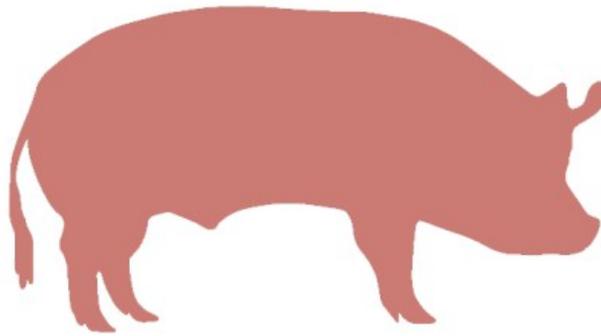


Animal Farm



By

George Orwell

A Novel Study
by Joel Michel Reed

Animal Farm

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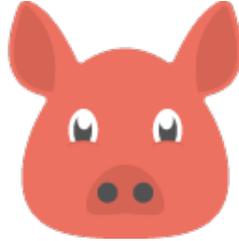


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About the author: Joel Reed has over 70 published novel studies and is the author of four novels. For information on his work and literature, please visit www.reednovelstudies.com

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Animal Farm

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one or two chapters of **Animal Farm** and is comprised of five of the following sections:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities in this unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 6*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include animal rights, endurance, suffering/hardship, loyalty, deception, dictatorships, treachery, propaganda.

Additional icons and images provided by <http://www.icons-land.com>

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identify anagrams
6. Identify *personification*
7. Use of singular / plural nouns
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Identifying syllables
11. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify the climax of the novel.

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Compare two characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

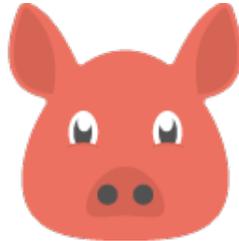
1. Research assignments.
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Complete an author biography.
5. Write a description of personal feelings
6. Write a book review
7. Complete an Observation Sheet
8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

Mr. Jones of Manor Farm is so lazy and drunken that one day he forgets to feed his livestock. The ensuing rebellion under the leadership of the pigs Napoleon and Snowball leads to the animals taking over the farm. Vowing to eliminate the terrible inequities of the farmyard, the renamed Animal Farm is organized to benefit all who walk on four legs. But as time passes, the ideals of the rebellion are corrupted, then forgotten. And something new and unexpected emerges. (Courtesy of Penguin Books)

More information is found on the following website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_Farm

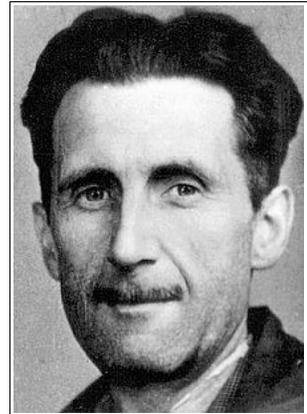
Author Biography

George Orwell

Eric Arthur Blair (25 June 1903– 21 January 1950), who used the pen name **George Orwell**, was an English novelist, essayist, journalist and critic. His work is marked by lucid prose, awareness of social injustice, and opposition to totalitarianism.

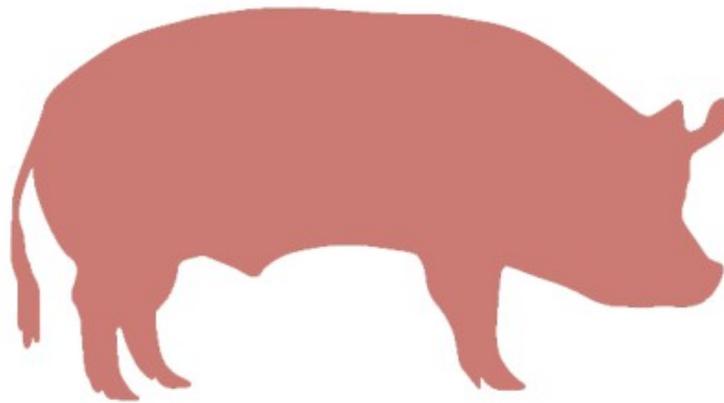
Orwell wrote literary criticism, poetry, fiction, and polemical journalism. He is perhaps best known for his *dystopian* novel ***Nineteen Eighty-Four*** and the allegorical novella ***Animal Farm***.

Orwell's work continues to influence popular and political culture, and the term *Orwellian*—descriptive of totalitarian or authoritarian social practices - has entered into modern day language together with many of his neologisms, including, but not limited to, *cold war*, *Big Brother*, *Thought Police*, *Room 101*, *Memory Hole*, *double-think*, and *thought-crime*.



Courtesy of Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell

Animal Farm

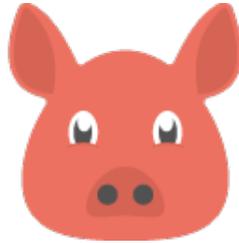


By George Orwell

Name: _____

Animal Farm

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Chapter 1



Before you read the chapter:

George Orwell is known as one of the fathers of the *dystopian* genre. Using resources from your school library or the Internet, define the term *dystopian* and give an example of another novel.



Vocabulary:

Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its definition. Remember to use a straight edge (like a ruler).

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Scullery | A. To doubt whether something is true or will happen. |
| 2. Ensnconced | B. To flourish or be successful. |
| 3. Cynical | C. A small kitchen or room used for household work. |
| 4. Paddock | D. A firm decision to do or not to do something. |
| 5. Brood | E. An enclosure where horses are kept or exercised. |
| 6. Resolution | F. Done in preparation for something more important. |
| 7. Prosperity | G. Establish or settle (someone) in a comfortable place. |
| 8. Dissident | H. A state or feeling of active opposition or hostility. |
| 9. Enmity | I. A family of birds or other animals at one hatching. |
| 10. Preliminary | J. A person who opposes official rules or policy. |

Questions



1. Describe the setting of the story as Chapter One begins.

2. Circle the correct narrative that our novel follows, and the reason for your choice.

First Person Second Person Third Person

3. Benjamin, the donkey, said that he would sooner have no tail and no flies. What do you think would happen to the world's ecosystem if there were no flies?

4. Do you think animals should be treated as well as human beings? Why or why not?

5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement taken from Chapter One? "*All the habits of men are evil.*" Be sure to defend your answer.

Language Activity



A. PERSONIFICATION is giving human qualities to something that is not human. The following is an example of personification taken from Chapter One: "*With the ring of light from his lantern dancing from side to side, he lurched across the yard ...*"

Why do you think personification is a popular literary device used by many authors?

Create your own example of personification.

B. Rewrite the following sentences by putting in the **correct capitalization** and **punctuation**.

1. at one end of the big barn on a sort of raised platform major was already ensconced on his bed of straw under a lantern which hung from a beam

2. after the horses came muriel the white goat and benjamin the donkey

--

3. the soil of england is fertile its climate is good it is capable of affording food in abundance to an enormously greater number of animals that now inhabit it

D. The Eight Parts of Speech

Find at least two examples of each of the eight parts of speech from Chapter One and list them in the appropriate section of the chart below.



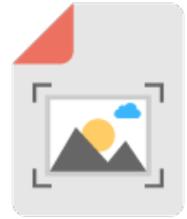
Interjections	
Nouns	
Pronouns	
Conjunctions	
Prepositions	
Adjectives	
Adverbs	
Verbs	

Extension Activity



Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.



Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in Chapter One of *Animal Farm*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6