

Plot summary: 1 Old Major's speech

- Mr Jones, the owner of Manor Farm falls asleep in a drunken stupor. All the animals of Manor Farm meet in the big barn where Old Major delivers a speech arguing for a rebellion against the men. The Animals sing 'Beasts of England', a song from Old Major's dream

2 The rebellion

- Old Major dies and the pigs adapt his speech, forming the principles of Animalism. The pigs plan the rebellion even though some animals (like Mollie) are concerned. The rebellion happens faster than expected after Mr. Jones forgets to feed the animals. The animals of Mr. Jones house and leave it as a museum. Milk disappears.

3 The pigs emerge as leaders

- The animals complete the harvest faster than ever. Snowball sets up the Sunday assemblies where Napoleon and Snowball often argue. Snowball's committees fail, yet he is able to bring literacy to the animals with minor success. Napoleon teaches the sheep 'four legs good two legs bad' and takes the dogs for 'education'. Cows' milk and windfall apples are given to pigs
- Squealer convinces the animals that this is a good idea.

4 Battle of the Cowshed- News of the rebellion spreads, Frederick, Jones and Pilkington com-

plain about Animal Farm's success. In October, a group of men try to seize the farm. Led by Snowball's brilliance, the animals repel the attack, which is named 'The Battle of the Cowshed'

5 Snowball's expulsion

- Mollie deserts the farm. The pigs grow in influence, suggesting ideas on which the animals must vote. Snowball and Napoleon continue to disagree, especially over the construction of a windmill. When the Windmill is put to vote, Snowball is expelled from Animal Farm. Later, Napoleon announces that the Windmill will be built.

6 Building the windmill

- The animals work harder than ever. Boxer proves himself to be an inspiration. Napoleon begins trading with humans and hires Mr Whymper. Jones gives up trying to reclaim the farm. The pigs begin sleeping in beds, and Muriel and Clover notice a change in the commandments: 'with sheets'. Squealer persuades the animals that this is acceptable. In November, a storm topples the half-complete windmill. Napoleon blames this on Snowball.

7 Rebuilding the windmill and the executions

- The animals struggle against starvation. After learning that they must sacrifice their eggs, the hens stage a demonstration. Napoleon denies their rations and nine hens starve as a result. The animals are led to believe Snowball has been returning to the farm his role at the Battle of the Cowshed is adapted by Squealer. In spring, Napoleon calls a meeting and several 'traitors', who confess to being in league with Snowball, are executed, including protesting hens and pigs. 'Beasts of England' is outlawed.

8 Trading with humans and the destruction of the windmill- Clo-

ver and Benjamin notice a change in the commandments: 'kill... without cause'. The next year brings more work and less food, despite Squealer's figures and statistics to the contrary. More executions occur. Napoleon is seen in public less often. Napoleon trades Frederick and Pilkington off against each other, and sells a pile of timber to Frederick, who tricks Napoleon with forged banknotes. Napoleon

pronounces the death sentence on him. Frederick, with 14 other men, attack the farm and blow up the windmill, which rallies the animals to fight back. Several animals die, Boxer is injured but Squealer convinces the animals of their

victory. The pigs find a crate of whiskey. Napoleon fears he is dying and proclaims that drinking alcohol is punishable by death. He then recovers and orders the retirement paddock to be planted with barley.

9 Boxer's fate

- Once again, the animals are faced with rebuilding the windmill. 31 pigs are born, and Napoleon orders for a schoolhouse to be built for their education. Rations are yet again reduced. Animal Farm is proclaimed a republic with Napoleon as president. Boxer is injured working and Napoleon sends for a vet. A van arrives, Boxer is taken away but Benjamin reads the its side and learns that Boxer is being slaughtered. Squealer manages to convince the animals otherwise. Boxer is never seen again.

10 Pigs and humans come together-

Years pass. Muriel, Jessie, Pincher are dead. Clover is 14. No animal has ever retired. The farm has grown in size and population. Two windmills are complete. Clover notices the pigs walk on two legs.

The commandments are deleted and replaced with "All animals are equal but some are more equal than others."

The pigs start carrying whips and wearing Mr Jones' clothes. In the final scene, human farmers visit the farm and meet the other pigs.

Toasts are exchanged and Napoleon changes the farm's name back to Manor Farm. The pigs and humans play cards. A quarrel breaks out. On-looking animals cannot discriminate between pigs and humans

KEY CHARACTERS		KEY THEMES	CONTEXT AND LITERARY TRADITION	STYLISTIC FEATURES & RELEVANT TERMS
Mr Jones	Drunken owner of Animal Farm. . Embodies the tyranny of man	Leadership and corruption	An allegorical tale with direct links to the history of the Soviet Union in the early 20th century	Dystopia Propaganda Scapegoat Tyrant Allegory Moral Symbolism Omniscient Narrator Fairy Tale Tragedy
Old Major	Wise old pig. Inspires the rebellion with his rhetoric	Control over the intellectually inferior Lie and deceit	The book charts the corruptions of Communist ideals of equality, where workers are promised equality and freedom and are eventually repressed and treated as bad, if not worse, as under the previous rule of the capitalist Tsar.	
Boxer	Devoted citizen and immensely strong, Innocent and naïve.	Foolishness and naivety Violence	OLD MAJOR represents KARL MARX putting forwards the communist ideals which will free them from the tyranny of capitalism (represented by Jones)	
Napoleon	Expels Snowball. Executes animals. Establishes himself as a dictator. Controls with fear. Becomes Jones	Pride and ceremony Dreams, hopes and future plans	SNOWBALL represents TROTSKY , a passionate component of ANIMALISM (communism) who is expelled by Napoleon (Stalin)	
Snowball	Devoted to NIMALISMM and the education of lesser animals. Hero at the battle of the cowshed		NAPOLEON follows a similar rise to power s STALIN , using fear and propaganda to control the masses, including show trials and executions.	
SQUEALER	Mouthpiece of Napoleon. Uses propaganda to control the animals.		By the end of the novel, the IDEALS OF COMMUNISM have been so far abused and forgotten that NAPOLEON forms agreements with former oppressors.	
CLOVER	Maternal, caring and loyal. Senses hypocrisy but can not articulate it.		ORWELL was a BRITISH journalist and author who wrote two of the most famous political novels of the 20th century. Animal Farm and Nineteen eighty Four. When Orwell saw a kid whipping horse, he had an idea ‘it struck me that if animals had an idea over their strength, we would have no power over them, and that men exploit animals in much the same way as the rich exploit the working class’. This inspired him to write the novel.	
DOGS AND SHEEP	Instruments of fear and control, educated by NAPOLEON			

KEY QUOTATIONS	USEFUL VOCABULARY	SPAG FOCUS				
“Four legs good, two legs bad.”	Stout Tremendous	Capable Control	Capital Letter	Adverb and	Singular and Plu- ral	Compound
“All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others”	Rebellion Prosperity	Victorious Over- throw	Parenthetic	Adverbial Phrase	Preposition	Sentence
“If you have your lower animals to contend with,” he said, “we have our brackets Compound Syn- onym Subject ☐ Comrade lower classes!”	Vivacious Comrade	Slaughter Seize	Comma	Article	Preposition	Complex
The pigs did not actually work, but directed and supervised the others. With their superior knowledge it was natural that they should assume the leadership.	Elementary Tyranny Communist	Cruelty Over- whelm Succes- sion	Parenthesis for brackets	Antonym	Synonym	Sentence
“At this there was a terrible baying sound outside, and nine enormous dogs ☐ Majestic wear- ing 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.”	Consume Cynical Benevolent	Unity Conquer	Semi-colon	Compound	Transitive Verb	Subject
“The pigs now revealed that during the past three months they had taught them- selves to read and write	Majestic		Ellipsis	Words	Future Tense	Object
The birds did not understand Snowball's long words, but they accepted his explana- tion, and all the humbler animals set to work to learn the new maxim by heart.”			Speech Marks	Modifier	Present Tense	Subordinate
“Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings?”			Continuous Verb	Suffix	Past Tense	Clause
“The flag was green, Snowball explained, to represent the green fields of Eng- land, while the hoof and horn signified the future Republic of the tone and atmosphere? Ani- mals which would arise when the human race had been finally overthrown.”				Prefix		Homophone Homonym

- Can I interpret the key ideas that the George Orwell is communicating through his text?
- Can I explore and develop explicit and implicit techniques that create meaning for the reader? (How? For what effect?)
- Can I identify George Orwell’s techniques such as foreshadowing and non-standard English, and explore their effect on the reader?
- Can I explore and comment on George Orwell’s intention within the text?
- Can I respond personally to the text and suggest alternative interpretations?