

## Animal Farm by George Orwell

### Contents

- About the writer
- Summary Chapter wise
- Characters
- Questions
- Suggestive reading



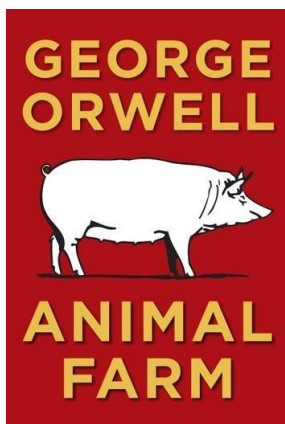
Eric Arthur Blair, (25 June 1903-21 January 1950) known by his pen name George Orwell was a renowned English novelist, essayist, and journalist; he was born at Motihari, Bengal Presidency, British India. His father was an officer in an Opium Department of Indian Customs and Excise. After his father's retirement, the family returned to England and he took his education at Eton but due to his economic condition, he had to leave his education. He joined Indian Imperial Police Services and sent to Burma. He worked there from 1922 to 1927. He himself confessed, 'for five years I had been part of an oppressive system and it left me with a bad conscience.....' He explored many jobs,

he worked as a teacher in private schools, started a chicken farm and a village store and also wrote articles in newspapers and periodicals. In 1936 he married Eileen O'Shaughnessy and went to Spain, and returned back after Second World War. After the death of his first wife he married Sonia Brownell but he fell seriously ill and died due to hemorrhage.

### Works

- |                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| • Down and Out in Paris and London | 1933 |
| • Burmese Days                     | 1934 |
| • A Clergyman's Daughter           | 1935 |
| • Keep the Aspidistra Flying       | 1936 |
| • The Road to Wigan Pier           | 1937 |

- Homage to Catalonia 1938
- Coming Up the Air 1939
- Animal Farm 1945
- Nineteen Eighty Four 1949
- The Lion and the Unicorn (Essay)
- Such, Such were the Joys (Essay)
- Notes on Nationalism (Essay)
- A Hanging (Essay)
- Critical Essays



Animal Farm is an allegorical novella, first published in England on 17 August 1945 is based on Russian Revolution of 1917 and Stalin Era and critically shaped by his experiences during the Spanish Civil War. Its original title was **Animal Farm: A Fairy Story** but US publishers dropped the sub title when it was published in 1946. It is a political allegory which satirizes Stalin and his principles. In French he suggested the title 'Union des republiques socialistes animales'. In the beginning, the novel rejected by the publishers but later on it earned a great name and fame.

- Novella is shorter than a novel but longer than a short story.
- An Allegory is a form of literary style in which each character or event represents or symbolizes real world issues or characters.

## Chapter wise Summary

### Chapter 1

Mr. Jones, the owner of the Manor Farm, went to sleep after locking the hen-houses but being over-drunk, he forgot to shut the pop-holes. Old Major, a twelve years old stout boar sent the message to the animals to gather in the big barn for the meeting. When the lights of Mr. Jones' room were off, all the animals came out and assembled before the platform where old Major was sitting. The three dogs, Bluebell, Jessie and Pincher, hens, pigeons, sheep, cow, Clover and Boxer, two horses, Muriel, the white goat, Benjamin the donkey, Mollie, the foolish pretty white mare settled down comfortably, then old Major announced that his death is near, but before his death, he feels to give the message of freedom. Animals are the slaves of man. He does not give them mouthful food and forces them to work till last breath. 'Remove man from the scene and the root cause of hunger and over work is abolished forever.' Man is the

only consumer not producer. Cows give milk, hens give eggs, and four foals of Clover and Boxer were also sold, the most tragic is, when the animals get old they are sent to knackers. So all men are enemies all animals are friends.

Old Major also tells them that in the dream, the tune of the 'Beasts of England' echoed in his mind which he heard from his mother and the other sows, it is something between Clementine and 'La Cucaracha'. The song illustrates the golden future of animals, they will be free, they will be prosperous, they will be happy. When the animals were singing the song in tremendous unison, Mr. Jones woke up and shot the fire, he thought that a fox had entered into the farm, so there was uproar.

## Chapter 2

After three nights Old Major died and his body was buried at the foot of orchard. It was the month of March; Major's speech changed the outlook of the animals. Napoleon was a fierce looking Berkshire boar, he was not much talkative. Snowball was innovative and vivacious pig. Among them a small fat pig named Squealer; he was a brilliant talker and could persuade anybody to turn in favor of himself. Though animals were doubtful about the results of rebellion, they were hopeful. Boxer and Clover were very obedient and sincere horses; they regarded pigs as their teachers. Mr. Jones was a lazy master and his men were idle and dishonest. In the month of June, on Saturday Mr. Jones went to Willingdon and did not return back till midday on Sunday. Having returned back he slept, all the animals were hungry. The cows broke down the store shed with their horns; the starved animals began to help themselves. Jones and his men came with their whips; in return animals attacked on them furiously and chased them out of the farm. Rebellion took place, Jones was turned out and Manor Farm was theirs.

Animals burnt all the objects which were symbol of their slavery---the reins, the halters, nose-rings, dog chains etc. were destroyed. Boxer also threw his straw hat in the fire. All the rooms of farm housed were searched and got assured that there was no man. First of all they changed the name of MANOR FARM to ANIMAL FARM. The main principles of animalism were reduced to Seven Commandments.

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs or has wings is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.
7. All animals are equal.

Snowball encouraged them to harvest the hay more quickly than Jones and his men but cows were uneasy because their udders were full of milk. The pigs milked the cows; the five buckets were full of creamy milk. Napoleon placed them before himself and sent the animals with Snowball.

## **Chapter 3**

It was difficult for the animals to harvest the crop by the instruments used by men but Pigs were clever enough to take the work; they used Boxer and Clover to the cutter and horse-rake and took the help of ducks and hens to collect every grain. Under the leadership of the pigs, the harvest was reaped in two days. Everybody appreciated the might and labour of Boxer but Mollie always shirked from the work and soon cat also disappeared from the farm. Old Benjamin, though not full of enthuse, worked hard without expressing his opinion. He only said, 'Donkeys live a long time. None of you has ever seen a dead donkey.'

On Sundays without fail, the flag was hoisted; it was made of old green table cloth of Mrs. Jones and a hoof and horn were painted in white on it. The green color was the symbol of green fields of England and hoof and horn signified the future Republic of the animals. The meeting always ended with the singing of 'Beasts of England'. Harness room was converted into headquarter. Every decision was taken after discussion and debates, to decide the issue voting was done. It was seen that Snowball and Napoleon were never in agreement on an issue. Snowball formed various committees for the development of animals but Napoleon had no interest in them. In the evenings, pigs began to learn blacksmithing, carpentering and other arts. The reading and writing class were a great success. Pigs could read and write perfectly; dogs, Muriel, Benjamin could read well but Clover couldn't put words together. Boxer couldn't learn beyond the letter 'D'. to help the sheep, hens, ducks and birds, Snowball reduced the Seven Commandments into one statement 'Four legs good and two legs bad'. Napoleon was against the education, he wanted to educate young ones only. Meanwhile Jessie and Bluebell whelped nine puppies; Napoleon took them away and kept into a loft of harness room and owned the responsibility of their education; soon they were forgotten. One day Squealer declared that pigs had to eat apples and drink milk, though they did not like, they had a great responsibility of looking after the farm house on their shoulders, if they failed, Jones would come back.

## **Chapter 4**

By the late summer, the news of rebellion spread across half of county. Sitting at Red Lion, Mr. Jones used to complain the sufferings and injustice done to him by the animals. One side of the Animal Farm, there was Foxwood Farm which was large and neglected; its owner was Mr.

Pilkington and on the other side there was Pinchfield Farm which was smaller and better kept; its owner was Mr. Frederick. They did not have good terms with Mr. Jones. They spread rumors that animals of Animal Farm are starving to death and killing one another. But 'Beasts of England' became the anthem of the animals. Early in October, the pigeons informed that half a dozen men from Foxwood and Pinchfield had entered the five barred gate of Animal Farm with sticks and Mr. Jones had a gun in his hand. Snowball was ready to defend as he had read Old book of Julius Caesar's Campaigns.

The first attack was done by pigeons and geese. The second line attack was made by Muriel, Benjamin and Snowball. The men were much disturbed. Then Snowball signaled them to come back, being victorious, the men were very delighted; they came into the yard, here three horses, three cows, pigs attacked together. Jones fired the gun, the pellets wounded Snowball, but he did not lose his courage, he jumped on Mr. Jones, his gun fell down but a sheep got killed. Boxer flung on the stable-lad of Foxwood and attacked with his iron shoes, the boy fell down. The panic took place and the men retreated leaving their sticks. All the animals took vengeance in their fashion. Boxer was very sad on the death of the lad but Snowball said 'War is War'. He should not feel sorry.

During the attack Mollie was missing; in fear she went into her stall and put her head into the manger. Afterwards they found that the boy recovered and went away. All the animals were happy at their victory; flag was hoisted and 'Beasts of England' was sung many times. The battle was called 'Battle of Cowshed'. The military decoration made of old horse braces, 'Animal Hero First Class' was conferred to Snowball and Boxer. 'Animal Hero Second Class' was given to sheep posthumously and it was given a solemn funeral. Mr. Jones' gun was set at foot of the flag staff and it was decided that it would be shot twice a year--- on 12 October, on the anniversary of Battle of Cowshed and Midsummer Day, anniversary of the Rebellion.

## Chapter 5

At the arrival of winter, Mollie became more troublesome and pretentious. Clover saw her standing near the dividing hedge of Animal Farm and Foxwood where one of Mr. Pilkington man was stroking her nose. After three days she disappeared and pigeons told that she was outside of a public house on the other side of Willngdon. Snowball and Napoleon were on disagreement at every point, often Snowball won due to majority of vote. But Napoleon had canvassing power. Snowball declared that on the small Knoll of the farm, a windmill will be built which is going to be very beneficial in various works of farm; it will also keep stalls lighted and warm. Snowball read the three books of Mr. Jones—One Thousand Useful Things to do about the House, Every Man His Own Bricklayer and Electricity for Beginners and prepared the design of the windmill on his shed floor. Napoleon came secretly and urinated on the plan. He had the

opinion if the windmill was built; the animals would starve to death. Snowball's slogan was 'Vote for Snowball and three days' work' and Napoleon's 'Vote for Napoleon and the full manger'. Animals were confused after Snowball's speech; Napoleon uttered a high pitch whimper and nine huge dogs with brass studded collars sprang on Snowball. He ran as fast as he could and saved himself by slipping through a hole in the hedge.

Now Napoleon was the leader, he stopped the Sunday meetings. Yet the animals assembled and sang 'Beasts of England'. Squealer made the propaganda that Snowball was a criminal and he was the most undisciplined boar at the farm. He also said that Napoleon never opposed windmill, he pretended to oppose to get rid of Snowball.

## **Chapter 6**

Throughout the spring and summer the animals worked very hard, at least sixty hours in a week. The limestone, sand and cement were there on the farm but to break the stones was most difficult job, it became possible with the help of Boxer. The animals lashed the rope on the stone and dragged them on the slope; he controlled the rope and brought the boulder to stop. They worked very hard but there was not enough food at the farm. One Sunday morning, Napoleon declared that he would do trading through Mr. Whymper. He would sell the eggs, hay and a part of wheat crop so that the needs of windmill could be fulfilled. Hens agreed, animals were perplexed, four young ducks reminded him about the commandment that animals would not keep any relation with human beings, dogs growled on it and Squealer asked whether there was any written document about it.

Now pigs began to sleep in beds between blankets. The animals were tired but happy because the construction of windmill was half complete. It was month of November, the south-west winds were blowing hard, one night with a tremor, the windmill fell down. All the animals were shocked, Napoleon came and made Snowball responsible for this destruction and announced capital punishment for him and at the same time ordered to rebuild the windmill.

## **Chapter 7**

Men were of opinion that the windmill was destroyed because its walls were not thick enough to sustain it; animals decided to make the wall three feet thick. Food was short, corn ration was reduced and an extra potato was increased in ration. In the end of January, Napoleon appeared guarded by nine dogs and gave instruction to Squealer. The hens were annoyed at the contract of four hundred eggs a week. When they revolted, their ration was stopped. Nine hens died.

In the farm, there was a pile of timber; both Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Frederick wanted to buy. Whenever he was about to settle the bargain with Mr. Frederick he used to say that Snowball is hiding at Foxwood and vice versa. He called a meeting and asked animals to confess his relations with Snowball. Four pigs, three hens, a goose and a sheep were killed at their confession. Dogs attacked on Boxer also, but he saved himself. All the animals were stunned to see the heap of dead bodies. Shocked animals were singing Beasts of England but Squealer stopped them and told that this song is abolished because rebellion is over.

## **Chapter 8**

Now the sixth commandment was changed, Muriel read 'No animal shall kill any other animal without cause'. Animal Farm was getting prosperous and he was addressed with reverence as 'Leader', 'Father of all animals', 'Terror of Mankind', 'Protector of Sheep-fold and Ducklings'. Minimus composed his eulogy; three hens confessed their plot against Napoleon, so his security was increased and Pinkeye was appointed to taste the food before he ate. The timber was sold to Frederick but later on it was found that the bank-notes given by him were fake and timber was taken for nothing.

The next morning, fifteen men with half a dozen guns came into yard and put blasting powder in the hole and blasted the windmill. On seeing their windmill destroyed, all the animals came out from their refuge and fell on them. The men were wounded and ran away. A cow, three sheep and two geese were killed and everyone was wounded. Squealer fired the gun on the victory of farm and gave its credit to Comrade Napoleon. The battle was known as 'Battle of the Windmill' and a new decoration 'Order of Green Banner' was conferred to Napoleon. After few days, the pigs brought a case of whisky in the cellar and drunk profusely. Napoleon became unconscious Squealer thought he was dying. After his recovery, he ordered that the seeds of barley would be sown in the paddock. Now Muriel read the seventh commandment 'No animal shall drink alcohol to excess.

## **Chapter 9**

Boxer's spelt hoof took a long time, Clover put poultice of herbs on his hoof. Boxer was going to be twelve year old. The plight of animals was worse; often they were hungry and often cold. Napoleon was the only boar on the farm; four sows littered thirty one piglets. Napoleon planned to build a school in the farm- house garden and discouraged them to mix up with other animals. In April, Animal Farm was declared a Republic and Napoleon became the President. Once again Moses, the raven appeared and some animals began to believe on his story of Sugarcandy Mountains.

One evening, two pigeons came flying and informed that Boxer has fallen, his lungs burst out, a thin stream of blood was flowing out from his mouth. Squealer told them that he would send him to veterinary hospital at Willingdon for his treatment. Benjamin and Clover were taking his lot of care. After two days, a van came to take Boxer. When Benjamin read the name of the knacker –‘Alfred Simmonds, Horse Slaughterer and Glue Boiler Willingdon Dealer in Hides and Bone-Meal Kennels Supplied’ on it, he told Clover, she shouted, Boxer also tried to come out but in vain. After three days Squealer informed about Boxer’s death and gave his last message to work harder. Benjamin was silent. To mourn his death, a banquet was organized in which a case of whiskey was brought from Willingdon and all the pigs drank and forgot Boxer.

## Chapter 10

The years passed. Jones, Muriel, Bluebell, Jessie, Pincher had died. Clover and Benjamin were old. The farm was prosperous. The pigs now kept files, reports, minutes and memoranda. Two fields of Mr. Pilkington were added in Animal Farm. Two wind mills were built but the stalls were without light and hot water. The sheep trained by Squealer bleated new song ‘Four legs good and two legs better’. Animals were amazed to see the pigs walking on hind legs. Napoleon was holding a whip in his trotter; they had radio sets and newspapers. One evening Clover saw half a dozen farmers and half a dozen pigs sitting on one table drinking whisky and playing cards. The use of word ‘Comrade’ was dropped, the flag was changed and the name of Animal Farm was also converted back to Manor Farm. The animals with Clover were standing and watching the toasting of mugs, they were unable to understand what was happening, pigs were looking like men and men were looking like pigs.

## Characters



Old Major was a twelve years boar. He was known as Willingdon beauty. He got the prize Middle White boar. He had over four hundred children. He is an allegorical combination of Karl Marx, one of the creators of Communism, and Lenin, the Communist leader of the Russian Revolution.





Mr. Jones was the master of Manor Farm. He was lazy and drunkard. He did not care his farm as well as his animals. He was expelled from his farm by the animals. He is an allegory of Russian Tsar Nicholas II, who abdicated following the February Revolution of 1917 and was executed along with the rest of his family by the Bolsheviks on 17 July 1918



Napoleon was a large fierce looking Berkshire Boar not much of a talker, but with a reputation for getting his own way. He is an allegory of Stalin of Russia. He is the symbol of modern leaders who after coming in power involves in corruption.



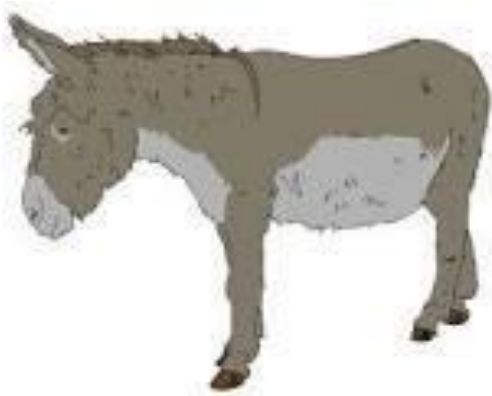
Snowball was a more vivacious pig than Napoleon. He was quicker in speech and more inventive. He made committees, and emphasized on reading and writing. With his help the Battle of Cowshed was won. He is an allegory of Leon Trotsky who was driven away from Russia by Stalin. He was the true disciple of Lenin but an ambitious leader.



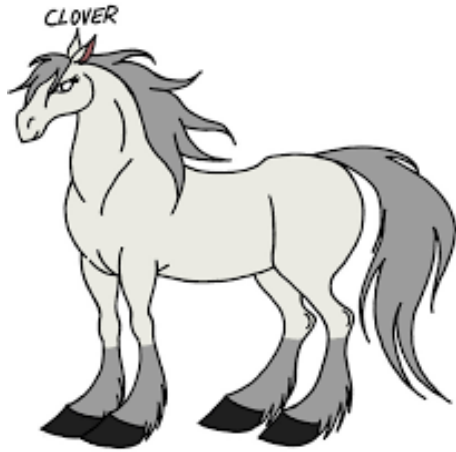
Squealer was small fat pig with round cheeks, twinkling eyes, nimble movements and shrill voice. He was a brilliant talker and very persuasive. He was right trotter pig and minister of propaganda, holding a position similar to that of Molotov.



Boxer was an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, very strong and hardworking horse. He had a white stripe down his nose. His maxims were, 'I will work harder' and 'Napoleon is always right'. The windmill was made twice by his help but in the end Napoleon sent him to the knackers. He is symbol of common man.



Benjamin was the oldest animal on the farm. He seldom talked and laughed. He was a good friend of Boxer. He could read as well as any pig. He was the only animal who didn't favor Snowball or Napoleon. He always said 'Donkeys have long time'. He is the symbol of intellectuals.



Clover was a laborious mare. She was more intelligent than Boxer. She was affectionate and motherly towards animals. She was kind hearted. She was very good observer. She observes the behavior of Mollie and in the end she observes the changed behavior of Napoleon, Squealer and their relation with Mr. Pilkington. There was no difference between pig and man.



Moses is a tame raven of Jones. He used to feed him crusts of bread soaked in beer. He was his spy and a tale bearer. He told the animals that there is a Sugarcandy Mountain in the sky. Moses is a representative of Orthodox Church or religion. After the establishment of Communism in Russia, Religion began to fade because of the strict policies of government.

- 'Beast of England' is based on the Communist anthem 'Internationale'.
- The principles of Animalism i.e., Seven Commandments are the principles of Karl Marx's Principles of Communalism.
- Nine puppies were the secret police of Stalin.

**Read the following questions and pick out the right answer—**

1-What is the real name of George Orwell?

- a- Francis Bacon
- b- Joseph Addison
- c- Eric Arthur Blair
- d- Charles Lamb

2- What was the original name of Animal Farm?

- a- A Fairy Tale
- b- The Canterbury Tales
- c- A Tale of a Tub
- d- Animal Farm, A Fairy Tale

3- In which year Animal Farm was published?

- a- 1943
- b- 1944
- c- 1945
- d- 1949

4- What was the name of Mr. Jones Farm?

- a- Manor Farm
- b- Pinchfield Farm
- c- Foxwood Farm
- d- Animal Farm

5- What was the color of the flag?

- a- Red
- b- Blue
- c- Black
- d- Green

6- Who was Mollie?

- a- A donkey
- b- A goat
- c- A white mare
- d- A dog

7- Who had a white stripe down his nose?

- a- Boxer
- b- Clover
- c- Mollie
- d- Muriel

8- Who was known as Willingdon Beauty?

- a- Mr. Jones
- b- Old Major
- c- Mr. Whymper
- d- Mr. Frederick

9- Who was the owner of Foxwood Farm?

- a- Mr. Pilkington
- b- Mr. Frederick
- c- Mr. Jones
- d- Napoleon

10- When was the anniversary of the Battle of the Cowshed?

- a- 12 September
- b- 12 October
- c- 12 November
- d- 12 December

**Answer the following questions in 50 words.**

1-What is a novella?

2- What is an allegory?

3- Who was Snowball?

4- Who was conferred Animal Hero, Second class and why?

5- Why was the Battle of Cowshed fought?

**Answer the following questions in 150 words.**

1- Describe in brief the allegorical characters of Animal Farm.

2- Which character do you like most and why?

3- Do you agree with the statement 'Power and Ambition spoil'?

4- 'Animal Farm is a true political allegory', in this light illustrate the themes of the novel.

5- If you have to re-write the end of the novella, how will you end it?

## **Suggestive Readings**

1. Bloom, Harold. ed. George Orwell's. Animal Farm. New York, Chelsea house Publisher, 1991.
2. O'Neill Terry Readings on Animal Farm. San Diego CA: Greenhouse Press, 1998
3. Williams, Raymond, Orwell London: Fontana Press, 1991.
4. Fowler, Roger, The Language of George Orwell, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996.
5. Marx, Karl. The Communist Manifesto. New York: Bantam Books, 1991