

Key Quotations

"All animals are equal but some are more equal than others,"

"Four legs good, two legs bad."

"Several of them would have protested if they could have found the right arguments."

"Can you not understand that liberty is worth more than just ribbons?"

"His answer to every problem, every setback was "I will work harder!"- which he had adopted as his personal motto."

"If liberty means anything at all it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

Key Characters and what they symbolise

Napoleon: Stalin - communist leader of Russia from 1922.

Napoleon's dogs - Stalin's secret police who carried out murder and torture to ensure he stayed in power.

Snowball- Trotsky, tried to rise up against Stalin and was exiled from Russia.

Squealer- Russia's propaganda machine.

Boxer- the workers (proletariat) of Russia.

Old Major- Karl Marx / Lenin, the founder of communism / first communist leader of Russia.

Moses- the church, who Marx described as 'the opium of the people' as they fed lies to the proletariat.

Mollie - the bourgeoisie, whose capitalist desires prevented them from committing to the communist ideal.

Mr Jones- Tsar Nicholas II, the previous, cruel, leader of Russia.

Mr Frederick- Germany (Nazis).

Mr Pilkington- England and the United States (capitalism).

Techniques

Symbolism - the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities e.g. Snowball **symbolises** Stalin.

Allegory - a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one e.g., Animal Farm is an **allegory** for communist Russia.

Microcosm- a community, place, or situation regarded as showing in miniature the characteristics of something much larger e.g. Orwell uses the farm as a **microcosm** for world politics.

Fable - a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.

Satire - the use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or bad behaviour, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues. e.g. Orwell **satirises** the communist politics of the Soviet Union.

Irony- the exact opposite of what you expect to happen e.g. it is **ironic** that the pigs become just like Mr Jones.

Ambitious Vocabulary / Key Concepts

Anthropomorphism - giving animals human characteristics.

Socialism- the belief that the rich should share wealth with the poor for the good of humanity.

Communism - the belief that all wealth is shared equally and all property is owned by the community.

Capitalism- the belief that each man must make his own wealth. The individual's aim is to make a profit.

Proletariat- the working class.

Bourgeoisie - the middle class.

Bolsheviks-Russian rebels, led by Lenin in the October 1917 revolution.

Propaganda- information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

Punctuation: Direct Speech

The **general rules of direct speech** are:

- Each new character's speech starts on a new line.
- Speech is opened with speech marks.
- Each line of speech starts with a capital.
- The line of speech ends with a comma, exclamation mark or question mark.
- A reporting clause is used at the end (said Jane, shouted Paul, replied Mum).
- A full stop goes after the reporting clause.
- If the direct speech in the sentence is broken up by information about who is speaking, add in a comma or question mark or exclamation mark to end the first piece of speech and a full stop or another comma before the second piece (before the speech marks), for example: "It's lovely," she sighed, "but I can't afford it right now."
"I agree!" said Kate. "Let's go!"

Context

- George Orwell was the pen name of Eric Blair (1903-1950).
- The book is without doubt intended to refer to the Russian Revolution and society following events of 1917.
- The book (considered a novella rather than a full-sized novel) is an allegory of events in Russia from just before the October Revolution in 1917 to the 1940s, and as such is a savage indictment (formal accusation) of the way the country - and Communist leader Stalin in particular - abandoned their ideals.
- Animal Farm can also be read as a general indictment (criticism) of any dictator and tyrant and is considered political literature with universal resonance (meaning).
- The Russian Tsar Nicholas II was a monarch equivalent to the British King (George V) at the time. He was deposed (got rid of) by the Revolution.