

Some are more equal
than others.

Based on the novel by George Orwell • Adapted by Bryon Cahill • Illustrations by Eric Seat

CHARACTERS

(main characters in **boldface**)

Narrators 1, 2, 3

Old Major, a wise, old pig

Mollie, a white mare

Snowball, an innovative pig

Napoleon, a tyrant pig

Clover, a forgetful mare

Pigeon

Squealer, a talkative pig

Goose

Boxer, a hardworking cart horse

Sheep 1, 2

Muriel, an educated white goat

Pigs 1, 2

Benjamin, a donkey

Mr. Pilkington, a neighboring farmer

SCENE 1

Narrator 1: Mr. Jones, the proprietor of Manor Farm, turns off his bedroom light and passes out from a long night of drinking. Old Major, the wise and **venerable** pig, assembles the barnyard animals for an important discussion.

Old Major: What is the nature of this life of ours? The life of an animal is misery and slavery: That is the plain truth. Why, then, do we continue in this miserable condition? It is summed up in a single word—Man. Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished forever. That is my message to you, comrades: Rebellion! All men are enemies; all animals are comrades.

Narrator 2: The barnyard animals all cheer.

Old Major: Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes upon four legs or has wings is a friend. And remember also that in fighting against Man, we must not come to resemble him. Even when you have conquered him, do not adopt his vices. No animal must ever live in a house or sleep in a bed or wear clothes or drink alcohol or smoke tobacco or touch money or engage in trade. And, above all, no animal must ever tyrannize over its own kind. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers. No

* **vocab**

VENERABLE: commanding respect because of great age or noble character

animal must ever kill any other animal. All the habits of Man are evil.

Narrator 3: The animals heartily agree and begin to sing “Beasts of England.” They sing so loudly that Jones wakes from his slumber.

Old Major: ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL!

Narr 1: Drunk and groggy, Jones fires his shotgun at the barn. He collapses onto his bed, and the animals **disperse** and go to sleep.

SCENE 2

Narr 2: Three nights later, Old Major dies peacefully in his sleep. His body is buried at the foot of the orchard. His message of rebellion is not forgotten. Three young pigs named Snowball, Napoleon, and Squealer take up the cause.

Narr 3: Mollie, a nervous white mare, is concerned about the aftereffects of the Rebellion.

Mollie: Shall I be allowed to wear ribbons after the Rebellion?

Snowball: Those ribbons you are so devoted to are badges of slavery. Can you not understand that liberty is worth more than ribbons?

Mollie: But—

Snowball: That’s enough discussion for now. Let’s all rest awhile before supper.

Narr 1: Suppertime comes and goes. Jones, who often

neglects the animals, has once again forgotten to feed them. Not willing to forgo yet another meal, one of the cows breaks down the door that holds the grain, and all the animals eat.

Narr 2: Jones, drunk again, hears the racket and takes off toward the barn. He calls out

to his workers. The men go to the shed and start to whip the animals.

Narr 3: Enraged by the flogging, the animals begin their desperate Rebellion. Thrashing, kicking, and biting, the animals drive their tormentors from the farm.



Napoleon: Comrades, there is much to do. First, allow me to declare that Manor Farm is no more! From now on, our home shall be known to one and all as Animal Farm!

Narr 1: Snowball climbs a ladder and paints the word *Animal over Manor* on the sign on the barn. As the oration continues, Snowball writes Napoleon’s words on the barn.

Napoleon: We shall live by Seven Commandments. Number One: Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Two: Whatever goes upon four legs or has wings is a friend. Three: No animal shall wear clothes. Four: No animal shall sleep in a bed. Five: No animal shall drink alcohol. Six: No animal shall kill any other animal. Seven: All animals are equal.

Narr 2: Clover, a forgetful mare, speaks up.

Clover: I cannot read, nor do I have a good ... um ... memory.

Napoleon: For those who cannot read, write, or recall, the Seven Commandments can be summed up in these words: FOUR LEGS GOOD, TWO LEGS BAD!

SCENE 3

Narr 3: One day, a flight of pigeons whirls through the air and alights on Animal Farm in the wildest excitement. The pigeons’ commander bears ominous news.

Pigeon: Jones is coming. He’s just over that rise.

Squealer: This is nothing to be concerned about. We have bested Jones before, and we shall best him again.

Pigeon: He has a legion of men with him, many more than before. They are all carrying sticks, and Jones has a gun!

Squealer: Go and alert Snowball. He’ll know what to do.

‘Four Legs Good, Two Legs Baaaaaad!’

Narr 1: When alerted, Snowball comes running. Napoleon is close behind.

Snowball: Jones will be here any minute. I want the pigeons to lead the first attack.

Pigeon: Yes, sir!

Narr 2: Thirty-five winged soldiers take off for battle.

Narr 3: Snowball follows the arc of their flight for a moment before turning and calling on the leader of the geese.

Snowball: I need the geese next.

Goose: Here, sir.

Snowball: I want the geese to rush at their feet. Peck at their ankles, and cripple them where they stand!

vocab

DISPERSE: scatter

COWARDICE: lack of courage

Goose: FOUR LEGS GOOD, TWO LEGS BAD!

Narr 1: The goose brigade squawks off just as Jones can be seen coming over the rise. Mollie trembles.

Mollie: Ohhhh! They’re coming! They’re coming!

Narr 2: Boxer, an iron-willed horse, curses Mollie’s **cowardice**.

Boxer: Pull yourself together and fight, Mollie!

Narr 3: Jones and his men enter the barnyard, hobbling and wiping pigeon dung from their eyes. So much happens at once that no one notices Mollie as she trots away.

Snowball: Charrrrrrrrrrrrrrge!

Narr 1: Jones fires his shotgun. The pellets score bloody streaks along Snowball’s back, and a sheep drops dead behind him.

Sheep 1: Two legs baaaaaad.

Narr 2: Oblivious to the pain, Snowball rams Jones’s legs. Jones drops his gun as he goes flying backward.

Narr 3: All the men are momentarily stunned. Boxer rears on his hind legs and strikes a stable lad on the skull. The boy falls, lifeless, in the mud.

Boxer: (*horrified*) No ...

Narr 1: The men look at the boy in the mud for a moment before they turn tail and run for the hills. The animals have won the battle, but for now there is no sense of triumph.

Boxer: I had no **intention** of doing that. I forgot I was wearing iron shoes.

Snowball: No **sentimentality**, comrade. War is war. The only good human being is a dead one.

Boxer: I have no wish to take life, not even human life.

Napoleon: From now on, we shall remember this glorious day as the Battle of the Cowshed.

Narr 2: Boxer begins to cry as the dead sheep is carried away.

SCENE 4

Narr 3: Mollie has disappeared. The pigeons report that they have seen her pulling a dogcart and being petted on a neighboring farm. She is considered a traitor to Animal Farm.

Narr 1: Snowball spends his days drafting plans for a windmill that will provide the farm with electricity. Napoleon believes it is a waste of time. The matter is put to a barnyard vote.

Snowball: Electricity could supply every stall with light and heat, even operate plows and harvesting machines. By my estimates, we could build the windmill in a year and reap its benefits forever!

Napoleon: The idea is nonsense. I've heard enough.

Narr 2: Napoleon makes a high-pitched whimpering sound, and nine enormous dogs wearing brass-studded collars bound into the barn. They

chase Snowball from Animal Farm, and he is never seen again.

Napoleon: From now on, there will be no more open debates. All questions relating to the workings of the farm will be discussed and settled by a special committee of pigs, over which I will preside. Are there any questions?

Narr 3: The stunned silence of the crowd is broken only by the low growls of the dogs as Napoleon's reign is sealed.

SCENE 5

Narr 1: Napoleon has the windmill built after all and announces that Animal Farm will begin trade with neighboring farmers. The animals work like slaves.

Narr 2: The pigs move into the farmhouse. Most animals only vaguely recall that in earlier days a resolution was passed against this, and those that do, cannot remember it clearly.

Squealer: It is absolutely necessary that the pigs, who are the brains of the farm, have a quiet place to work. As for any rules against it, I can assure you, there are none.

* vocab

INTENTION: a determination to act in a certain manner

SENTIMENTALITY: in a state of being emotional

GALE: a very strong gust of wind

TREASON: the act of attempting to overthrow a government or to harm or kill its leader

Clover: No, I am quite certain there was something. Will someone please read the Fourth Commandment to me?

Narr 3: Muriel, a white goat, reads aloud.

Muriel: "No animal shall sleep in a bed *with sheets*."

Squealer: Well, there you have it, comrades. You did not suppose, surely, that there was ever a ruling against beds? A pile of straw in a stall is a bed. We have removed the sheets from the farmhouse and sleep between blankets.

Clover: Well ... that's OK, I guess.

'No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets.'

SCENE 6

Narr 1: November comes with raging southwest winds. One night the **gale** is so violent that the farm buildings rock on their foundations and several tiles are blown off the barn roof.

Narr 2: The animals wake to find the windmill in ruins.

Napoleon: Comrades, do you know the enemy who has crept here under cover of night and destroyed our beloved windmill? SNOWBALL! Here and now I pronounce the death sentence upon this traitor!



Boxer: (*shocked*) Snowball could not be guilty of such a deed! Surely it was the storm that knocked down the windmill!

Narr 3: A pig's footprints are discovered in the grass. It becomes easy to convince the animals that Snowball must have been the culprit after all.

Napoleon: No more delays, comrades! There is work to be done. This very morning we will begin rebuilding the windmill. We will teach this miserable traitor that he cannot undo our work so easily. Forward, comrades! Long live the windmill! Long live Animal Farm!

SCENE 7

Narr 1: It is soon reported that Snowball has frequented the farm and performed all kinds of mischief.

Squealer: Comrades, we have found documents that prove Snowball was in league with Jones from the very start.

Boxer: I do not believe that. Snowball fought bravely at the Battle of the Cowshed. He was wounded. We all saw him running with blood!

Squealer: Jones's shot only grazed him. The plot was for Snowball to give the signal for flight and leave the field to the enemy. He would have succeeded, too, had it not been for our heroic leader, Comrade Napoleon. Do you not remember that critical moment when panic was spreading and all seemed lost? Napoleon sprang forward with a cry of "Death to humanity!" and sank his teeth into Jones's leg!

Clover: Yes, I vaguely remember it happening that way.

Squealer: I warn every animal on this farm to keep his eyes wide open. We have reason to think that some of Snowball's secret agents are lurking among us.

Narr 2: Four days later, Napoleon orders all the

animals to assemble in the yard. His dogs bound forward, seize two pigs by the ears, and drag them, squealing with pain and terror, to Napoleon's feet.

Napoleon: You pigs have been found guilty of **treason**. I call upon you now to confess your crimes.

Narr 3: The pigs crack under the pressure and confess to crimes they did not commit.

Fig 1: Yes, we did it, I admit.

Fig 2: We conspired with Snowball and helped him destroy the windmill.

Napoleon: There, now, don't you feel relieved of your sins?

Narr 1: Napoleon whimpers again, and his dogs immediately rip out the pigs' throats.

Napoleon: Is there anyone else who has something to confess?

Narr 2: More and more animals feel forced to come forward and confess to untruths. The dogs slaughter them all. Soon the air is heavy with the smell of blood.

Boxer: I would not have believed that such things could happen on our farm.

SCENE 8

Narr 3: At the side of the barn, a few animals ask Muriel to read the Sixth Commandment to them.

Muriel: "No animal shall kill any other animal *without cause*."

Clover: Well ... I imagine we all just forgot about that last part.

Who are we to doubt our great leader, Comrade Napoleon?

Squealer: Yes, if it weren't for our great leader, comrades, none of us would be so well off. In fact, Napoleon has recently sold a pile of lumber to our neighbor Frederick, and the money we have received is on display in the barn.

Narr 1: The animals enter the barn to inspect the vast amount of money. Boxer puts his nose to the flimsy banknotes, and they crumble under his breath.

Napoleon: Forgeries! We have been robbed! I hereby pronounce the death sentence on the villain Frederick! Hear me now: I want him boiled alive! Pigeons, I want you

to set up sentinels on all approaches to the farm. After this **heinous** act of treachery with the forgeries, I don't know what to expect from Frederick. He may attack us at any time.

Pigeon: Yes, sir.

Narr 2: In the morning, Frederick attacks Animal Farm. As the battle ensues, the animals cannot face the stinging pellets. They take refuge in various buildings.

Narr 3: From a safe place, Napoleon watches as two men head toward the windmill with a crowbar and a sledgehammer.

Napoleon: Impossible. We have built the walls of the windmill far too thick. They could not knock it down in a week. Courage, comrades!

Narr 1: Benjamin, a cynical but intelligent donkey, understands what is happening.

Benjamin: Do you not see what they are doing? In another moment they are going to pack blasting powder into that hole!

Narr 2: After a few minutes, the men run off in all directions, and there is a deafening roar. A huge cloud of black smoke hangs where the windmill once was.

Narr 3: At seeing some of their comrades lying dead amid the rubble, the animals charge straight for the enemy.

*** vocab**

FORGERIES: copies that are represented as originals

HEINOUS: grossly wicked, hateful

Narr 1: Frederick's men run away, and the animals limp back toward the farm.

Squealer: Congratulations on the victory, comrades!

Boxer: Victory? What victory? They have destroyed the windmill that we have worked on for two years!

'Then all we have won is what we had before.'

Squealer: What matter? We will build another windmill. You do not appreciate the mighty thing we have done. The enemy was in occupation of this very ground that we stand upon. And now, thanks to the leadership of Comrade Napoleon, we have won every inch of it back!

Boxer: Then all we have won is what we had before.

Squealer: (*insistently*) That is our victory.

Narr 2: All through the night, loud, drunken celebration noises can be heard from the pigs' farmhouse.

SCENE 9

Narr 3: The next morning, Boxer is the first to rise. He goes to work immediately, dragging heavy stones and boulders to the site where the windmill once stood. He works this way for many weeks.

Clover: You are so close to retirement, Boxer. Why put yourself through this?

Boxer: I must ... work ... harder.

Narr 1: Boxer collapses from the physical strain.

Clover: Run, somebody, and tell Squealer what has happened!

Narr 2: Squealer hears the news and orders a van to the farm. Some men lift Boxer into it. They close the door and begin to drive away.

All animals: Good-bye, Boxer, good-bye!

Benjamin: Fools! Do you not see what is written on the side of the van?

Muriel: (*reading*) "Alfred Simmonds, Horse Slaughterer and Glue Boiler"—oh no!

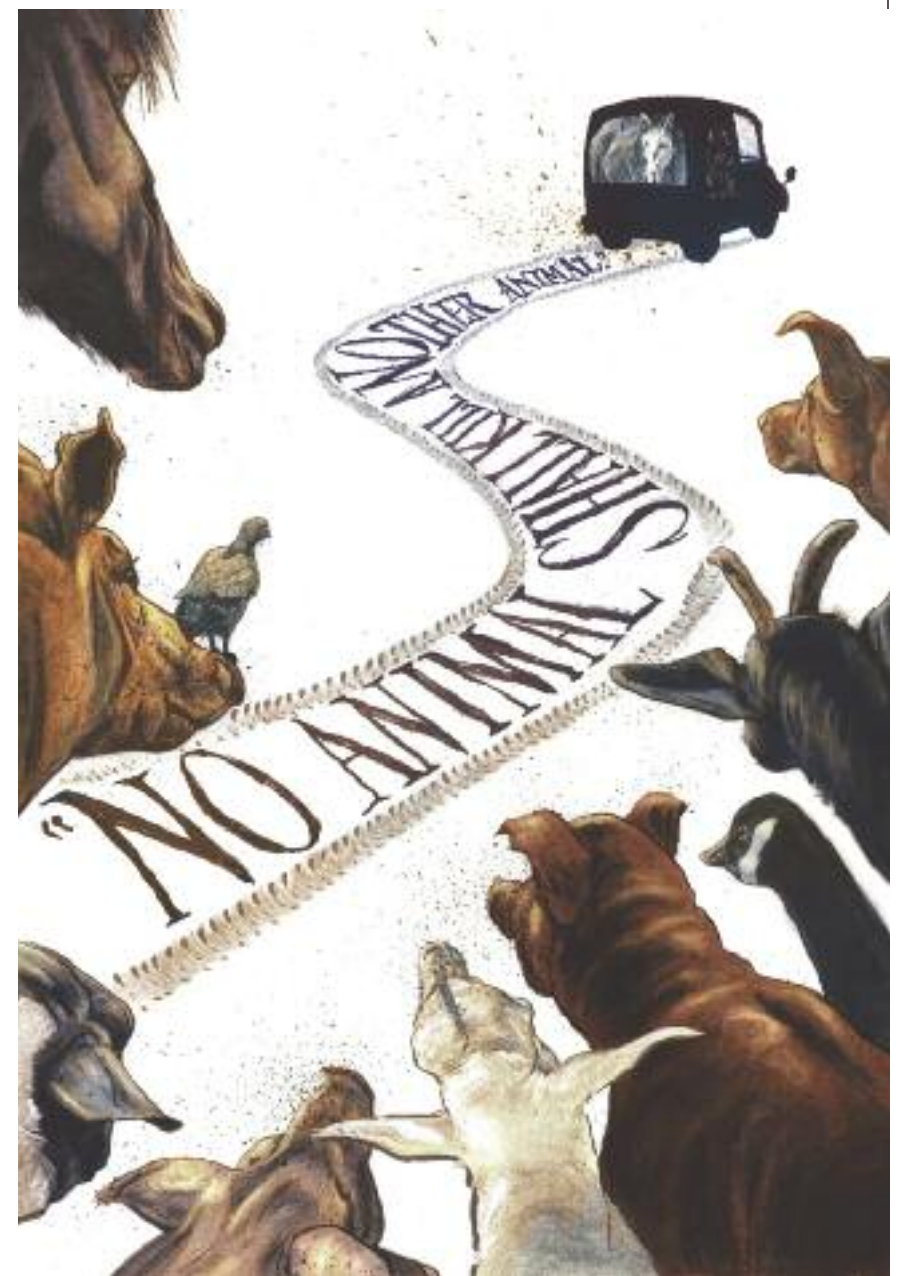
Narr 3: All the animals run alongside the van.

Clover: Boxer! They are taking you to your death! Get out!

Narr 1: Boxer kicks at the doors, but he is too weak. Soon, the kicking stops. The van pulls away with Boxer's sad face in the window.

Narr 2: In the morning, Squealer announces that Boxer has died at the veterinarian's office.

Benjamin: He didn't go to the vet! He was taken away by the

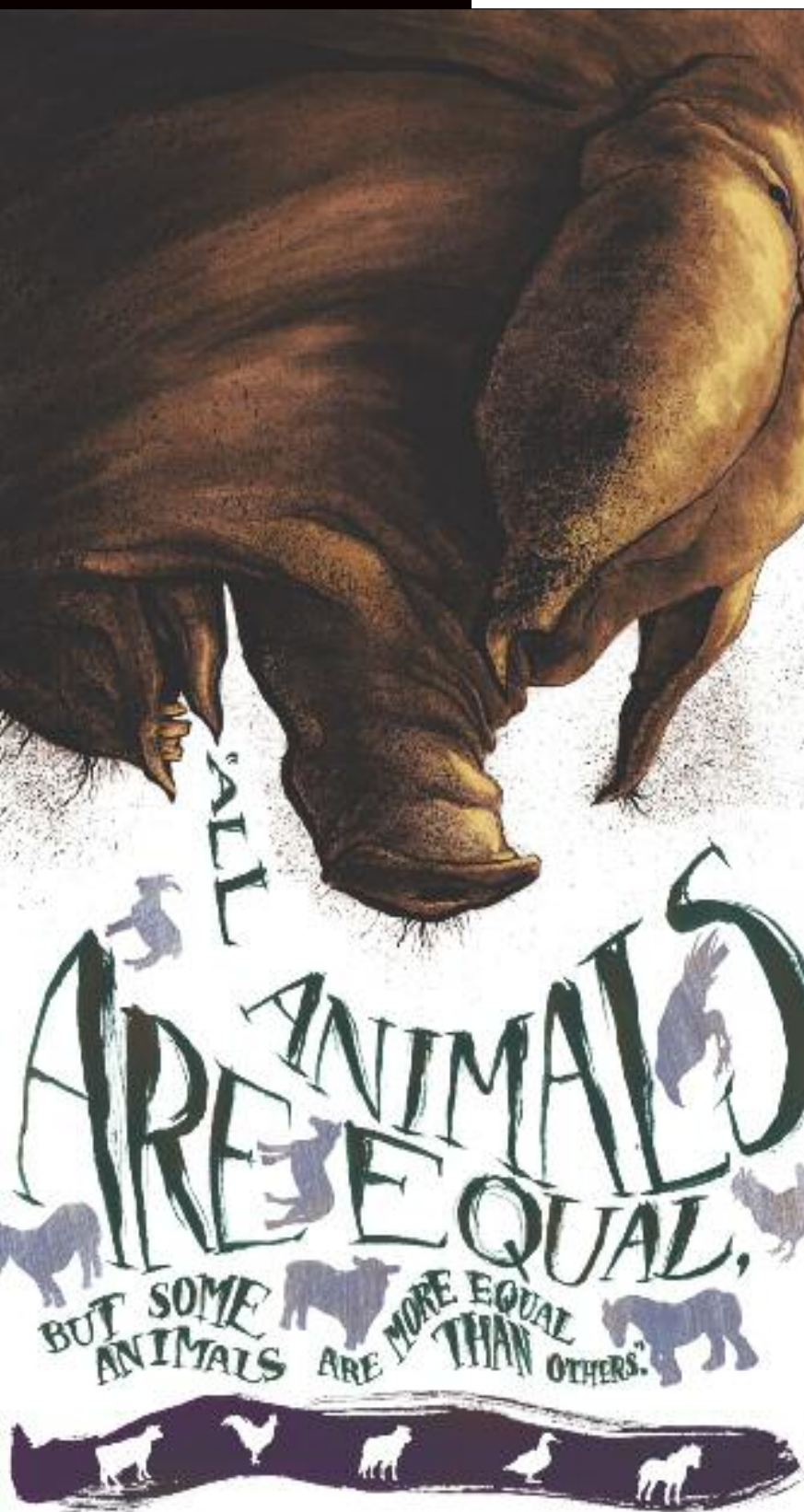


horse slaughterer! It was written on the van!

Squealer: Oh, that. Well, you see, comrades, the van had a previous owner. It was recently bought by the veterinary surgeon, who had

not yet painted the old name out.

Narr 3: When the animals hear this fiction, they are somewhat relieved. But the news of their friend's death saddens them.



SCENE 10

Narr 1: Years pass. The seasons come and go. Snowball is long forgotten, as is Boxer. The windmill has been completed, and now the animals are slaving over a second one. They work constantly, and their bellies are usually empty.

Narr 2: Napoleon controls everything. All the pigs wear clothes and drink alcohol as they please.

Squealer: Animal Farm! Attention!

Narr 3: The animals stop their labor for a minute to watch a parade of pigs walk by ... on their hind legs! Napoleon strides out, tall and proud, carrying a whip.

Sheep 2: Four legs good, two legs *better!*

Narr 1: Napoleon marches about the barnyard and then heads for the farmhouse. Clover and Benjamin walk toward the wall where the Commandments are written.

Clover: My sight is failing, Benjamin. It appears to me that the wall looks different. Are the Seven Commandments the same as they used to be?

Benjamin: (*reads*) "ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL, BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS."

Clover: Is that all it says?

Benjamin: That is all.

SCENE 11

Narr 2: A week later, another local farmer, Mr. Pilkington, and some of his friends arrive to inspect and admire Animal Farm. After a tour of the grounds, Napoleon invites the men back to the farmhouse for a night of drinking and card playing. Clover and Benjamin creep to the window and watch. Soon, other animals join them.

Mr. Pilkington: It is a great satisfaction to feel that a long period of mistrust and misunderstanding has now come to an end. In the past, the existence of a farm operated by pigs was somehow abnormal and was liable to have an unsettling effect on the neighborhood. Now all doubts have been expelled. We humans have our lower classes to contend with, as you have your lower animals. We are one and the same.

Napoleon: Here, here!

Mr. Pilkington: Gentlemen, I give you a toast: to the prosperity of Animal Farm!

Narr 3: The pigs and men clink their glasses and cheer. Napoleon gets up from his seat and stands on his hind legs.

Napoleon: Well said, Mr. Pilkington. And I shall give you the same toast but in a different form. For Animal Farm was originally called something different, and I hereby reinstate its true and original name! To the prosperity of Manor Farm!

Narr 1: As the animals watch the scene from outside the window, a strange thing begins to happen. The pigs' faces melt and change.

Clover: Look, do you see that?

Narr 2: Inside, the card game resumes, and suddenly a great argument breaks out at the table.

Clover: Look! Look at that!

Narr 3: Twelve voices begin shouting in anger, and they are all alike. The creatures outside look from pig to man and from man to pig and from pig to man again, but already it is impossible to say which is which. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



George Orwell was the pen name for Eric Arthur Blair. Blair was born in India to British parents in 1903. He grew up in England and, as a young man, went to work for the Indian Imperial Police in Burma (now Myanmar). At that time, India and Burma were ruled by Great Britain. As a police officer, Blair witnessed poverty and degradation among the native Burmese and was disturbed by the inequities under which one class of people dominated another. He grew ashamed to be working for the "hand of the oppressor." Later, he spent years among the poor and destitute in France and England. Those experiences led Blair to envision a society without class distinctions, a goal he believed could be achieved through socialism.

In *Animal Farm*, Orwell wrote a satire in the form of an allegory about the 1917 Russian Revolution and its aftermath. Napoleon, the pig, is a portrayal of Joseph Stalin, the cruel dictator of the Soviet Union from 1929 until his death in 1953.

Orwell's satirical fairy tale has a very important moral: Beware of leaders who have absolute power.