

# Animal Farm

- **Written by:** George Orwell
- **Type of Work:** Novel/ Novella
- **Genres:** Political Satire/ Allegory
- **First Published:** 1945

## **Main Characters:**

Old Major	Mr. Jones	Boxer	Clover
Snowball	Napoleon	Squealer	
Mollie	Benjamin	Moses	
Frederick	Pilkington		

## **Animal Farm as an Allegory-**

- An allegory is a story in which characters and situations stand for other characters and situations so as to make a point about them.
- The main action of *Animal Farm* stands for the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the early years of the Soviet Union.
- Animalism is really communism.
- Manor Farm is allegorically Russia
- The farmer Mr. Jones is the Russian Czar.
- Old Major stands for either Karl Marx or Vladimir Lenin
- The pig named Snowball represents the intellectual revolutionary Leon Trotsky.
- Napoleon stands for Stalin, while the dogs are his secret police.
- The horse Boxer stands for the proletariat, or working class.

## Setting of the Novella:

- Mr. Jones' Manor Farm
- The setting of *Animal Farm* is a *dystopia*, which is an imagined world that is far worse than our own, as opposed to a *utopia*, which is an ideal place or state
- The most famous line from the book is "*All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.*" This line focuses on the changes that followed the Communist Revolution of 1917 in Russia.
- Rather than eliminating the capitalist class system it was intended to overthrow, the revolution merely replaced it with another hierarchy. The line is also typical of Orwell's belief that those in power usually manipulate language to their own benefit.

## Summary of the Novella

- The Manor Farm—later called Animal Farm—is a small, independent farm somewhere in the English countryside. The name “Manor Farm” tells us that it was once owned by a local aristocrat, the lord of the manor. However, the farm has since come into the hands of **Mr. Jones**, an unsuccessful, lazy, drunken farmer.
- One night, all the animals at Mr. Jones' Manor Farm assemble in a barn to hear **Old Major**, a pig, describe a dream he had about a world where all animals live free from the tyranny of their human masters. He tells the animals that they must work toward such a paradise and teaches them a song called “Beasts of England,” in which his dream vision is lyrically described. The animals greet Major’s vision with great enthusiasm. Old Major dies soon after the meeting.
- But the animals — inspired by his philosophy of Animalism — plot a rebellion against Jones. Two pigs, **Snowball** and **Napoleon**, prove

themselves important figures and planners of this dangerous enterprise. When Jones forgets to feed the animals, the revolution occurs, and Jones and his men are chased off the farm.

- Manor Farm is renamed Animal Farm, and the Seven Commandments of Animalism are painted on the barn wall.
- Initially, the rebellion is a success: The animals complete the harvest and meet every Sunday to debate farm policy. The pigs, because of their intelligence, become the supervisors of the farm.
- Napoleon, however, proves to be a power-hungry leader who steals the cows' milk and a number of apples for himself and the other pigs. He also enlists the services of *Squealer*, a pig with the ability to persuade the other animals that the pigs are always moral and correct in their decisions.
- Later that fall, Jones and his men return to Animal Farm and attempt to retake it. But, with the tactics of Snowball, the animals defeat Jones in what thereafter becomes known as *The Battle of the Cowshed*.
- Winter arrives, and Mollie, a vain horse concerned only with ribbons and sugar, is lured off the farm by another human.
- Snowball begins drawing plans for a windmill, which will provide electricity and thereby give the animals more leisure time, but Napoleon vehemently opposes such a plan on the grounds that building the windmill will allow them less time for producing food.
- On the Sunday when the pigs offer the windmill to the animals for a vote, Napoleon summons a pack of ferocious dogs, who chase Snowball off the farm forever.
- Napoleon announces that there will be no further debates; he also tells them that the windmill will be built after all and lies that it was his own idea, stolen by Snowball. For the rest of the novel, Napoleon uses

Snowball as a scapegoat on whom he blames all of the animals' hardships. Much of the next year is spent building the windmill.

- Boxer, an incredibly strong horse, proves himself to be the most valuable animal in this endeavour. Jones, meanwhile, forsakes the farm and moves to another part of the county.
- Contrary to the principles of Animalism, Napoleon hires a solicitor and begins trading with neighbouring farms. When a storm topples the half-finished windmill, Napoleon predictably blames Snowball and orders the animals to begin rebuilding it.
- Napoleon's lust for power increases to the point where he becomes a totalitarian dictator, forcing "confessions" from innocent animals and having the dogs kill them in front of the entire farm. He and the pigs move into Jones' house and begin sleeping in beds (which Squealer excuses with his brand of twisted logic). The animals receive less and less food, while the pigs grow fatter.
- After the windmill is completed in August, Napoleon sells a pile of timber to Jones; Frederick, a neighbouring farmer who pays for it with forged banknotes. Frederick and his men attack the farm and explode the windmill but are eventually defeated.
- As more of the Seven Commandments of Animalism are broken by the pigs, the language of the Commandments is revised: For example, after the pigs become drunk one night, the Commandment, "No animals shall drink alcohol" is changed to, "No animal shall drink alcohol to excess."
- Boxer again offers his strength to help build a new windmill, but when he collapses, exhausted, Napoleon sells the devoted horse to a knacker (a glue-boiler). Squealer tells the indignant animals that Boxer was actually taken to a veterinarian and died a peaceful death in a hospital — a tale the animals believe.

- Years pass and Animal Farm expands its boundaries after Napoleon purchases two fields from another neighbouring farmer, Pilkington. Life for all the animals (except the pigs) is harsh. Eventually, the pigs begin walking on their hind legs and take on many other qualities of their former human oppressors.
- The Seven Commandments are reduced to a single law: "All Animals Are Equal / But Some Are More Equal Than Others." The novel ends with Pilkington sharing drinks with the pigs in Jones' house.
- Napoleon changes the name of the farm back to Manor Farm and quarrels with Pilkington during a card game in which both of them try to play the ace of spades. As other animals watch the scene from outside the window, they cannot tell the pigs from the humans.

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WEB SOURCE-- <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/animal-farm/animal-farm-at-a-glance>