Animal Farm

Animal Farm (1945) is a satirical **allegorical novella** by George Orwell that critiques totalitarianism, particularly Stalinism, through the lens of a farm where animals overthrow their human oppressors. The story begins with the animals of Manor Farm rebelling against their exploitative owner, Mr. Jones, inspired by the ideals of Old Major (a pig representing Karl Marx/Lenin). They establish a new society based on equality, summarized by the Seven Commandments of Animalism, notably: "*All animals are equal.*"

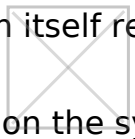
However, the pigs, led by Napoleon (symbolizing Stalin) and Snowball (Trotsky), gradually seize power, distorting the revolution's principles into a brutal dictatorship. The famous maxim evolves into "*All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others,*" exposing the hypocrisy of authoritarian regimes.

Orwell's sharp wit and simple yet profound narrative make *Animal Farm* a timeless critique of political corruption, propaganda, and the betrayal of revolutionary ideals.

Chapter I

The chapter opens with Mr. Jones, the neglectful owner of Manor Farm, drunkenly retiring for the night, leaving the farm unattended. Seizing this opportunity, the animals gather in the barn to hear old Major, a revered boar, share a prophetic dream. Major, a wise and aging figure, commands respect among the animals, who assemble eagerly despite the late hour. The scene is set with vivid descriptions of the animals' arrivals, from the cautious horses to the cynical donkey Benjamin, creating a sense of unity and anticipation for Major's message.

Old Major begins his speech by acknowledging his impending death and his desire to impart hard-earned wisdom. He paints a grim picture of the animals' lives, describing them as short, miserable, and exploitative. Despite the fertility of the land, the animals endure relentless labor and early deaths, their produce stolen by humans. Major's central argument is that Man is the root of their suffering, a parasite who consumes without contributing. This stark indictment sets the stage for his call to rebellion, though the dream itself remains momentarily unshared.



Major elaborates on the systemic exploitation by humans, using poignant examples to highlight their oppression. The cows' milk, the hens' eggs, and Clover's sold foals serve as evidence of their stolen labor. He emphasizes that animals receive only the bare minimum for survival while humans hoard the surplus. His rhetoric is both emotional and logical, appealing to the animals' shared experiences of loss and exhaustion. The speech builds toward a revolutionary tone, though Major stops short of detailing his dream, leaving the animals to ponder the injustice of their existence.

The chapter concludes with the animals deeply stirred by Major's words, their discontent palpable. The gathering underscores the potential for unity among the diverse group, from the loyal Boxer to the aloof Benjamin. Major's message plants the seed of rebellion, framing their suffering as unnecessary and changeable. The stage is set for a larger conflict, as the animals begin to question their subjugation. The chapter's end leaves readers anticipating the next steps in their awakening, with Major's dream poised to further ignite their resolve.

Chapter II

The chapter begins with the death of Old Major, whose revolutionary ideas inspire the more intelligent animals on the farm, particularly the pigs, to prepare for an eventual rebellion against their human master, Mr. Jones. The pigs, led by Snowball and Napoleon, take charge of organizing and educating the other animals, developing Major’s teachings into a system called Animalism. Despite initial apathy and skepticism, they hold secret meetings to spread their ideology, though they face resistance from animals like Mollie, who prioritize personal comforts over liberation, and Moses, the raven, who spreads distracting tales of a mythical paradise called Sugarcandy Mountain.

Snowball and Napoleon work tirelessly to counter these distractions, emphasizing the principles of Animalism and the need for unity. Their most dedicated followers are the cart-horses, Boxer and Clover, who, though not intellectually gifted, wholeheartedly embrace the cause and help rally the others. Meanwhile, Mr. Jones’s neglect of the farm due to his drinking and financial troubles creates worsening conditions for the animals, fueling their discontent. The stage is set for rebellion as the animals grow increasingly frustrated with their mistreatment and lack of food.

The rebellion erupts unexpectedly when the animals, driven by hunger and desperation, break into the store-shed to feed themselves. When Mr. Jones and his men attempt to whip them into submission, the animals revolt en masse, overpowering their oppressors and driving them off the farm. The sudden success of the uprising astonishes the animals, who quickly take control of Manor Farm, erasing symbols of human domination and celebrating their newfound freedom.

In the aftermath, the animals revel in their victory, exploring the farm to ensure no humans remain and destroying remnants of Jones’s rule. The chapter concludes with a sense of triumph and possibility, as the animals begin to envision a future governed by

their own principles. However, the groundwork is also laid for the pigs’ increasing dominance, hinting at the challenges to come in maintaining the ideals of Animalism.

Chapter III

The chapter depicts the animals' collective effort in harvesting hay, a task they complete more efficiently than the humans ever did. Despite the physical challenges of using human-designed tools, the pigs' intelligence and the horses' expertise ensure success. Every animal contributes, from Boxer's tireless labor to the hens gathering stray stalks, resulting in a record harvest with no waste. The absence of human oversight fosters a sense of ownership and pride, as the animals revel in the fruits of their labor.

Summer brings unprecedented harmony to the farm, with the animals enjoying abundant food and leisure. Though they face difficulties, such as threshing corn without machinery, the pigs' ingenuity and Boxer's strength overcome every obstacle. Boxer emerges as a symbol of dedication, working longer hours and adopting the motto "I will work harder!" The farm operates smoothly, with minimal conflict or theft, though a few animals like Mollie and the cat exhibit laziness or evasion.

Sundays are reserved for rest and communal activities, including a flag-raising ceremony symbolizing the animals' future republic. Meetings in the barn, led by the pigs, plan the week's work and debate resolutions, though disagreements between Snowball and Napoleon are frequent. The pigs also establish committees and literacy classes, with mixed success. While taming wild creatures fails, reading and writing instruction thrives, making most animals literate by autumn.

The pigs consolidate their leadership by studying practical skills and organizing the other animals. Snowball's committees aim to improve productivity and unity, but many initiatives falter due to ingrained behaviors. Despite setbacks, the pigs' literacy and strategic planning reinforce their authority. The chapter highlights the farm's initial prosperity under animal rule, while subtly foreshadowing the pigs' growing dominance and the challenges of self-governance.

Chapter IV

The chapter details the spreading influence of Animal Farm's rebellion across the countryside. Snowball and Napoleon dispatch pigeons to neighboring farms to share their revolutionary message and the anthem *Beasts of England*. Meanwhile, Mr. Jones, the ousted owner, drowns his sorrows at a local pub, receiving only superficial sympathy from fellow farmers like Pilkington of Foxwood and Frederick of Pinchfield, who are more interested in exploiting his misfortune than helping him. The two neighboring farmers, though mutually distrustful, unite in their fear of the rebellion's potential to inspire their own animals.

Initially, Pilkington and Frederick mock the idea of animals running a farm, predicting its swift failure. When Animal Farm thrives despite their predictions, they spread malicious rumors of cannibalism and chaos among the animals, framing the rebellion as unnatural. However, their propaganda fails to suppress the growing curiosity and unrest among animals on other farms. The anthem *Beasts of England* becomes a symbol of resistance, spreading rapidly and inciting rebellious behavior, much to the humans' dismay. Despite harsh punishments, the song proves unstoppable, filling the humans with a sense of impending doom.

The tension escalates when Jones, aided by men from Foxwood and Pinchfield, attempts to retake Animal Farm. Snowball, having studied military tactics, leads the animals' defense with strategic precision. The initial skirmishes involve pigeons and geese harassing the invaders, but the humans repel them easily. Snowball then orchestrates a more coordinated attack, using the sheep and other animals to distract the men before ambushing them with the stronger animals. The battle reaches its climax when Boxer, the powerful horse, strikes a lethal blow, causing panic among the humans.

The humans are swiftly driven into retreat, humiliated and injured, while the animals celebrate their victory. Only one stable-lad remains unconscious in the mud, with Boxer showing a moment of remorse. The chapter underscores the animals' unity and tactical ingenuity, contrasting sharply with the humans' disarray. The rebellion's success solidifies Animal Farm's reputation, foreshadowing further challenges and the enduring struggle between the animals and the human world.

Chapter V

The chapter opens with Mollie, the vain mare, becoming increasingly unreliable as winter approaches. She neglects her duties, admires her reflection, and is eventually confronted by Clover about consorting with a human from a neighboring farm. When Clover discovers hidden sugar and ribbons in Mollie's stall, it confirms her suspicions of betrayal. Mollie soon abandons Animal Farm altogether, choosing a life of comfort under human care, symbolized by her appearance pulling a dogcart with a red ribbon—a stark contrast to the farm's principles. Her departure marks the first instance of an animal rejecting the rebellion's ideals for personal comfort.

As harsh winter sets in, the pigs assume leadership, with Snowball and Napoleon emerging as rival figures. Their disagreements dominate farm meetings, with Snowball winning support through eloquent speeches while Napoleon quietly builds alliances, particularly with the sheep who disrupt proceedings with mindless slogans. Snowball, inspired by agricultural manuals, devises ambitious plans to modernize the farm, including an electrical windmill that promises reduced labor. Napoleon offers no alternatives but subtly undermines Snowball's ideas, foreshadowing their escalating conflict. The ideological divide between progress and pragmatism begins to fracture the animals' unity.

Snowball's windmill plans reach full development, showcasing intricate designs drawn in a secluded shed. The animals marvel at his blueprints, though they don't understand them, while Napoleon remains conspicuously opposed. In a striking act of defiance, Napoleon urinates on the plans during an inspection, demonstrating his contempt for Snowball's vision. This vulgar rejection symbolizes the deepening rift between the two leaders and their competing visions for Animal Farm's future—Snowball's technological utopia versus Napoleon's unspecified but traditional approach.

The farm splits into factions over the windmill debate. Snowball argues the project will eventually reduce work to three days weekly, while Napoleon insists on prioritizing immediate food production. Their slogans divide the animals, except for cynical Benjamin the donkey who refuses to engage. The chapter ends with this ideological stalemate, highlighting how the revolution's initial unity has given way to polarization under competing leadership styles—Snowball's intellectual idealism versus Napoleon's calculating opposition.

Chapter VI

The animals toiled relentlessly throughout the year, driven by the belief that their labor benefited their own community rather than exploitative humans. Despite grueling hours, including voluntary Sunday work enforced by ration cuts, they fell behind on tasks like sowing crops, foreshadowing a harsh winter. The windmill construction posed unexpected challenges, particularly breaking limestone boulders without human tools. Through collective ingenuity, they devised a method using gravity—dragging boulders uphill and toppling them to shatter—showcasing their perseverance and teamwork under the pigs' supervision.

Boxer emerged as the backbone of the windmill project, his unmatched strength and dedication inspiring the others. Despite Clover's warnings, he pushed himself relentlessly, embodying his mottos: "I will work harder" and "Napoleon is always right." His extra efforts, like hauling stone alone, highlighted his unwavering loyalty. While the animals managed basic sustenance, shortages of manufactured goods like nails, oil, and tools began to strain their self-sufficient ideals, exposing the farm's reliance on human-produced materials.

Napoleon announced a controversial shift in policy: trading with neighboring farms to acquire essential supplies for the windmill. This decision unsettled the animals, who recalled early resolutions against human interaction and commerce. Skeptical murmurs were silenced by the dogs and sheep's chants, while Squealer later manipulated their memories, claiming such resolutions never existed. Napoleon assured them that Mr. Whymper, a human solicitor, would handle all trade, distancing the animals from direct contact.

The chapter underscores the erosion of the animals' original ideals under Napoleon's rule. Their hard work is overshadowed by manipulation, as the pigs rewrite history to justify compromises with human systems. Boxer's blind devotion and the animals'

collective exhaustion contrast with the leadership's hypocrisy, foreshadowing deeper exploitation. The windmill, once a symbol of progress, becomes a pretext for bending principles, revealing the fragility of their revolution.

Chapter VII

The chapter depicts a harsh winter on Animal Farm, where the animals struggle to rebuild the windmill amid freezing conditions and food shortages. Despite the humans' claims that the mill collapsed due to poor construction, the animals know Snowball was blamed unfairly. They work tirelessly, with Boxer's determination inspiring them, but progress is slow. The bitter cold and hunger take a toll, and the discovery of frost-ruined potatoes worsens their plight. Squealer's speeches about labor's dignity offer little comfort, leaving the animals demoralized and desperate.

To counter rumors of famine, Napoleon manipulates Mr. Whymper by staging a false abundance of food, filling bins with sand topped with grain. Meanwhile, the animals endure starvation, surviving on chaff and mangels. Napoleon grows increasingly isolated, guarded by dogs and rarely appearing in public. His authority is enforced through fear, and he delegates tasks to Squealer, who announces a controversial order: the hens must surrender their eggs for trade. The hens rebel, but Napoleon crushes their resistance by cutting their rations, leading to nine deaths, which are concealed from Whymper.

Snowball's alleged sabotage becomes a scapegoat for all misfortunes, from broken eggs to missing keys. Napoleon fuels these rumors, claiming Snowball sneaks onto the farm nightly to cause chaos. The animals, though skeptical, accept these accusations out of fear. Napoleon conducts a theatrical investigation, "sniffing out" Snowball's traces everywhere, reinforcing his narrative. The timber pile becomes a bargaining tool with neighboring farmers, with Napoleon leveraging Snowball's rumored whereabouts to manipulate negotiations.

The chapter highlights the farm's descent into tyranny, with Napoleon consolidating power through propaganda, fear, and deception. The animals' suffering is downplayed, and dissent is brutally suppressed. Snowball's vilification serves to unify the animals

against a common enemy, distracting them from their hardships. The manipulation of Whymper and the hens' rebellion underscore the regime's ruthlessness, as Napoleon prioritizes control over the animals' well-being, eroding the ideals of the revolution.

Chapter VIII

The chapter opens with the animals grappling with the aftermath of the executions, as some recall the Sixth Commandment's prohibition against killing. Clover seeks clarification and discovers the commandment now includes the phrase "without cause," justifying the pigs' actions against alleged traitors. This manipulation of memory highlights the erosion of the original revolutionary principles, as the pigs rewrite history to maintain control. The animals' confusion underscores their vulnerability to propaganda and the gradual distortion of Animalism's ideals.

Despite backbreaking labor to rebuild the windmill and maintain the farm, the animals' living conditions remain harsh, often resembling those under Jones's rule. Squealer manipulates statistics to claim dramatic production increases, but the animals struggle with hunger and exhaustion. Their fading memories of pre-Rebellion life make them susceptible to the pigs' narratives, though moments of doubt surface. This section reveals the disparity between the pigs' rhetoric and the animals' lived reality, emphasizing the regime's exploitation.

Napoleon's leadership becomes increasingly authoritarian and grandiose, with elaborate rituals and titles like "Father of All Animals" reinforcing his cult of personality. Squealer's emotional speeches and Minimus's sycophantic poem further deify Napoleon, while his isolation from the other animals mirrors human oppressors. The gun fired on his birthday and the Crown Derby dinner service symbolize his transformation into a Jones-like figure. These details illustrate the complete betrayal of the Rebellion's egalitarian ideals through the pigs' embrace of human vices.

The chapter concludes with political maneuvering as Napoleon negotiates timber sales with neighboring farmers Frederick and Pilkington, amid rumors of attack. The execution of three "conspirator" hens and Napoleon's heightened security detail reflect growing paranoia. Frederick's alleged animal abuses fuel the animals' rage, though

Squealer discourages rebellion. This section showcases the farm's precarious external relations and internal climate of fear, as the pigs consolidate power through both propaganda and brute force.

Chapter IX

The chapter opens with Boxer, the hardworking horse, suffering from a split hoof but refusing to rest, driven by his ambition to see the windmill completed before his retirement. Despite Clover and Benjamin's efforts to treat his injury and persuade him to slow down, Boxer remains steadfast. The narrative then shifts to the topic of retirement ages and pensions established on Animal Farm, revealing the promised benefits for aging animals. Boxer’s twelfth birthday, marking his eligibility for retirement, is approaching, sparking discussions about the future grazing-ground for retired animals and the specifics of their pensions.

Life on the farm grows increasingly difficult as winter brings harsh conditions and food shortages. The pigs, led by Squealer, justify ration reductions by claiming they align with Animalism’s principles, arguing that conditions are still far better than under Jones’s rule. Squealer manipulates statistics to convince the animals of their improved lives, emphasizing their freedom and better living standards. The animals, though hungry and overworked, accept this narrative, clinging to the belief that their current struggles are preferable to the past oppression, despite the evident disparities in treatment between the pigs and the rest.

The farm’s population expands as four sows give birth to 31 piglets, all likely fathered by Napoleon. The piglets receive special treatment, including exclusive education and privileges, such as wearing green ribbons and priority on paths. Meanwhile, the farm faces financial strain, with resources diverted to building a schoolroom and saving for the windmill. The pigs enjoy luxuries like sugar and beer, while the other animals endure further ration cuts. A mysterious scent of cooking barley sparks hope among the animals, but they soon learn the barley is reserved solely for the pigs, highlighting the growing inequality.

Despite hardships, the animals find solace in the farm’s newfound "dignity," marked by weekly Spontaneous Demonstrations celebrating Animal Farm’s triumphs. These events, orchestrated by Napoleon, feature military-style processions, songs, and speeches reinforcing loyalty to the regime. The sheep, fervent supporters, silence dissent with chants of "Four legs good, two legs bad!" While the demonstrations distract the animals from their hunger and fatigue, they also serve as a tool of control, reinforcing the pigs’ dominance and the illusion of collective prosperity under Napoleon’s rule.

Chapter X

The chapter depicts the passage of time on Animal Farm, where most original Rebellion participants have died or been forgotten. Only Clover, Benjamin, Moses, and the pigs remain as living links to the past. The farm has expanded with new animals who know little of the Rebellion's history, while the original ideals have eroded. Napoleon and the pigs live luxuriously, contrasting sharply with the other animals' hard lives. The windmill, once promised to bring modern comforts, now serves only to enrich the farm materially while the animals' living conditions remain unchanged.

Despite outward prosperity with new machinery and buildings, only the pigs and dogs benefit materially. Squealer justifies the pigs' administrative work with complex explanations, though they produce no food. The other animals endure hunger, cold, and exhausting labor, with no memory of whether life was better post-Rebellion. Benjamin alone maintains his cynical view that life never fundamentally changes. The animals cling to pride in their animal-run farm, though their revolutionary dreams have faded into distant hope rather than imminent reality.

The animals maintain blind faith in their special status, taking pride in being England's only animal-owned farm. They cherish memories of past victories while enduring present hardships, believing Major's vision will eventually materialize—though not in their lifetimes. The banned "Beasts of England" is secretly remembered, symbolizing their suppressed revolutionary spirit. While their lives remain difficult, they find solace in not serving human masters and maintaining the principle that all animals are equal—at least in theory.

The chapter concludes with mysterious behavior from Squealer and the sheep, hinting at coming changes. After a week of isolation where Squealer claims to be teaching them a new song, the animals are startled by Clover's terrified neighing. This ominous ending suggests another pivotal moment may be approaching for the farm, continuing

the cycle of hope and disillusionment that has characterized the animals' experience since the Rebellion.