarian leaders.

Boxer is hardworking, loyal, and naive, symbolizing the exploited working class.

Squealer, the pig who spreads propaganda, demonstrates how language can manipulate thought and justify injustice.

Old Major serves as the moral inspiration, representing revolutionary ideals that are eventually corrupted.

VI. Personal Reflection

I found *Animal Farm* both fascinating and thought-provoking. The story is simple enough to follow easily, but the deeper political lessons are powerful. It made me think about how power can corrupt and how important it is to question authority. The characters are memorable, especially Boxer, whose loyalty is inspiring but also tragic. Orwell's story shows that ideals must be protected, or they can be turned against those they were meant to help. It is a reminder to stay aware, think critically, and fight against injustice in any form.

VII. Conclusion

In conclusion, *Animal Farm* is a compelling political allegory that uses the story of farm animals to explore themes of power, corruption, and betrayal. Orwell's clear writing, symbolism, and moral lessons make it a classic that remains relevant today. The novel serves as a warning about the dangers of blind loyalty, propaganda, and the abuse of power, making it an important read for both young adults and mature readers interested in history, politics, and human behavior.