

**STRUCTURE****11.0 Objectives****11.1 Introduction****11.2 *Animal Farm* as a Satire****11.3 *Animal Farm* as Political Allegory****11.4 Allegorical Songs in the *Animal Farm*****11.5 Let Us Sum Up****11.6 Key Words****11.7 Books Suggested****Answers**

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**11.0 OBJECTIVES**

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In this unit you shall

- Learn literary devices and genres as allegory, and satire.
- Understand various political ideologies, both historically and in the present day through context of *Animal Farm*.

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**11.1 INTRODUCTION**

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In literature, an allegory is a clever way of nesting story within a story. It has a surface story and another story hidden underneath. Most of the stories of Aesop are the examples of allegories. For example, the fable of “Ant and the Grasshopper” at superficial level deals with an idle grasshopper who spend its time in singing and dancing during spring season and does not save anything for winter. But at deeper level it refers to lazy people who don’t work hard and spend their precious time in frivolous activities and then repent for their deeds. Allegories generally deal with the themes of morality, spirituality, religious or political issues, through the use of symbolic characters and events. For example, *The Pilgrim’s Progress* by John Bunyan is an example of religious allegory whereas *Animal Farm* by George Orwell is an example of political allegory.

*Animal Farm* is a novella written by George Orwell in 1945. From the superficial level *Animal Farm* is just a story of animals which hates mankind and take the whole territory in their hands but it actually throws light on the Russian communism and every character and incident of the novella represents political backdrop of the age. That’s why it is known

as Political allegory. At the time when Orwell's book was published, *Animal Farm* wasn't very popular because Russia was actually an ally to the western world in the fight against Hitler during the World War II. Orwell himself wasn't always completely anti-communist. He was actually a socialist who supported the belief that trade should be organized and owned by the employees for the good of everyone, not just the elite. It wasn't until he observed the corrupt evolution of Communist Russia, and how it departed from the initial goals, that he felt he should advise us of the dangers of unchecked authority. Orwell wanted to show the destructive side of communism when it is taken too far. In this lesson, we'll take a look at how George Orwell criticized Communist Russia through the use of allegory.

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### **11.2 ANIMAL FARM AS A SATIRE**

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First of all let's understand what a satire is. Satire is a kind of literature that is serious in itself it could be mocking up a political institution or a political practice or a religious institution it could be a social custom and basically it dramatizes this and holds it up to ridicule. A famous example would be Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift which satirizes life in England. He was a source of influence for Orwell especially through his very famous essay which is called 'A Modest Proposal' and in that essay he is satirizing and making fun of the British because of the cruel practices that they were inflicting upon the Irish during that period. This is what Orwell does in *Animal Farm* and also in '1984'. In this Particular case what Orwell has written is a sharp satire of the Soviet Union the lies, the injustices, the massacres , the lack of respect for human life and also the tendency that Soviet Union developed had this right from the very beginning to rewrite history that for there would be a period of time in which Lenin for example would be regarded as a great man and the history books would reflect that and then somebody else takes over and decide that Lenin was not a great man at all he was a terrible man and they tear down the statue and they rewrite the history books so Orwell in his characters and in his depiction of what's going on in the farm is satirizing the Soviet Union.

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### **11.3 POLITICAL ALLEGORY**

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As a political allegory, *Animal farm* mainly deals with theme of Russian Revolution and its aftermath. However, at deeper layer it focuses on the lust for power. It is said that, "Power tends to corrupt people and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Through the character of Napoleon, Orwell creates a vibrant and poignant picture of tortures and atrocities committed by Joseph Stalin and his protégés and the predicaments of laymen people of Russia.

Generally, there are two types of politicians around us. One who has philanthropic nature and stays committed to his people and another who is self-complacent and indulges in personal gains only. The characters of Snowball and Old Major belong to the first category whereas the characters of Napoleon and squealer belong to the latter.

The events occurring at Manor farm are in accordance with events occurring in Russia. Old major's views are based on Karl Marx which demand equal rights for all the animals and uniting to revolt against their common enemy- men. It represents the ideas of socialism/communism, where people of labour class unite to fight for their rights against elites and bourgeoisies of society. However this ideology gets mingled with the dust and exploited by Napoleon (Stalin) Not only he deports his political competitor- Snowball (Leon Trotsky) but also assails him and blames him when windmill mishap happened.

Crushing the democratic views of Old major, Napoleon made drastic changes in commandments and started his autocratic reign. He started manipulating every other animal by showing his authority over food and smothered every idea or debate. The tyranny became furthest when Napoleon started to evoke fear with the dogs (KGB), who killed everybody who tried to raise their voice or revolted. Just like Napoleon, Stalin was also highly suspicious and never gave a second thought when it came to executing people even close to him. Just as in a pond big fish consumes small fish, in Animal farm pigs with the help of their intelligence gained power (became big fish), and exploited less intelligent animals (small fish.)

Orwell, through this political allegory also condemns those people who tolerate the torture but not raising their voice or uniting for the same cause. As it is said that, "The world is shattering not because bad people are increasing but because the good people are remaining silent."

Writing about the events filled with bloodshed and comparing Russian Politicians with pigs, during the tenure when such dictator (Stalin) was still alive, truly indicates the audacity of George Orwell.

Some books force us to read between the lines. George Orwell's allegorical novella Animal Farm is one such example. Political allegories are stories that use fictional characters and incidents to satirize real-life political events. So the characters we have in the novella stand for the actual political figures associated with Russian Revolution. To begin with, Old major stands for Karl Marks and even Vladimir Lenin who has the characteristics of these two political leaders of Russia. When you read this novella as fable or amusing story you have horses, pigs, sheep and all but when you read this as an allegory these characters actually represent some political ideas and figures. Napoleon stands for Joseph Stalin, a dictator and Snowball symbolizes Trotsky. Manor Farm stands for Russia before revolution and Animal Farm represent Russia after revolution. Dream of Old Major symbolizes Principles of Lenin. Character of Mr. Jones represents Czar-the ruler of Russia, Beasts of England stands for National Song later on this song changes into the praise song for Napoleon and it is in praise of dictator. Then comes Old major which symbolizes Lenin and his party. Squealer stands for a propagandist who can change anything as he wants. Boxer represents a class of faithful workers who always devoted to the principle of communism. Now the question arises about Seven Commandments which are just like the articles of Constitution but these Seven Commandments were changed as

the ruler of Russia wanted them to change. The confession Scene that is scene of Atrocities where orwell satirizes the behaviour of ruling class, the ambiance of fear and terror in animal farm where without any cause animals were slaughtered and put to death. Napoleon announced that the work on Sunday would be optional. It would be highly voluntary but any animal who absented himself from the work would have his rations reduced to half. This shows how satirically they made it compulsory even using the word voluntary if they deny their rations would be reduced half it mean how this animal become dictator.

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#### **11.4 ALLEGORICAL SONGS IN THE ANIMAL FARM**

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Songs have the power to create the significant ambiance from drama to novel. In songs not only the rhythm and music but also lyrics has power to appeal the audience or reader. This is the significant reason why writer or dramatist uses the song.

Animal Farm is full with songs, poems, and slogans; counting Major's stirring "Beasts of England," Minimus's ode to Napoleon, the sheep's chants, and Minimus's revised anthem, "Animal Farm, Animal Farm." All of these songs serve as advertising, one of the major channels of social control. By making the working-class animals as spokesperson, the pigs arouse an atmosphere of magnificence and dignity associated with the narrated text's subject matter. The songs also erode the animals' sense of individuality and keep them focused on the tasks by which they will supposedly achieve independence.

Various anthems are also part of the novella Animal Farm. Among them the most notably the original anthem "Beasts of England" and its later replacement "Comrade Napoleon". The later song "Comrade Napoleon" admires Napoleon and fails to indicate freedom at all. This change is used to show the corruption of the principles of the animals' rebellion by Animal Farm's leader Napoleon. Both The International and "Beasts of England" echoed the principles of Marxism and Animalism, respectively. Their replacement by different anthems echoes how these principles were debatably partial by Stalin and Napoleon and thus had to be changed and suppressed.

The changed of anthem links to the historical events of 1943, when Joseph Stalin had the International anthem and previously the anthem of the Soviet Union, replaced with a new, more patriotic national anthem. However, "Beasts of England" was changed later in the novel. The changed of anthem denotes the change in power but instead of bringing peace for the animal the ruler has already started for their own benefit. Even the anthem is denoting the praise of ruler, earlier they hate the man due to his greed and behaviour but gradually they become one of them only, George Orwell has wonderfully portrayed through the lyrics of anthem.

#### **CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 1**

#### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. What is a Political Allegory?

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2. Why is Animal Farm an Allegory?

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3. Make a chart of Character Parallels from Animal Farm and Russian Counterpart

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4. Write a detailed note on historical backdrop of the age and how it is reflected in the Animal Farm.

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5. What is Satire?

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6. What is Seven Commandments?

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7. State the difference between Communism and Capitalism.

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8. What was Mao Zedong great leap forward and compare with Joseph Starlin

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9. According to you what is the importance of song in novel and what difference does it make, do you agree that songs has significant impact on reader? Yes or no write your own views regarding that.

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10. Find out famous religious and political Allegory

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11. Write down the significance of anthem and the replacement of it in the novel *Animal Farm*.

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**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 2**

**Answer The Following Question By Selecting Correct Option.**

1 Which one of the following definitions best define the term Allegory?

- A) A piece of fiction that is shorter than a full-length novel but longer than a short story or novelette.
- B) A symbolic fictional narrative that conveys a meaning not explicitly set forth in the narrative.
- C) A long narrative poem that to heroic deeds of a person of an unusual courage.
- D) A form of satire that adapts the elevated heroic style of the classical epic poem to a trivial subject.

2 Find out the correct pair of Allegory and its writer.

- A) Pilgrim's Progress by Yann Martel.
- B) Life of Pi by Herman Melville.
- C) Moby Dick by John Bunyan.
- D) Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison.

- 3 Who teaches the sheep to chant “Four legs good, two legs better”?  
 (A) Napoleon (B) Squealer (C) Moses (c) Clover
- 4 Reading Between the lines means....  
 (A) Reading the lines only  
 (B) Discover a meaning that is implied rather than explicitly stated.  
 (C) Focus on letter and space between the line  
 (D) Follow the literary meaning
- 5 Gulliver’s Travels is a famous example of  
 (A)Epic (B) Satire (C) Poetry (D) drama
- 6 In Animal Farm ‘Beasts of England is known as ... choose from the following options:  
 (A) Anthem (B) story (C) song (D) drama
- 7 Animal Farm is written in the year.....  
 (A) 1945 (B) 1947 (C) 1950 (D) 1951
- 8 Choose the correct option ‘Stories of Aesop’ is considered the best examples of  
 (A) Satire (B) Allegory (C) Epic (D) Mock epic
- 9 Find out who has said the famous quote “Power tends to corrupt people and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”  
 (A) John Edward Acton (B) Napoleon (C) Rudolf (D) Churchill
- 10 The word ‘allegory’ comes from \_\_\_\_\_ language.  
 (A) French (B) Greek (C) Latin (D) Italian

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### 11.5 LET US SUM UP

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In this unit, you have learnt

- What is political Allegory and How Animal Farm is Political Allegory.
- How to decode the meaning and read between the lines as every literature has surface and deeper meaning.
- Motifs of Song and its significance.

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### 11.6 KEY WORDS

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**Backdrop** (v) lies behind or beyond, serves as a background to

**Metaphor** a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable

**Ally** a state formally cooperating with another for a military or other purpose, any person who is a friend of other

<b>Communism</b>	a theory or system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.
<b>Dictator</b>	A dictator is a political leader who possesses absolute power.
<b>Autocracy</b>	a system of government by one person with absolute power.
<b>Nesting</b>	to fit compactly together or within one another ,embed.
<b>Deeds</b>	an action that is performed intentionally or consciously.
<b>Anthem</b>	a rousing or uplifting song identified with a particular group, body, or cause.

### **11.7 BOOKS SUGGESTED**

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1. M.H Abrams– *A Glossary Of Literary Terms*
2. *1984* by George Orwell
3. NCERT Social Science Std. 10<sup>th</sup> for History
4. *History of the Russian Revolution* by Leon Trotsky
5. TED –Ed talk on Allegory
6. MovieAdaptation-  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxfedMNO>  
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1z3zqt>

### **ANSWERS**

1. B
2. D
3. D
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. C