

# Animal farm: book report



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The brilliance of George Orwell's writing has rendered Animal Farm one of the best socio-political historical allegorical fables ever written. The book was written in 1945 involving animals. The story takes place in a farm called Manor Farm. Engulfed with poor leadership and lack of care of their owners, the farm is then taken over by its battered and mistreated animals. The animals were free and assumed leadership of their own, with their own set of rules ; regulations thus were prosperous free of human oppression.

Eventually though, the farm experienced bad leadership twice as bad as when the animals weren't free. With extreme graft ; corruption and tyranny, the farm lost its sense of prosperity and freedom that it strongly fought for. Animal Farm served as a symbolism of Russia's situation during Orwell's time, particularly the events leading up to World War II during the Stalinist era. He used characters like Napoleon to represent Stalin during his reign, Snowball to represent Stalin's predecessor Trotsky among many others with their own importance and representations that summed up for the book's success. It is clear that Orwell's purpose in writing the book was to represent the communism in Soviet Russia and his opposition of the communism in Russia was very apparent with the engaging plot of his novel.

Animal Farm was also surrounded by tons of controversy during its time. Orwell dared to venture where no man has ever gone before, showing the rise, fall, and everything in between of the whole Stalinist era, targeting it and using his novel to reject its practice. Today, the novel's meaning has not died down. The novel now represents the banner for rejecting political or any other kind of oppression, and may even create future controversies on its own. Overall, Orwell's timeless classic showing how the power of greed

corrupts the human soul is apt for readers of any age and is surely one of the must-read books before you die. Animal Farm is well known for its representation of the Russian revolution before, and looking at the novel at a socio-political point of view, there are many major societal and political issues that were tackled.

Issues such as: political oppression, the greedy nature of man, the human tendency of creating social classes, and the government's manipulation of the working class. Firstly, we'll look at the issue on political oppression and the greedy nature of man which is closely related to bad leadership or tyranny. This can be summed up in the last rule of Animalism "All animals are equals, but some animals are more equal than others". The novel had a fair share of bad leaders, namely Mr. Jones and most notably Napoleon.

Napoleon is created as the image of leaders succumbing under the corruption of power, and is historically portrayed as Stalin, one of the leaders responsible for communism in the USSR. In the novel, the pigs took the leadership seat, mainly Snowball (Trotsky) and Napoleon (Stalin). Trotsky and Stalin's real-life competition was seen in Snowball and Napoleon with Napoleon getting the upper hand, much like Stalin. Although Napoleon had good intentions at first, there happened a downward spiral change in him as the story progresses, much like Stalin again. He became a modern-day Mr. Jones in the 'farm, the same characteristic that they fought against in taking over the farm, and created a new form of tyranny in abusing his political power over the animals.

Secondly, Orwell also tackled the issue of human tendency in creating social classes even in the state of equality. The social classes were seen among the pigs, which were the so-called government, and the working class or the other animals. The creation of the social classes happened when the pigs assumed leadership on the farm and left the others under them. Today, social classes are also an unavoidable issue and is seen anywhere in the world.

Orwell wanted the readers to see the corruption of man wanting to be above everybody else, instead of being united as one, which will clearly be rampant maybe even until the end of time. Lastly, the issue on the government's manipulation of the working class was seen. This was seen in the manipulation of Squealer, under the orders of Napoleon, on the working-class animals. Normally in a communist country, the people are forced to work for their own survival. Like in the novel, the animals work for their own food in the farm.

With every hint of suspicion among the animals, Squealer almost has a solution for it thus relieving the animals from their suspicions. As a result, the animals were somewhat clueless that Napoleon was just taking advantage of their laboring power for his own personal gain. In a communist country, this is also very rampant, much like in the USSR before, because the government has all the say in everything, even in the words of history. Orwell managed to attack these issues in a very engaging manner, similar to his environment when the book was written.

He managed to keep the readers almost clueless as to what the next scene or issue that will be portrayed in the farm, and under a simple fable on a literal level, he successfully represented the societal and political issues of his time. Animal Farm truly deserves to be called a timeless classic. It's not just an ordinary representation of the Stalin era, but is also applicable to any timeframe and any society even today. Orwell wrote his with an attempt to attack every little thing wrong about his society before, and perhaps even the flaws in our society today even after his time. This book will never cease being successful with its undying message, even enough for it to be called "immortal".

The historical background, engaging plot, vivid descriptions, realistic scenarios, and lessons of George Orwell's masterpiece surely can't afford to not be read by everyone, and inevitably recommends itself to readers of any age.