

## STRUCTURE

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**9.0 OBJECTIVES**

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In this unit, you will learn about

- Life and works of George Orwell
- Genre of the Novel
- Plot of the novel

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**9.1 INTRODUCTION**

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'*Animal Farm*' is a dystopian novel written by George Orwell. The first edition of the novella was published in 1945. As it includes animal characters for making strong arguments about human values and politics, *Animal Farm* is called an animal fable or beast fable. Generally, fable hardly consists multiple human characters, but in *Animal farm*, Orwell subverts this tradition. Orwell wants to convey a message to his readers that exploitation happens with the animals as well as humans and the process of exploitation is also same with both of them. '*Animal Farm*' is George Orwell's best allegorical novella. Orwell shares his opinions on the revolutions that took place in Russia before his time.

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**9.2 GEORGE ORWELL- LIFE AND WORKS**

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Eric Arthur Blair is known as his pseudonym George Orwell. He was born on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1903 in Bihar. His father's name is Richard Walmesley Blair. He worked in the Opium Department of the Indian Civil service. His mother's name is Ida Mabel Blair. George Orwell had two sisters named Marjorie and Avril. George Orwell was very hard

working and because of that, he secured his place in Eton. He became a policeman in Burma in 1921 by passing Indian Civil Service exam. His first book named *Burmese Days* was published in New York in 1934 which was based on his experiences. His first non-fictional work was *Down and Out in Paris and London* which was published in 1933. He decided to become a writer after resigning in 1927. Orwell moved to Paris in 1928, where he wrote many novels and short stories. During his severe poverty years, he worked as dishwasher, a private tutor and teacher in cheap private schools.

Orwell wrote literary criticism and poetry, journalism and fiction. His famous works are *Animal Farm*(1945) and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*(1949). He shared his experiences of working class life in the north of England in *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937). He shared his experiences soldiering for the Republican faction of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) in *Homage to Catalonia* (1938). *A Clergyman's Daughter*, *Keep the Aspidochelone Flying*, *Coming Up for Air* are written by George Orwell. Following is the list of poems written by George Orwell.

- "Awake! Young Men of England" (1914)
- "Ballade" (1929)
- "A Dressed Man and a Naked Man" (1933)
- "A Happy Vicar I Might Have Been" (1935)
- "Ironic Poem About Prostitution" (written prior to 1936)
- "Kitchener" (1916)
- "The Lesser Evil" (1924)
- "A Little Poem" (1935)
- "On a Ruined Farm Near the His Master's Voice Gramophone Factory" (1934)
- "Our Minds Are Married, but We Are Too Young" (1918)
- "The Pagan" (1918)
- "The Wounded Cricketer" (1920)
- "Poem from Burma" (1922–1927)
- "Romance" (1925)
- "Sometimes in the Middle Autumn Days" (1933)
- "Suggested by a Toothpaste Advertisement" (1918–1919)
- "Summer-like for an Instant" (1933)
- "As One Non-Combatant to Another" (1943)

He was an essayist, novelist, critic and journalist. George Orwell's works are clear and easy to understand, portrayed by harsh social commentary, antipathy to totalitarianism, support to democratic socialism.

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### 9.3 PLOT

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A prize-winning boar who is an Old Major meets the animals of Manor Farm in the big barn. He shares his dream in which all the animals live together without any control and oppressed by the human beings. He teaches all the animals a song called "Beasts of England". The song describes Major's dream vision. All the animals welcome his vision and show eagerness. Major dies three nights after the meeting. 'Animalism' is

composed by Snowball, Napoleon and Squealer, the three younger pigs. Animalism is a philosophy of main principles given by Major. Animals conquer the farmer, Mr. Jones. The land, Animal Farm is renamed by them. Boxer, cart-horse decides to dedicate himself to the affluence of the farm by espousing a maxim "I will work harder."

Snowball teaches reading to all the animals and Napoleon explains the principles of Animalism. Mr. Jones tries to reclaim his land but animals conquer again. It is known as the Battle of the Cowshed. They take farmer's gun as a token of their triumph. As the time goes by, arguments about the future of the farm increase day by day between Napoleon and Snowball. They clash with each other for authority and control over the other animals. Snowball plans to build a windmill for electricity generation. Napoleon is not agree with the decision. A meeting is held regarding the project and in the meeting everyone has to give vote. Snowball gives a very ardent speech whereas Napoleon gives a brief speech. After that, Napoleon makes a strange noise and nine dogs who were trained by Napoleon, hunt Snowball.

Napoleon presumes the leadership of Animal Farm. He announces that there will be no more gatherings. From here on out, he makes it very clear that all the decisions for the good of Animal Farm will be taken by the pigs only. Napoleon rethink about the windmill and decides to build it. All the animals, specially Boxer dedicate themselves and give their best in completing the project of windmill. After a storm, windmill collapsed. The farmers of the area say that the walls of the windmill are too thin. Napoleon asserts that windmill is destroyed by the Snowball.

Napoleon makes a rule in which the animals who take part in Snowball's stratagem or oppose Napoleon will be attacked by the dogs and meet instant death. Boxer has adopted a second maxim, "Napoleon is always right". Napoleon expands his power and starts to behave like human being. He starts to sleep in a bed, drink whisky. He also deals with neighbour farmers for the business. The principles of Animalist restricts such kind of activities but the exponent of Napoleon explains every steps to the animals. Exponent of Napoleon persuades all the other animals that each and every action taken by Napoleon is for the betterment of all the animals and he is a great leader. Though the common animals are hungry and exploited.

A neighbour farmer, Mr. Frederick cheats Napoleon in buying timber and then strikes the farm and destroys the windmill. After destruction of the windmill, an intense battle starts. During the battle, Boxer is injured. The animals beats the farmers but Boxer's wounds cripple him. Boxer falls while working to build the windmill and realises that he has no more time. Later, Boxer is nowhere to be seen. Squealer says that Boxer was taken to the hospital and after that he has died in peace by appreciating the Rebellion with his last breath. In reality, Napoleon has vended his most honest and hard-worker to a glue maker for the sake of getting money for whisky.

Over the years, the pigs become more like human beings. They starts walking upright, bringing whips and wearing clothes. Ultimately,

the seven principles of Animalism are known as the Seven Commandments carved in the corner of the barn and diminished to a single principle “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” Napoleon invited a human farmer, Mr. Pilkington for the dinner and tells his intention to associate with the human farmers against the labour classes of both the human and animal communities. He renamed the Animal Farm back to the Manor Farm and alleges that this name is the “correct” one. The common animals look through this exclusive party through a window of farmhouse and they can no more recognise difference between pigs and human beings.

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## 9.4 CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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The title, ‘*Animal Farm*’ itself reflects an image of allegory used in the story. Orwell wants to say that the society is ruled by the monsters as an Animal Farm. “Animal” is used in the title to show the lack of understanding of the situation and their system.

As per Old Major, all the revolutions represent quintessential journey, which leads to a utopia, a perfect state of prosperity, and honesty, which is just an illusion.

Through the other character, Napoleon, Orwell gives the characteristics of revolution. Napoleon represents Stalin, performs the character of an important leader. However, he does not have competence of powerful and fluent speeches, he surpasses Snowball. The character of Napoleon is the symbol of directorship of a totalitarian system who controls the farm and takes it to a dark atmosphere than the time of Jones. Napoleon’s actions fade the difference between all the revolutions. All through the story, the reader knows that at the start of the revolutions, the leaders show ways of achieving desires which are very impractical and full of illusions. Napoleon blames Snowball for damaging the windmill without any evidence though the windmill collapsed because of storm.

As time passed, it becomes clear that hopes are unrealistic. Leaders do not have any other option apart from implanting a systematic spirit of transformation into the commandments. All the animals, especially Boxer come to know that current situation for which they fought for is definitely poor than the previous one. They believe that they should not protest or accuse any one.

A donkey named Benjamin is very clever. He knows that the low-class animals of the farm are more brilliant than the second-class types. He also knows that many big changes are occurred in the farm, but he does not comment on the current situation, as he wants a calm life. There is another notable side of the Benjamin. His quotation, “Life would go on as it had always gone on”(56) elaborates that he is very pessimist and believes in fate.

Orwell says that a corrupt society always needs supporters. Squealer always impresses Napoleon with his remarkable speech. Undoubtedly, he is the most encouraging companion of Napoleon. He gives all the credits to Napoleon and attempts to hide and suppress all the crimes of Napoleon. Squealer talks to other animals and evokes their

feelings. He delivers strong speeches and inspires others with slogan like "Long live comrade Napoleon!"

Orwell presents the negative standpoint of society. Orwell conveys that the society does not have honest laws for the enemies or for the members of the organisation itself. He reveals the terrible philosophy of the dishonest and untrustworthy society. Orwell uses figurative language in this novella. Orwell symbolises Old Major as Karl Marx, Snowball as Lenin, and the Windmill as the progress of Russia toward modernization.

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## 9.5 TONE

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Initially, the tone of *'Animal Farm'* is very cheerful and jovial. As the story moves ahead, it becomes harsh. The story begins with talk about the humans and speaking animals. Orwell talks about humanlike animal characters such as Clover, a horse is described as "never quite got her figure back after her fourth foal." During the reign of Napoleon, the situation gets worse. This harshness beats the jovial story. The progress of the story alerts the readers and let them know that society can quickly fall into fear and unpleasant situation. The novella makes fun of Stalin, it shows that the Soviet dictator is as silly and stupid as a speaking pig.

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## 9.6 ANTAGONIST

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Corrupted political power is the antagonist of the animals. Each character embodies political power at various points of time. In the beginning, when Mr. Jones conquered the new rulers of the farm, pigs come to know the truth of political power. After that, pigs oppose the animals in the same manner as Jones used to do by harassing and abusing them. The novella's drama creates from a question like when and whether animals will realise that their actual antagonist is power and not animals, pigs or humans. In the last scene of the novel, the animals look from the window and for them it is very difficult to identify difference between humans and pigs. It indicates that they are equally corrupted by political power.

### CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 1

#### ANSWER THE QUESTION IN DETAIL.

1. Write critical analysis of the novella *'Animal Farm'*.

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2. Discuss the plot of novella in detail.

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## CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 2

### WRITE SHORT NOTES.

1. Tone of the novella
2. Antagonist

## CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 3

### CHOOSE APPROPRIATE OPTION FROM THE GIVEN BELOW.

1. The novella 'Animal Farm' was published in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. 1945
  - b. 1954
  - c. 1965
  - d. 1956
2. George Orwell is the pen name of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. George Bernard Shaw
  - b. George Eliot
  - c. Eric Arthur Blair
  - d. Charles Dickens
3. George Orwell was appointed as a policeman in \_\_\_\_\_ in 1921.
  - a. Dublin
  - b. Africa
  - c. Burma
  - d. India
4. 'Down and Out in Paris and London' was published in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. 1912
  - b. 1930
  - c. 1921
  - d. 1933
5. 'Animal Farm' is an animal \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Poem
  - b. Novel
  - c. Essay
  - d. Fable
6. \_\_\_\_\_ teaches all the animals a song called 'Beasts of England.'
  - a. Napoleon
  - b. Old Major
  - c. Squealer
  - d. Clover
7. \_\_\_\_\_ has adopted a second maxim, "Napoleon is always right."
  - a. Clover
  - b. Boxer
  - c. Squealer
  - d. Old Major

8. \_\_\_\_\_ renamed the Animal Farm back to the Manor Farm.
  - a. Napoleon
  - b. Snowball
  - c. Boxer
  - d. Clover
9. \_\_\_\_\_ uses slogan like “Long Live Conrade Napoleon!” to inspire others.
  - a. Snowball
  - b. Mr. Pilkington
  - c. Squealer
  - d. Mr. Jones
10. Orwell symbolises Old Major as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Karl Marx
  - b. Leon Trotsky
  - c. Stalin
  - d. Police

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## 9.7 LET US SUM UP

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‘*Animal Farm*’ an animal fable, is written by George Orwell. It was published on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1945. It is a story of animals that fight with the human farmer to make a society where all the animals are equal. At the end, farm turned into a bad land under the leadership of Napoleon. The story is a reflection of Russian Revolution of 1917 and Stalinist era of the Soviet Union.

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## 9.8 KEY WORDS

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<b>Fable</b>	a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral
<b>Exploitation</b>	the action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work
<b>Novella</b>	a short novel or long short story
<b>Pseudonym</b>	a fictitious name, especially one used by an author
<b>Severe</b>	very great; intense
<b>Antipathy</b>	a strong feeling of not liking somebody/something; dislike
<b>Espouse</b>	adopt or support
<b>Ardent</b>	very enthusiastic or passionate
<b>Asserts</b>	state a fact or belief confidently and forcefully
<b>Stratagem</b>	a plan or scheme, especially one used to outwit an opponent or achieve an end
<b>Maxim</b>	a short, pithy statement expressing a general truth or rule of conduct
<b>Exponent</b>	a person who supports an idea or theory and tries to persuade people of its truth or benefits
<b>Allegory</b>	a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one
<b>Quintessential</b>	representing the most perfect or typical example of a quality or class

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## 9.9 BOOKS AND WEB LINKS SUGGESTED

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1. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* written by George Orwell
2. *Homage to Catalonia* written by George Orwell
3. Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. United Kingdom, Faber & Faber, 2021.
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFP1IMyKyy4>
5. [https://www.google.co.in/books/edition/Animal\\_Farm/aWypDwAAQB-AJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=animal+farm+book&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.co.in/books/edition/Animal_Farm/aWypDwAAQB-AJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=animal+farm+book&printsec=frontcover)

### Answers

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. d
5. d
6. b
7. b
8. a
9. c
10. a