

George Orwell

Animal Farm



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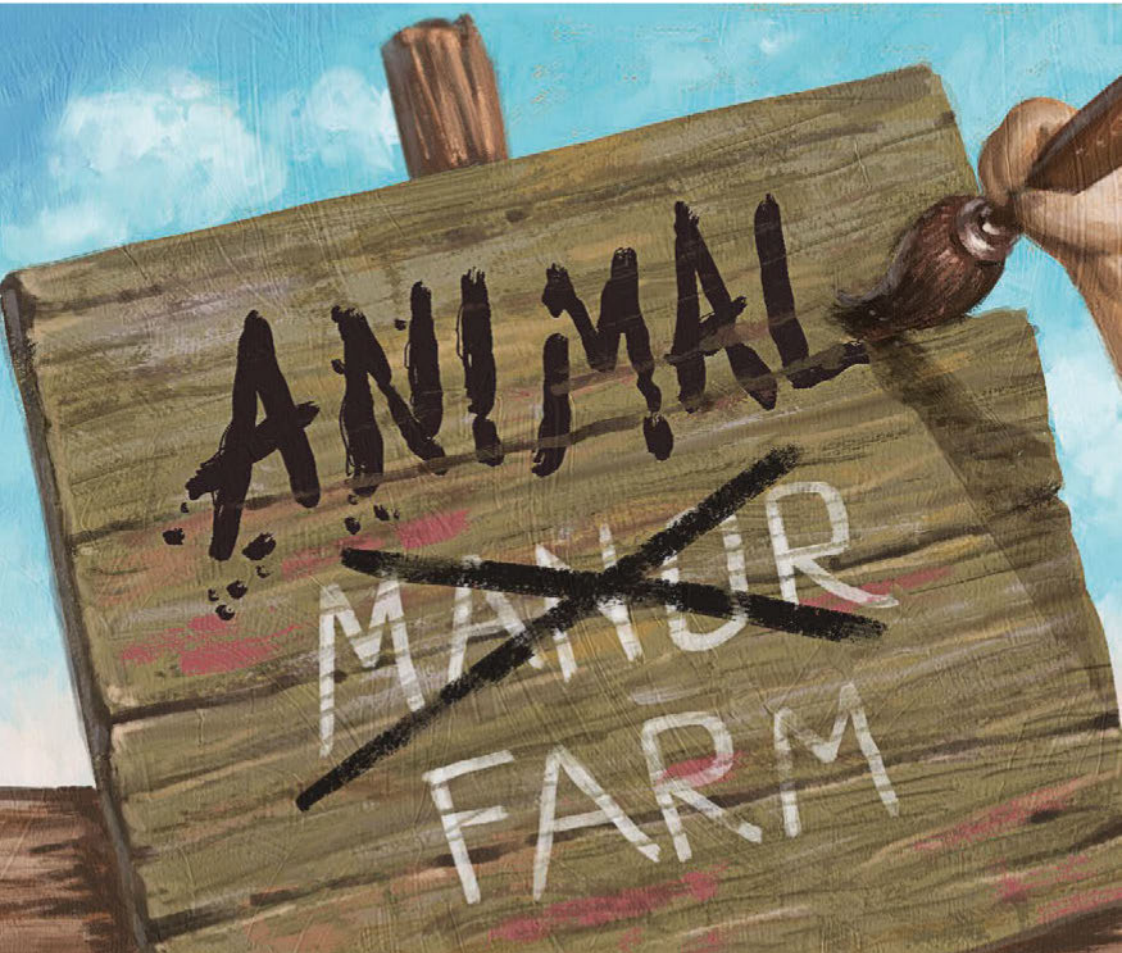
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George Orwell

Animal Farm

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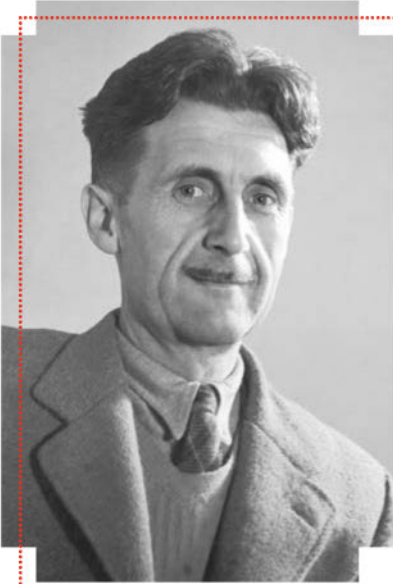
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T: GRADE 5 This icon indicates Trinity-style activities

n. track



THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED.



George Orwell

Eric Arthur Blair's pen-name was George Orwell. He was born in Motihari, India, on 25 June 1903. His parents were British and his father worked for the British Government in India.

When Orwell was a young child, his mother took him to England to have him educated there. He went to St Cyprian's Preparatory School, and then to Eton College.

In 1922 Orwell joined the Indian Imperial Police in Burma (now called Myanmar), a British colony. He found the job was boring so, in 1927, he returned to England and decided to become a writer. In 1928 he moved to Paris and he did several different jobs. This was a very difficult time for Orwell, and as he was poor he often didn't have enough to eat. He wrote about his experiences in an autobiographical book called *Down and out in Paris and London* (1933). He published his first novel, *Burmese Days*, in 1934.

Late in 1936, during the Spanish Civil War, Orwell travelled to Spain to fight for the Republic, against Franco's Nationalists. However, he had to escape from Spain because of serious political problems. Orwell's novel *Homage to Catalonia* (1938) was inspired by his experiences in Spain.

In 1943 Orwell became the literary editor of *The Tribune*, a weekly magazine. By now he was a well-known journalist in Great Britain.

Orwell was very much against dictators ¹ and Stalin's Revolution in

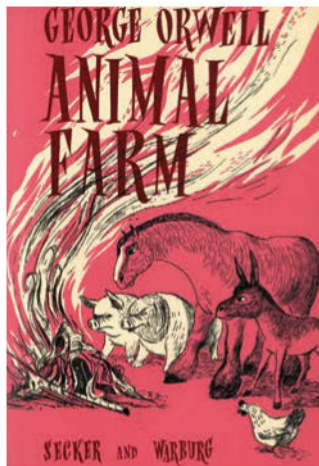
1. **dictator** : a person who has complete power in a country.

Russia (1928-1953). So, in 1945 he decided to write a satire ² on Stalinism in a fable ³ called *Animal Farm*, and it became a very successful work.

In 1948 he wrote *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, a frightening novel about a totalitarian ⁴ society of the future. It was a bestseller all over the world.

The adjective 'Orwellian' has become a part of everyday language, because it describes social and political systems that can destroy a free and open society.

Orwell's poor health led to his death on 21 January 1950. He was buried at the Church of all Saints in Oxfordshire, England.



Comprehension check

1 Answer the following questions.

- 1 Why were George Orwell's parents living in India?
- 2 Why did Orwell's mother take him to England?
- 3 Which schools did Orwell attend?
- 4 Why did Orwell go to Burma?
- 5 What was Orwell's life like in Paris?
- 6 Why did Orwell go to Spain?
- 7 Why did Orwell decide to write *Animal Farm*?
- 8 What was *Nineteen Eighty-Four* about?

-
2. **satire** : use of humour or exaggeration to show how foolish some people's behaviour or ideas are.
 3. **fable** : a story that teaches a moral lesson; animals are often the main characters.
 4. **totalitarian** : political system where there is only one political party that controls everything and does not allow opposition parties.

THE CHARACTERS



1. MOSES - 2. MOLLIE - 3. CLOVER - 4. BOXER - 5. MR. JONES - 6. BENJAMIN - 7. THE COWS
 8. MR. ZERKOW - 9. PINCHER - 10. THE SHEEP - 11. BLUEBELL - 12. THE GESE - 13. MURIEL
 14. JESSIE - 15. THE HENS - 16. SNOWBALL - 17. NAPOLEON - 18. OLD MAJOR - 19. SQUEALER

Before you read

Vocabulary

1 Match the words with their meanings. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 ☐ pop-holes | 3 ☐ rebellion | 5 ☐ gallon |
| 2 ☐ to slaughter | 4 ☐ foal | 6 ☐ mare |

- a A violent organized action by a large group of people who want to change a social system.
- b A very young horse.
- c Unit of measurement for liquids; equal to about 4 litres.
- d To kill animals to sell their meat.
- e A female horse.
- f Little holes where hens can enter and exit the barn.

Vocabulary

2 Match the words with the correct picture. Use a dictionary if necessary.



A



B



C



D



E



F

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 ☐ barn | 3 ☐ cart | 5 ☐ trotter |
| 2 ☐ straw | 4 ☐ raven | 6 ☐ plough |

Speaking

3 Look at the characters on page 6. Which animals do you think will be the protagonists of the story and why?



CHAPTER 1

OLD MAJOR



track 02

Mr Jones was the owner of Manor Farm. At night he always locked the hen-houses, but he was too drunk to remember to shut the pop-holes. He slowly walked across the yard, left his boots outside the back door and drank a last glass of beer. Then he went to bed and Mrs Jones was already asleep.

As soon as the light in the bedroom was off, there was excitement and noise in the farm buildings.

Old Major was the prize-winning¹ boar, or male pig, of Manor Farm. He was twelve years old and quite handsome for his age. All the farm animals respected him because he was very wise. One night, Old Major had a strange dream and, the next day, he wanted to tell the other animals about it.

1. **prize-winning** : this boar won many prizes at farm fairs.



The word got around and all the farm animals went to the big barn to listen to him. There was a small platform and Old Major was already comfortably seated there.

The first ones to arrive were the three dogs, Bluebell, Jessie and Pincher. Then the pigs came and sat on the straw in front of the platform. The hens and the pigeons were near the windows and the sheep and the cows lay down behind the pigs. Clover and Boxer were two big horses and they came in together, walking slowly. Clover was a mare and mother of four foals. Boxer was an enormous horse; he was stronger than two ordinary horses! He wasn't very intelligent, but the animals liked and respected him because he was a great worker.

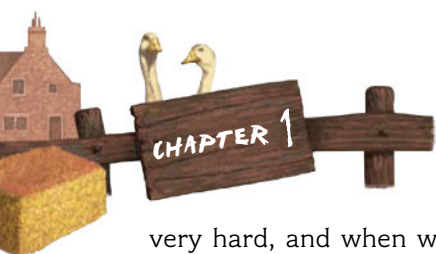
After the horses, Muriel and Benjamin arrived. Muriel was a white goat and Benjamin was a donkey. He was the oldest animal on the farm, and he also had a bad temper.² He rarely talked and he never laughed because he said there was nothing to laugh about. However, on Sundays he usually stayed with Boxer on the grassy field.

At the last moment, Mollie, the silly white mare arrived. She pulled Mr Jones's cart and she felt very pretty and important. The cat was the last one to get there and he chose the warmest place to sit — between Boxer and Clover. He didn't listen to what Old Major was saying. The old raven Moses was not present.

'Comrades,'³ said Old Major, looking kindly at the animals, 'I don't think I'll be here much longer, but before I die, I want to tell you some very important things. I've had a long life and I've seen many things. I understand the world of us animals.' He stopped for a moment and then continued. 'Our lives are miserable and short! We are born and we are given just enough food to keep us alive.' 'We must work hard,

2. **bad temper** : when you get angry quickly.

3. **comrade** : a friend, especially one that you shared a difficult situation with.



very hard, and when we are no longer useful, we are slaughtered with terrible cruelty. No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness. No animal in England is free. We are all slaves, and that is the truth!' All the animals were listening carefully, except for the cat. 'But why are we in this condition?' Old Major continued. 'Because nearly all the product of our work is stolen from us by human beings! Our big problem is: Man. Man is the only real enemy we have. Man is the reason why we are always hungry and we work too much.'

The animals looked at each other amazed.

'Comrades, Man is the only creature who eats and drinks without producing anything. He doesn't give milk, he doesn't lay eggs and he's too weak to pull the plough. But he's the master of all the animals! Is that right?' cried Old Major, angrily. 'You cows have given thousands of gallons of milk this year, and they have all been sold to make money for Mr Jones. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid this year? And how many of those eggs have become young chickens? Very, very few!' The hens looked at each other, confused.

Old Major looked at Clover and said, 'Clover, you are the proud mother of four foals, but each foal was sold at the age of one year. You'll never see your foals again!' Clover looked at Boxer with sad eyes and shook her head slowly.

Old Major raised his voice and said, 'And last of all, no animal escapes the cruel knife at the end! Oh, what horror! We are sent to the slaughterhouse when we are no longer useful! And when dogs become old and useless, Jones ties a stone around their necks and drowns them in the lake!' Sounds of complaint were heard in the big barn.

'Comrades, listen!' cried Old Major, raising his trotter. 'If we get rid of Man, the product of our work will be our own! And we will become rich and free! My message to you is Rebellion! I don't know when the Rebellion will come, but sooner or later it will happen!'





‘And remember, never listen when they tell you that Man and animals have a common interest. It is a big lie! Man’s only interest is himself! Whatever goes on two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes on four legs, or has wings, is a friend. All animals are brothers and all animals are equal.’

At this moment all the animals cried out in agreement and there was great excitement in the big barn.

‘Now, comrades,’ said Old Major, ‘I will tell you about my dream last night. When I was a little pig my mother and the other pigs sang an old song. Last night it came back to me in my dream. It’s called “Beasts of England”. My voice is old and not very musical, but I’ll sing it to you:’

*Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,
Beasts of every land,
Listen to this message!
Soon or late the day will come
We will rebel against our enemy, MAN!
And we will win!
Then we will all be free and happy,
Forever and ever!*

The song created the wildest excitement and soon all the animals were singing it by themselves. The clever ones, like the pigs and the dogs, learned the words of the entire song immediately. Even the stupid ones quickly learned the tune. Unfortunately, the loud noise that came from the barn woke up Mr Jones. He thought there was a fox in the yard and got his gun. He started to shoot in the darkness and the meeting in the barn ended immediately. All the animals quickly went back to their own sleeping places and the whole farm was silent.

The text and *beyond*

Comprehension check

- 1 Read the sentences about Chapter 1 and decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A for YES. If it is not correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under B for NO.

	A	B
1 Mr Jones didn't shut the pop-holes and all the hens escaped.	☐	☐
2 Old Major was a prize-winning boar.	☐	☐
3 Old Major wanted to tell the animals about a dream he had.	☐	☐
4 Clover and Boxer didn't listen to what Old Major was saying.	☐	☐
5 The worst tempered animal on the farm was Muriel.	☐	☐
6 Mr Jones's cart was pulled by Mollie.	☐	☐
7 Old Major said that the lives of the animals were short and miserable.	☐	☐
8 When animals were no longer useful, Mr Jones sold them to another farmer.	☐	☐
9 As Man was the enemy of the animals, Old Major hoped for a rebellion.	☐	☐
10 None of the animals learned the new song because the words were too difficult.	☐	☐

Grammar: nouns and adjectives

- 2 A Fill in the table with the missing noun or adjective.

NOUN	ADJECTIVE
comfort	1
2	cruel
hunger	3
4	free
confusion	5
6	excited
sadness	7
8	noisy

B Now write four sentences about the story using nouns and adjectives in the table.

Time clauses

As soon as the light in the bedroom was off, there was excitement and noise in the farm buildings.

We are sent to the slaughterhouse **when** we are no longer useful.

Time clauses show when something happens. They are introduced by conjunctions.

Mr Jones went home **after** he shut the hen-houses.

Everyone was silent **when** Old Major came into the barn.

'I'll wait for you **until** three o'clock,' said the young girl.

Mr Jones read the newspaper **while** Mrs Jones was having breakfast.

Grammar: time clauses

3 Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

~~until~~ when before (x2) after while as soon as

- 0 The new barn won't be ready^{until}..... next year.
- 1 All the animals listened Old Major was talking.
- 2 The farmers were tired and went home a long day at work.
- 3 The children washed their hands eating their lunch.
- 4 The animals ran to the barn it started raining.
- 5 Mr Jones got angry he heard the loud noise in the barn.
- 6 The children were always hungry dinner.

Reading pictures

4 Look at the picture on page 11 and answer these questions.

- 1 Where are the animals?
- 2 Who is the center of attention and why?
- 3 Which animals are present?

Before you read

Vocabulary

1 Match the words with the correct picture.

1 horn

3 ribbon

5 corn

2 whip

4 chain



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐



E ☐

2 Match the words with their meanings. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1 ☐ hay

3 ☐ storage shed

5 ☐ to stare

2 ☐ to butt

4 ☐ tough

6 ☐ to bury

- a A small building on a farm where the farmer keeps food for the animals.
- b To look at for a long time.
- c Grass that was cut and dried, and is then used to feed horses and other animals.
- d To hit hard with the top of the head.
- e To put something under the ground.
- f Determined, not easy to deal with.