

Animal Farm

George Orwell

Menu

Introduction

Background

Discussion Starters

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm

George Orwell

Who's holding down the farm?

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Introduction

Things are about to get a little strange on Manor Farm.



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Introduction

Farmer Jones has locked up the henhouse and
stumbled off to bed . . .



thinking all is well in the barnyard.

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Introduction

He doesn't know—nor would he believe—the events that are about to occur inside his barn.



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Introduction

Old Major, Manor Farm's prize-winning boar, has called all the animals together. ▼



Pigs, hens, horses,



dogs, ducks, goats—
all gather round to hear about Major's dream.

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Introduction

Humans, old Major tells his comrades, are the enemy. They produce nothing, yet own everything. ▼



Animals work all their lives for their masters, but receive only enough food to keep them working.

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Introduction

Old Major believes that someday animals will work together to throw off their oppressors.

They will create a farm of their own, in which they will live in harmony, plenty, and equality.



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Introduction

Soon, Major says, the days of slavery will end.



The Rebellion will come.



And every animal must be ready.

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Introduction

Will the Jones place become the first true



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Background

Animal Farm is an **allegory**—a story that can be read on two levels. ▼

One level is literal:

A pig is a pig.

A pig is a political leader.



The other level is figurative—something represents something else.

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Background

Events and characters in an **allegory** are used by a writer to convey a moral message. ▾

Orwell's story seems to be about barnyard animals.



But what is the story really about?

< Back

Next >

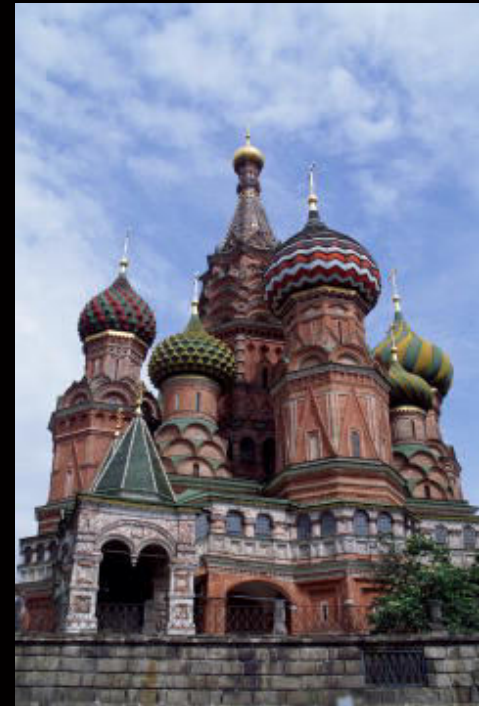
Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Background

George Orwell uses his novel to comment on events in Russian history, Communism, and revolutions.

- Russian Revolution
- the peasants' revolt
- rise of totalitarianism
- the Moscow purge trials



< Back

Next >

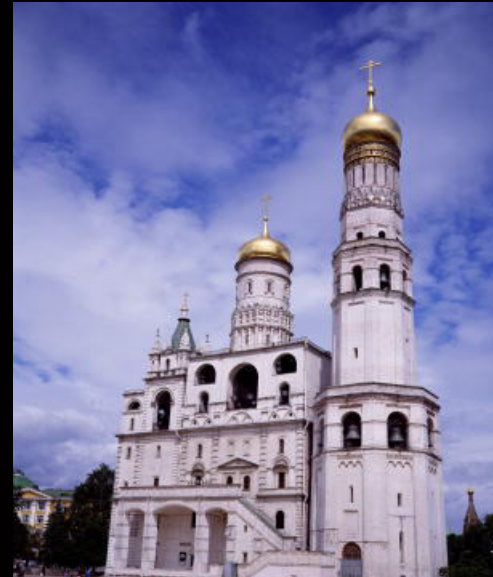
Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm: Background

Many of the characters in *Animal Farm* represent political leaders of the Russian Revolution.

- Czar Nicholas II
- Karl Marx
- Vladimir Lenin
- Leon Trotsky
- Joseph Stalin



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm

Discuss (1)

Communism in its purest form relies on people's willingness to work to the best of their abilities to meet the needs of everyone in society.

- Is such a system desirable? Is it possible?
- Why might attempts at pure communism be rare and hard to sustain?

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

Animal Farm

Discuss (2)

The animals on Manor Farm hope to build a utopia, or perfect society, free of masters and the suffering they bring. Can a utopian society last?

- What factors are needed to keep a utopian system in place?
- What forces might threaten or destroy it?

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X