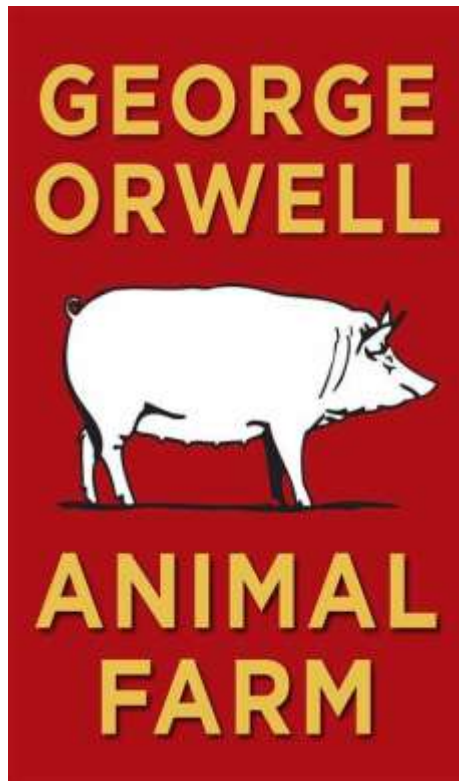


ANIMAL FARM – *A Fairy Tale*

Novella by – George Orwell



– Dr . Sanjukta Roy

INTRODUCTION

ANIMAL FARM is a short novel by George Orwell in the form of political allegorical novella . It was written during World War Two and published in 1945.

It is about a group of farm animals who rebel against their farmer . They hope to create a society where the animals can be equal, free and happy.

Ultimately, the rebellion is betrayed, and under the dictatorship of pig named Napoleon, the farm ends up in a state as bad as it was before.

According to Orwell, *Animal Farm* reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and then into the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union. Orwell, a democratic socialist, was a critic of Joseph Stalin.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Born on June 25, 1903 in Motihari ,Bengal in a British Colony of India. Eric Arthur Blair , known by his pen name George Orwell, was an English novelists, essayist and journalist. His father Richard worked for the Opium Department of the Civil Service.

His mother, Ida was the one who brought him to England. He was ranked one of the two best-achieved satirists in English Literature, sharing the laureateship with Jonathan Swift, and as one of the three foremost masters of political writing in 20th century.

His famous work which he given to literature are – Memory Hole, Big Brother, Thought Crime, Thought Police.1984 and Animal Farm are his commercially successful writings. His work Animal Farm is a example of that how he connected Art with Politics.

On 21 January 1950 he died due to Tuberculosis .

POLITICAL ALLEGORY

Political allegories are the stories that use imaginary characters and situations to satirize real life political events.

It is an extended metaphor that often uses a simple substitution of one element or symbol for another.

It is a story or painting that, on the surface, tells one tale, but has a hidden political meaning underneath.

Political allegories can be extended to fiction, drama, paintings, music and films.

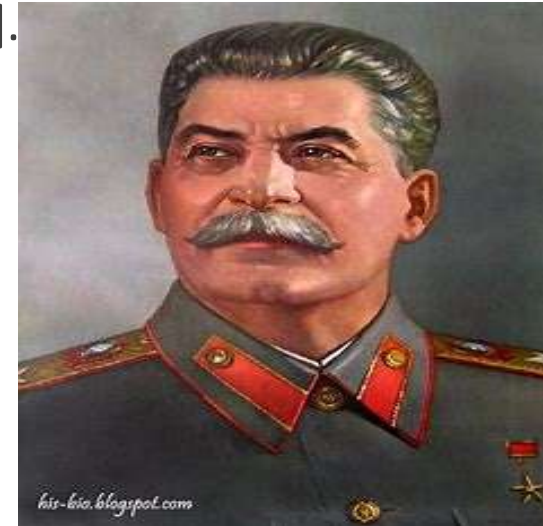
POLITICAL ALLEGORY IN ANIMAL FARM

ANIMAL FARM draws on a rich tradition of political allegory.

Orwell's use of animal metaphors made clear the hell of totalitarian rule and the real dark side of democracy.

Napoleon [the pig] is actually a metaphor for **Stalin** [former premier of soviet union].

Compared with the social phenomenon at that time, it can be safely concluded that Snowball represents **Leon Trotsky** [former member of the Constituent Assembly of Russia].



Summary and Chapterization of Animal Farm

MALOR CHARACTERS;

Mr. Jones [farmer and owner of Manor Farm]

Old major [An elderly Middle White Boar]

Napoleon [leader of Animal Farm after the Rebellion]

Snowball [An intellectual white pig leader]

Boxer [is a horse and dedicated labourer]

Mr. Pilkington [owner of Foxwood, a farm near Animal Farm]

Mr. Fredrick [a hard businessman and argumentative but shrewd]

The Seven commandments in Animal Farm and Animalism

ANIMALISM

The ideas and beliefs of Old Major, that right to freedom and equality into a complete system of thought which they call Animalism. The central beliefs of Animalism are expressed in the seven commandments. However, as the pigs seize more power, they change the commandments , until Animalism is reduced to a single principle which is virtually the opposite of Old Major's original idea as All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others.

THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.

Whatever goes upon four legs or has wings is a friend.

No animal shall wear clothes.

No animal shall sleep in bed.

No animal shall drink alcohol.

No animal shall kill any other animal.

All animals are equal.

Summary and Chapterisation of Animal Farm

CHAPTER ONE;

In Chapter one of Animal Farm , the animals gather and listen to Old Major a White boar and leader of animals . He give a speech about how the humans are oppressing the animals. He tells the other animals that he hopes for freedom. Then all the Animals plan a rebellion against their human master Mr. Jones.

CHAPTER TWO;

After the death of old Major animals need new leader , they choose two pigs as their leader Snowball and Napoleon. The rebellion occurs when Jones again falls into a drunken sleep and neglects to feed the animals, who break into the store shed in search of meal. When Jones and his men arrive, they begin whipping the animals but soon find themselves being attacked and chased off the farm. Snowball changes the sign reading Manor farm to Animal Farm and paints the seven commandments of Animalism on the wall of the barn.

Summary and Chapterisation of Animal Farm

CHAPTER THREE;

In chapter three, The animals spend a laborious summer harvesting in the fields. The clever pigs think of ways for the animals to use the human tools and every animal participates in the work, each according to his capacity. The resulting harvest exceeds any that the farm has ever known. In this chapter we see the clash of ideas between Napoleon and Snowball on every Sunday meeting.

CHAPTER FOUR;

By late summer, news of Animal farm has spread across half the country. Mr. Jones lives ignominiously in Willingdon, drinking and complaining about his misfortune. Mr. Fredrick, who owns the adjoining farms, fear that disenchantment will spread among their own animals . In early October a flight of pigeons alerts Animal Farm that Mr Jones has begun marching with some Pilkington's and Fredrick's men. Snowball prepares a defense and leads the animals in ambush on the men. Humans suffer a quick defeat. The animals losses amount only to a single sheep.

Summary and Chapterisation of Animal Farm

CHAPTER FIVE;

This chapter illuminates Napoleon's corrupt and power hungry motivations. He openly and unabashedly seizes power for himself, banishes Snowball . In his use of the dogs, Napoleon has monopolized the farm's source of defence and protection.

CHAPTER SIX;

For the rest of the year, the animals work at a backbreaking pace to farm enough food for themselves and to build the windmill . Napoleon announces that working on Sundays is voluntary, animals who refuses to do so will have their rations cut by half . But because they believe what the leadership tells them that they are working for their own good. Boxer, in particular, commits himself to Animal Farm by doing the work of three animals but never complaining.

Summary and Chapterisation of Animal Farm

CHAPTER SEVEN;

In the bitter cold of winter, the animals struggle to rebuild the windmill. They fall short of food, a fact that they work to conceal from the human farmers around. In order to feed the animals Napoleon contracts to sell four hundred eggs a week. The hens rebel, and Napoleon responds by cutting their rations entirely. Nine hens die before the others give in to Napoleon's demands.

CHAPTER EIGHT;

The animals work hard throughout the year to rebuild the windmill. They often suffer from hunger and the cold. A pile of timber lies unused on the farm, left over from the days of Jones and Napoleon engages in complicated negotiations for the sale of it to either Mr. Fredrick or Mr. Pilkington. When negotiations favour Mr. Fredrick, the pigs teach the animals to hate Mr. Pilkington.

Summary and Chapterisation of Animal Farm

CHAPTER NINE;

Wearily and Weakly the animals set about rebuilding the windmill. Though Boxer remains seriously injured, but he refuses to leave his work .He says that his only goal is to see the windmill off to a good start before he retires. Though no animal has retired on Animal Farm . Food grows ever more scarce, and all animals receive reduced rations expect the pigs and dogs. In April, the government declares Animal Farm a republic and Napoleon becomes president , having been the only candidate . In this chapter we also see how squealer sell Boxer to a glue maker to be slaughtered.

Summary and Chapterisation of Animal Farm

CHAPTER TEN;

Years pass. Many animals age and die and few recall the days before the rebellion. The animals complete a new windmill, which is used for milling corn a far more profitable endeavour. The farm seems to have grown richer, but only the pigs and dogs live comfortable lives. Squealer explains that the pigs and dogs do very important work filling out forms. The inhabitants of Animal Farm still fervently believe in the goals of the Rebellion- a world free from humans, with equality for all animals. At the end only one commandment remains the same – “all animals are equal”. However, it now carries an addition “but some animals are more equal than others”.

CONCLUSION

At the end of *Animal Farm*, Pilkington and other human farmers come to eat dinner with the pigs at the farmhouse. As the other animals watch through the window. They find they are unable to tell pigs and humans apart. The pigs have started to dress and behave exactly like humans. The book's final image expresses the animals' realization that the pigs have become as cruel and oppressive as human farmers. The ending also makes the argument that political power is always the same, whoever has it and whatever ideology is used to justify it. Powerful people are cruel and selfish whether they're pigs or humans. Communists or Capitalists. Above all, the ending suggests that all powerful people are liars and manipulators. In our last glimpse of the dinner party, Mr. Pilkington and Napoleon are arguing because they both tried to cheat at a card game in the same way at the same time. The ending doesn't offer much hope for a workable political system with true equality for all. Rather, the ending posits that the corrupting nature of power dooms all political systems to failure.