

ANIMAL FARM CHEAT SHEET

[Link- PDF Version of Animal Farm](#)

Big ideas

- This is not a book about a farm captured by a bunch of animals. That's absurd. It's an **allegory** or story written with symbolic characters, settings, and messages.
- The book was written soon after WWII and during the "Red Scare." **It is a warning** about what happens when governments gain unchecked power.
- This book remains relevant today vis-vis **censorship, corruption, propaganda.**

Your teacher wants you to know...

- Knowing your history isn't important; it's essential. The more you know about the Russian Revolution, Marx, Communism, etc.- the more you will understand and enjoy the book.
- The pigs/farm are symbolic- it's an allegory. The chart below summarizes their connection to historical figures.
- The propaganda techniques used by the pigs are still apparent in politics and beyond. Paying attention to these techniques and their effectiveness will make you a more thoughtful member of society.

Themes

- **Power and corruption:** Orwell uses the book to illustrate how absolute power leads to corruption.
- **Language and social control:** Propaganda, not violence, is the main means of social control. Orwell illustrates how influential words can be.
- **Censorship:** The less the animals know, the easier they are to control.

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT



Jones

The original owner of the farm- overthrown by the animals. Represents Russian Czars.

Mr. Frederick

He owns a neighboring farm. Napoleon has shady dealings with him. Represents Germany.

Mr. Frederick

He owns a neighboring farm. Represents England and the Allies.



Old Major

Founder of Animalism. Represents Karl Marx.



Napoleon

Leader of the revolution. Takes complete control of the farm. Represents Joseph Stalin



Squealer

Spreads misinformation for the pigs' benefit. Represents Russian propagandists.



Snowball

Co-leader of the revolution. Violently banished from the farm by Napoleon. Represents Leon Trotsky.



Moses

Informs the animals of "Sugar Candy Mountain" where they go when they die if they listen to humans. Represents the Orthodox church in Russia.



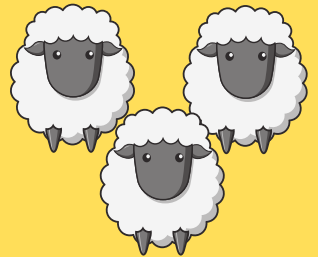
Benjamin

Tired, pessimistic donkey. He tries to warn Boxer that he is being taken advantage of. Represents older Russians skeptical of Stalin



Boxer

Hardest working, most dedicated worker. Represents the proletariat dedicated to Stalin.



The Sheep

The least educated and easiest to manipulate animals. They represent the uneducated class of workers tricked by Stalin.



Clover

Similarly dedicated as animalism but begins to question corruption. Represents the proletariat tolerating mistreatment.

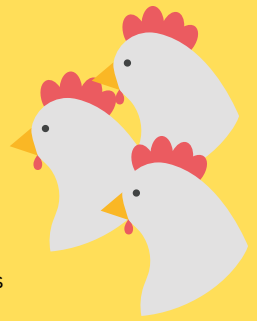


Mollie

Remains lazy and concerned with materialism. Represents the upper-class, harmed by the revolution.

The Hens

Forced to surrender their eggs to Napoleon, the hens quickly begin to question the revolution- until several are killed. They represent peasants who resisted Stalin's plan.



The Windmill

A project designed to ensure the animals are entirely independent. It represents massive infrastructure plans the Soviets began after the revolution.



Jessie, Bluebell, Pincher, and the attack dogs

The dogs become Napoleon's police squad, accepting special treatment for their service. They represent the KGP- Russian secret police.



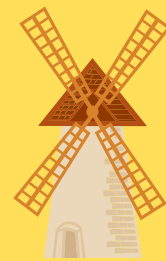
The Apples

It doesn't take long for the pigs to begin hoarding food for themselves. In this way, Orwell shows how quickly corruption can take hold of those in power.



Literacy

By emphasizing the importance of literacy to pigs and dogs and ignoring the others, the farm becomes divided into two classes: intellectuals and workers.



Forms of Propaganda

Fear	Frightening others and offering your ideas as the best solution.	"Surely, comrades, you don't want Jones back?"
Name Calling	Insulting someone to alter how others view them.	"Snowball was Jones's agent from the very beginning —"
Scapegoat	Blaming another for problems they are not responsible for causing.	"If a window was broken or a drain was blocked up, someone was certain to say that Snowball had come in the night and done it, and when the key of the store-shed was lost, the whole farm was convinced that Snowball had thrown it down the well"
Glittering Generalities	Using emotionally charged ideas to persuade an audience.	"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."
Bandwagon	Appealing to an individual's desire to be accepted by a group.	"If Comrade Napoleon says it, it must be right."