



What should I already know?

- be able to read for meaning
- be able to understand how a writer's context is important to creating meaning
- be able to understand and explain can use language to create feelings in a reader

What will I know by the end of the unit?

- Context – making links between the worlds of 1917, 1945 and today
- Understand what **allegory** is
- Understand the central message of a text
- See how power corrupts
- See how language can manipulate and control

Key Characters

Napoleon	'a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire boar, the only Berkshire on the farm, not much of a talker, but with a reputation for getting his own way.'	Napoleon is an analogue for Josef Stalin
Snowball	'a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive, but was not considered to have the same depth of character.'	Snowball is an analogue for Leon Trotsky
Squealer	'with very round cheeks, twinkling eyes, nimble movements, and a shrill voice ... The others said of Squealer that he could turn black into white.'	Not a one-to one analogue – squealer represents propaganda
Boxer	'an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, and as strong as any two ordinary horses put together... in fact he was not of first-rate intelligence, but he was universally respected'	Represents the working classes
Jones, the Farmer	Drunken and neglectful farmer – overthrown by the animals	The ruling classes prior to the 1917 revolutions
Moses, the Raven	Spreads fantastic stories about Sugarcandy Mountain	Representing religion
Mollie	The vain mare who wishes for her life prior to the revolution back	Represents those who long for Tsarist Russia and fled back to mainland Europe.
The Dogs	Puppies born in the early days of the revolution, trained by Napoleon to be his private security force.	The Dogs represent the secret police (also known as the NKVD which became the KGB)
Pilkington Frederick	Rival farms who Napoleon plays off against each other – one attempts to take over the farm by force.	Represent Great Britain and Nazi Germany



Topic: Literature – Animal Farm

Year: 9

NC Strand: Reading

Plot Summary		Key Vocabulary	
1	The animals gather to listen to old Major. He gives them a vision of a life without man. <i>(The Communist Manifesto, 1848)</i>	allegory	A story with two meanings. It has a literal meaning and has a deeper meaning which is often a moral.
2	The animals rebel and overthrow Jones. The commandments are written. <i>(the February Revolution, 1917)</i>	context	The circumstances surrounding the creation of a text. These can be historical or geographical.
3	The animals' first harvest is a success. The pigs keep the milk and apples to themselves. <i>(The first five-year plan, 1928)</i>	corrupt	When people use their power in a dishonest way order to make life better for themselves.
4	The Battle of the Cowshed: Jones attempts to reclaim the farm. <i>(The October Revolution, 1917)</i>	cult of personality	A cult of personality is where a leader convinces people to worship him or her, and treat them like a god.
5	Snowball and Napoleon debate the windmill. Napoleon uses dogs to chase Snowball from the farm. Napoleon makes himself leader. <i>(the split between Trotsky and Stalin, 1924)</i>	harvest	The time when crops are cut and collected from fields.
6	Work begins on the windmill. The pigs move into the farmhouse. Winds destroy the windmill. <i>(industrialisation – The second five year plan – 1933)</i>	propaganda	Information that is meant to make people think a certain way. The information may not be true.
7	Work on the windmill starts again. Napoleon demands eggs from the hens. Napoleon slaughters animals at the show trials. <i>(Stalin's early purges - around 1934)</i>	rebellion	A rebellion is a situation in which people fight against those who are in charge of them.
8	Napoleon betrays Pilkington and sells timber to Frederick. Frederick pays with counterfeit money then attacks the farm. The animals suffer losses in the Battle of the Windmill. The windmill is destroyed. <i>(The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (1939) and WW2 1941-45)</i>	treacherous	If you betray someone who trusts you, you could be described as treacherous .
9	Boxer is sold to the knacker's yard. <i>(no direct parallel, but represents the betrayal of the working classes and the death of idealism)</i>	tyranny	A situation in which a leader or government has too much power and uses that power in a cruel and unfair way.
10	The pigs are leaders on the farm. They start walking on two legs and carrying whips. There is now no difference between the pigs and the humans. <i>(1943 – The Tehran conference – 1946 – key party in establishing the United Nations)</i>	tyrant	Someone who has total power and uses it in a cruel and unfair way.



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NC Strand: Reading

The seven commandments and their corruptions

- 1 Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. (*The sheep corrupt this into 'four legs good, two legs better'*) Chapter 10
- 2 Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend. (*The sheep corrupt this into 'four legs good, two legs bad'*) Chapter 3
- 3 No animal shall wear clothes. (*by the time the pigs start wearing clothes, the commandments are all gone*) Chapter 10
- 4 No animal shall sleep in a bed. (*with sheets*) Chapter 6
- 5 No animal shall drink alcohol. (*to excess*) Chapter 8
- 6 No animal shall kill any other animal. (*without cause*) Chapter 8
- 7 All animals are equal. (*but some are more equal than others*) Chapter 10

Further Reading and extension activities

- British Library, 'Introduction to *Animal Farm*' Images and introduction to *Animal Farm* with some interesting biographical insights <https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature/articles/an-introduction-to-animal-farm>
- Orwell on the pigs' corruption <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2013/07/11/animal-farm-what-orwell-really-meant/>
- The Real George Orwell – Lots of useful and interesting biographical information on George Orwell <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01pyz0z>
- British Library, 'Depicting the Enemy' – BL information on propaganda through the ages <http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/depicting-the-enemy>
- British Library, **George Orwell – Biography** and links to other pages <https://www.bl.uk/people/george-orwell>
- You may wish to have a full size seven commandments display and change them as they go.
- Dioramas
- Students can create their own contextual parallels
- Create propaganda posters