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Writer's Intent		Characters			
Orwell wrote <i>Animal Farm</i> as a 'fairy story' with the intent of teaching of the dangers of dictatorial regimes. The cyclical nature of the novella illustrates the inevitability of exploitation of the masses if they are not educated . The microcosm of Animal Farm is meant to be representative of what Orwell saw in the tyrannical regimes that were rife in twentieth century Europe.	Old Major   	A pig. He creates the ideas behind Animalism and inspires the other animals to rebel . His privileged life has given him the time to think about the ways that humans exploit and enslave animals .	1. Old Major ... was so highly regarded on the farm. 2. 'Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short.' 3. 'Man is the only creature that consumes without producing.'		
	Napoleon   	A pig. He cares more about his own power than he does about the ideals of the revolution . This leads him to build a totalitarian government based on terror and lies.	1. Napoleon was a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire boar [...] with a reputation for getting his own way 2. Napoleon took them away from their mothers, saying that he would make himself responsible for their education. 3. The dogs flanked the procession and at the head of all marched Napoleon's black cockerel.		
	Snowball   	A pig. Snowball is an intelligent pig, but he is less shrewd in the ways of power than Napoleon. He values the ideals of the revolution but is unable to retain power .	1. Snowball was a more vivacious pig than Napoleon. 2. Snowball also threw on to the fire the ribbons 3. Snowball, who had studied an old book of Julius Caesar's campaigns...was in charge of the defensive operations		
Key Themes					
Totalitarianism A form of government where the state seeks to control every facet of life . Those in power in care only about maintaining control through any necessary means . 	Squealer   	A pig. Squealer is a terrific speaker who prioritizes his personal comfort above all else . He represents the propaganda that proliferates tyrannical regimes.	1. he could turn black into white. 2. Squealer was sent to make the necessary explanations 3. Here Squealer looked very sly.		
Revolution and Corruption The revolution in Animal Farm arises out of a hope for a better future . However, corruption occurs due to the pigs' greed . 	Boxer  	A horse. Boxer is honourable but not intelligent . He believes deeply in the revolution and has the strength to overthrow the dictatorship, but not the wit to realise that it is a dictatorship .	1. he was not of first-rate intelligence, 2. but he was universally respected for his steadiness of character and tremendous powers of work 3. 'I will work harder.' 'Napoleon is always right'.		
	Benjamin  	A donkey. Alone among the other animals, Benjamin seems to understand what's going on, but he does nothing to stop it . In the end, his inaction comes back to haunt him .	1. Benjamin was the oldest animal on the farm, and the worst tempered. 2. he saw nothing to laugh at. 3. Benjamin, as usual, said that he refused to meddle		
Class Warfare The farm animals work so hard that they have no time to educate themselves and consider their exploitation at the hands of their oppressors. 	Humans  	The humans represent the original power structures in place before any revolution occurs . The humans care about profit at the expense of the welfare of their workers who they mistreat.	1. Mr. Jones...was too drunk to remember to shut the popholes 2. Mr. Pilkington, was an easy-going gentleman farmer 3. Mr. Frederick, a tough, shrewd man		
Writer's Methods			Key Context		
Cyclical Structure	When conditions at the end of a story are in many ways similar to those at the start .	World War Two 	Early twentieth century Europe was at war due to the rise of fascism (particularly in Nazi Germany). This led to Britain allying with the communist Soviet Union – another tyrannical leadership .		
Symbolism	An object which represents an abstract idea .	Social Democracy 	Orwell derided any form of totalitarianism, whether Fascist or Communist . He wished for people to work for their own wealth but with a strong emphasis on helping those in poverty .		
Allegory	A story that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one .	Imperialism 	A policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonisation .		
The Soviet Union While Animal Farm condemns all forms of totalitarianism , it is most explicitly an attack on the Soviet Union . 	Setting	The Russian Revolution   	The Revolution saw the expulsion of the Tsar (king) but the rise of a new tyrannical leadership under the guise of equality.		
	Character Arc				The transformation, or inner journey, of a character over the course of a narrative.

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Key Word Glossary			
Word	Definition	Example	Word in Action
Anthropomorphism	A type of personification - Giving animals human characteristics.	The Lion King is an example of anthropomorphism , as lions are shown to have a human monarchical society.	
Capitalism	The political ideology of profit . Centred on the individual (person, business, country). Each individual tries to gain as much as possible and give as little as possible.	The western world is built on capitalism . Profitability runs the economy.	
Communism	The political ideology of equality . Centred on the group – usually an entire country. Wealth, power, and rights are shared equally between all citizens.	Communism is said to be the greatest idea that can never work, because all it takes is one person to exploit the system for it to fail.	
Coup	An uprising where power is taken forcibly from the rulers.	The leader was overthrown at the hands of his subjects in a swift and merciless coup .	
Cult of Personality	A type of leadership where the leader becomes a figure of love and worship . The focus becomes less about ideas and more about the person.	The head teacher kept order at the school through a cult of personality .	
Dictator	A person with supreme authority over a group of people , usually a country. Their word is law.	Kim Jun-Un is an example of a modern-day dictator .	
Indoctrination	Where a person or group are taught to believe certain things without questioning them .	The children of Nazi Germany were brainwashed through a process of indoctrination .	
Imperative	An order .	“Get out!” is an imperative statement.	
Microcosm	Where a large place, often a country, is represented by a much smaller place and aspects of the larger place have been ‘shrunk’ or distilled into aspects of the smaller place.	The Serengeti in the Lion King is a microcosm for society, with the lions representing the ruling class.	
Propaganda	Using language as a means to persuade or control a group of people . Affects their thoughts and behaviour.	The whole country believed that they were under attack due to the relentless government propaganda .	
Rhetoric	Language with the purpose to persuade .	The speech was entirely given in rhetoric , designed to change the mind of the crowd.	
Totalitarian	A system of government where one person has absolute power and all citizens are subservient .	The animals live in a totalitarian regime – they have no rights and live in fear.	
Treachery	Betraying somebody who trusts you , particularly if that person is responsible for you such as your leader.	The treachery of the defectors ruined the whole plan.	
Tyranny	The unchecked and particularly cruel use of power to subdue and rule over citizens .	The mad king laughed as he watched his tyranny crush the spirits of the people.	