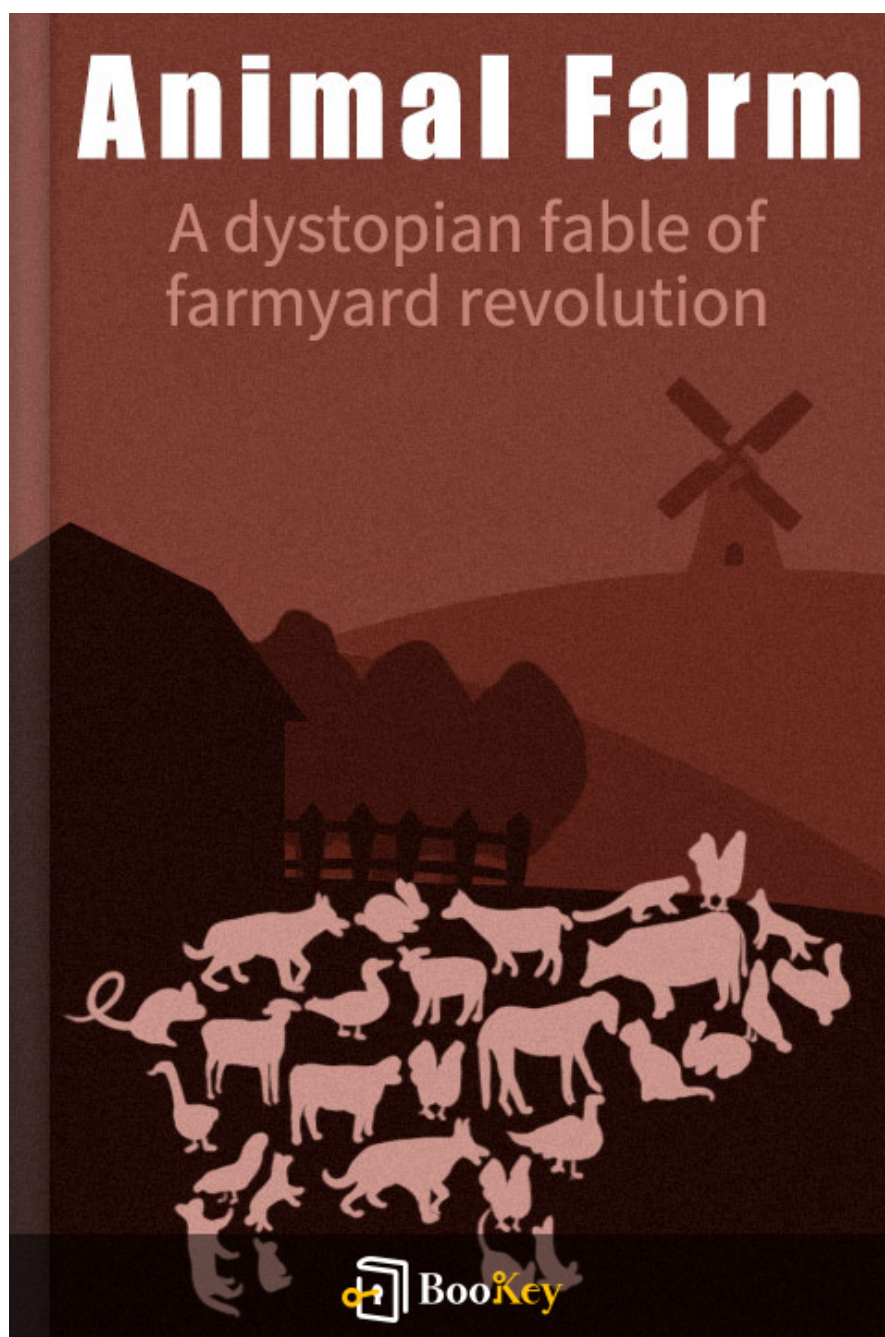


# Animal Farm PDF (Limited Copy)

George Orwell



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# **Animal Farm Summary**

"Power Corrupts: A Tale of Revolution and Betrayal."

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## About the book

Step onto the seemingly serene landscape of "Animal Farm," where George Orwell crafts a tale that unfolds the complexities of power, revolution, and betrayal. Through the guise of an ordinary barnyard, the novella serves as an allegorical critique of the rise and fall of totalitarian regimes. Orwell's astute narrative follows a group of disenchanted farm animals seeking freedom from human oppression, only to find themselves entrapped in a new cycle of tyranny when their own comrades seize power. As the commanding pig, Napoleon, and his cohorts manipulate language and ideals to consolidate control, Orwell sharply dissects the corrupting influence of power and the fragility of ideological purity. Seamlessly blending fable with political commentary, "Animal Farm" invites readers into a reflection on the timeless struggle between liberty and subjugation, urging them to scrutinize the very pillars that uphold governance and to remain vigilant of the forces shaping society's current and future realities. Ready to embark on this profound journey into the anatomy of power? "Animal Farm" awaits your perusal.

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## About the author

**\*\*George Orwell\*\***, a pen name for Eric Arthur Blair, was a celebrated British novelist, essayist, and critic, renowned for his sharp and poignant examination of political and social injustices. Born on June 25, 1903, in Motihari, India, Orwell's experiences ranged from serving as a police officer in Burma to enduring poverty and hardship in Paris and London. Deeply committed to democratic socialism, his works often illustrate the dangers of totalitarianism, oppression, and political manipulation. Orwell's profound ability to merge storytelling with political critique is best exemplified in pivotal works such as "1984" and "Animal Farm." A master of the allegorical narrative, Orwell's writings continue to resonate, offering insights into the complexities of power, identity, and freedom. His legacy is one of rigorous intellectual honesty and an unwavering commitment to truth, which continues to elevate his stature as one of the most astute commentators of the 20th century.

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## Chapter 1 Summary:

In the opening of George Orwell's "Animal Farm," Mr. Jones, the neglectful and often inebriated owner of Manor Farm, forgets to properly secure the hen-houses before retiring for the night. In his drunken haze, he neglects to close the pop-holes, allowing a sense of anticipation to build among the farm animals. That night, as soon as Mr. Jones's bedroom light goes out, the animals convene in the large barn for a secret meeting prompted by Old Major, a highly regarded and wise boar.

Old Major, whose official show name was Willingdon Beauty, is well-respected for his wisdom, age, and experience on the farm. He has called the meeting to share a significant and profound dream he had, which contains a message vital to all the animals. Despite being twelve years old and quite stout, Old Major's presence commands attention as he addresses the assembled animals from his platform.

The barn fills with a variety of animals, including the dogs Bluebell, Jessie, and Pincher, as well as the hardworking pigs, hens, pigeons, sheep, cows, and two main cart-horses, Boxer and Clover. Boxer, a massively strong horse, is valued for his work ethic but lacks intelligence, while Clover is a nurturing mare with a motherly demeanor. Additional attendees include Muriel the goat, Benjamin the cynical donkey, Mollie the vain mare with ribbons in her mane, and a cat nestling between Boxer and Clover. Notably



absent is Moses, the tame raven who is hiding behind Mr. Jones's house.

When quiet prevails, Old Major begins his speech, describing the harsh realities of life for animals under human rule. He expresses that the abysmal lives they lead are due to human tyranny, claiming that if they overthrow humans, they can claim the fruits of their labor and live freely and prosperously. Old Major declares Man to be the enemy, an oppressor who exploits animals for labor without giving anything in return. He encourages the animals to rebel and envision a future where animals control their destiny, urging them to spread this revolutionary message beyond their lifetimes.

Old Major also introduces a guiding principle for the new society they should strive for, emphasizing unity and equality among animals. He articulates a fundamental moral code: "Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend," advocating for unity and the rejection of human habits and vices.

During the meeting, when four wild rats appear, the animals vote on whether wild creatures should be considered friends. They decide overwhelmingly in favor of recognizing them as comrades, indicating a sense of solidarity among all creatures.

Finally, Old Major recalls a song from his youth that encapsulates his vision:



"Beasts of England," a stirring anthem of freedom and future prosperity. The animals eagerly learn and sing the song, unified by its hopeful message and their desire for change, their fervor rendering them unaware they've awakened Mr. Jones. The farmer, thinking there's a fox in the yard, fires his gun into the night, abruptly ending the meeting as the animals scurry back to their sleeping places, each carrying the seed of rebellion sown by Old Major's inspirational vision.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Unity and equality among all

**Critical Interpretation:** In Old Major's speech, you discover a powerful reminder of the strength found in unity and collective action, which can inspire your everyday life. Living in a world that often prioritizes individual gain over communal welfare, you might feel isolated or overwhelmed by challenges. But, like the animals who gathered in the barn to listen, there's an empowering wisdom in recognizing that your strength multiplies when you unite with others for a common cause. Embracing principles of equality and solidarity could mean participating in community initiatives, supporting inclusive workplaces, or simply being kind in daily interactions. When you prioritize unity, you not only create a harmonious environment but also pave the way for meaningful change, harnessing the collective potential of a group to achieve a brighter, shared future.



## Chapter 2 Summary:

In the days following old Major's death, significant changes began to take place on Manor Farm. Old Major was a respected elder, and his vision of a rebellion against human oppression inspired a new perspective among the farm animals. Though unsure when this rebellion might occur, they felt compelled to prepare for it. The pigs, known for their intelligence, took on the task of teaching and organizing the others.

Among the pigs, Snowball and Napoleon stood out as leaders. Snowball was articulate and creative, while Napoleon was more reserved but had a reputation for getting his way. Alongside them, Squealer, a persuasive and charismatic pig, played a significant role in spreading the teachings of Animalism—a philosophy they developed from Major's ideas. They held secret meetings to educate the other animals about Animalism, initially facing apathy and resistance, especially from those loyal to Mr. Jones, the farm's owner.

Moses, a tame raven and Jones's pet, complicated matters by telling tales of Sugarcandy Mountain, a mythical paradise for animals after death. Despite his lack of work, some animals were drawn to the idea, causing additional challenges for the pigs in promoting Animalism.

Boxer and Clover, the workhorse siblings, became devoted followers,



passing on what they learned to others. Their dedication ensured high attendance at meetings and readiness for the impending rebellion.

Unexpectedly, the Rebellion occurred sooner and more easily than anticipated. Mr. Jones, once a capable farmer, had fallen into a downward spiral of mishaps and drinking, neglecting both farm operations and animal welfare. On Midsummer's Eve, following neglect, the animals took matters into their own hands. Triggered by hunger, they broke into the store-shed for food. When Jones and his men attempted to intervene with whips, the animals retaliated with unexpected ferocity, driving their oppressors from the farm. With Jones gone, the animals found themselves victorious and in control of the farm.

Overcome with joy, the animals celebrated their newfound freedom by destroying symbols of their oppression, such as whips and harnesses. Snowball emphasized the importance of rejecting human-like practices by burning ribbons considered a badge of slavery. Napoleon distributed a double ration of food, and they sang the song "Beasts of England" in triumph.

The following morning, the animals reveled in their ownership of the farm, exploring it afresh. When they hesitated to enter the farmhouse, the pigs took the lead, tiptoeing through the human luxury with a mix of awe and determination to preserve it as a museum, forbidding any animal from living



there.

Soon after, Snowball and Napoleon revealed their ability to read and write, gained from old books. They renamed the establishment "Animal Farm" and introduced the Seven Commandments—foundational principles of Animalism: mutual respect and equality, forbidding actions resembling human behavior.

To consolidate their new life, the animals worked towards a successful harvest, yet questions lingered about the fate of the farm's milk, as it mysteriously disappeared within hours. Despite uncertainties, the animals embraced their roles in building a new society, driven by the ideals set forth by their leaders.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The Power of Unity and Action

**Critical Interpretation:** In Chapter 2 of 'Animal Farm,' you witness a profound transformation triggered by collective action and unity among the animals. Faced with oppression and neglect, the animals break free by banding together and seizing the moment, taking control of their lives. This teaches you about the power within a group united by common purpose and driven by an unwavering belief in change. Even amidst uncertainty and doubt, their shared determination empowers them to overcome adversaries and obstacles. Let this inspire you to recognize the strength of community and solidarity in your life. When individuals unite towards a common goal, no matter how daunting the challenge, they can create revolutionary change and shape their own destiny. Your actions, though seemingly small against larger forces, ripple outwards, bringing about significant impact when fortified by collaboration and collective will.

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## Chapter 3 Summary:

The animals on the farm, now free from human oversight, worked diligently to undertake the harvest and manage the daily operations of the farm. Despite challenges, particularly the fact that the farm equipment was built for human use, the animals adapted well under the clever leadership of the pigs, who directed and organized the labor. Horses like Boxer and Clover, with their innate understanding of the farm, played critical roles, while even the small animals like ducks and hens contributed to a successful and efficient harvest. With a strong sense of ownership and cooperation, the animals completed the harvest more quickly and effectively than under human management.

As summer progressed, the farm functioned smoothly, bringing newfound happiness and satisfaction to the animals. They relished the concept of consuming and enjoying their products not parceled out by a begrudging master but as direct fruits of their labor. However, within this utopian structure were small cracks: Mollie was often late and had excuses to leave work early, while the cat seemed to skillfully avoid work altogether but offered affectionate excuses. Meanwhile, the donkey Benjamin remained detached and skeptical, sharing little about his feelings post-rebellion, sticking to the cryptic observation that “donkeys live a long time.”

Sundays were a time of rest and unity, beginning with a flag-raising



ceremony where a flag representing the new Animal Republic was hoisted. This symbolized a hopeful future without human oppression. Following the ceremony, a meeting in the barn was held to discuss the week's plans. Resolutions presented by the pigs sparked lively debate, particularly between the pigs Snowball and Napoleon, whose disagreements were a regular occurrence.

Snowball endeavored to improve the animals' lives through the creation of committees aimed at organizing tasks like egg production and cleanliness, and even promoting education. While many of these initiatives were unsuccessful, reading and writing classes flourished, resulting in almost all the animals achieving literacy. Despite this, only the pigs reached a level of proficiency that allowed them to understand matters fully. The less intelligent animals learned a simplified slogan, “Four legs good, two legs bad,” to embody the principle of Animalism, despite initial protests from the birds, which were placated by Snowball's explanation.

Meanwhile, Napoleon expressed little interest in the committees, prioritizing the education of the young. He took charge of nine puppies, raising them in isolation, suggesting a strategic preparation for an unnamed future.

The distribution of resources also revealed emerging disparities. When the mystery of the missing milk and windfall apples came to light, it was discovered they were reserved for the pigs. Squealer, one of the pigs,



justified this by claiming that milk and apples were essential for pigs' health because they handled the intellectual workload of managing the farm. He warned that failure to keep the pigs in good condition could lead to the return of Mr. Jones, which none of the animals desired. This argument secured the animals' reluctant acceptance, underscoring the pigs' increasing influence and establishing a hierarchy on the farm.

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## Chapter 4:

In late summer, the tale of Animal Farm's rebellion began to spread throughout the county, thanks to Snowball and Napoleon, who sent out pigeons to neighboring farms to share the story and teach other animals the song "Beasts of England." Meanwhile, the ousted farm owner, Mr. Jones, sulked in the Red Lion pub, bemoaning his fate to anyone who would listen. Other local farmers sympathized with Jones but were primarily interested in turning his misfortune to their advantage. The two closest farms, Foxwood and Pinchfield, owned by Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Frederick respectively, were in perpetual conflict even though they were equally fearful of the rebellion's influence on their farms.

Initially, the farmers dismissed the idea of a successful animal-run farm, predicting its quick failure. To discredit Animal Farm, they spread false tales of chaos and starvation, eventually escalating to accusations of extreme cruelty and immorality among the animals. Despite these stories, rumors of a thriving farm managed by animals without human intervention spread, sparking rebelliousness among livestock across the countryside. The song "Beasts of England" became ubiquitous, to the farmers' dismay, symbolizing the animals' growing defiance.

In October, an expected counterattack from Jones and men from both Foxwood and Pinchfield materialized. Snowball, having studied Julius



Caesar's battle strategies, orchestrated the farm's defense. As the men advanced, the animals launched a series of strategic attacks designed to sow confusion. After initial skirmishes, Snowball led a feigned retreat, enticing the men into the farmyard, where hidden animals ambushed them.

The battle escalated as Snowball charged at Jones, sustaining injuries but disarming him. Boxer, a strong and dedicated cart-horse, unintentionally struck down a stable lad, creating panic among the attackers, who were soon overwhelmed and fled the farm. Boxer, regretful for potentially causing a death, expressed compassion, contrasting Snowball's harsher stance on the nature of war.

Amidst the chaos, Mollie the mare was briefly missing but later found hiding in fear. The supposedly dead stable lad was revealed to have only been stunned, having already escaped by the battle's end. In the aftermath, the animals celebrated their victory with a flag-raising ceremony and repeated renditions of "Beasts of England." A solemn funeral honored the fallen sheep, and new military honors were established: "Animal Hero, First Class" for Snowball and Boxer, and "Animal Hero, Second Class" for the deceased sheep.

This key event was named the Battle of the Cowshed, marking a significant triumph for the animals. Mr. Jones's gun, retrieved from the battlefield, was set up as a piece of artillery and was to be fired in commemoration of the



rebellion and the Battle of the Cowshed, solidifying their legacy of resistance and independence.

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## Chapter 5 Summary:

As winter progressed on Animal Farm, Mollie the cart-horse became increasingly troublesome, often shirking duties and claiming mysterious ailments while secretly indulging in vanity. Clover, another horse, discovered her secret rendezvous with a man from the neighboring Foxwood farm, which Mollie denied. However, after finding sugar and ribbons hidden in her stall, Clover realized that Mollie was fraternizing with humans, which was considered a betrayal. Shortly after, Mollie disappeared from Animal Farm, later spotted by pigeons with a human, content and adorned with new ribbons. The other animals, disinterested in Mollie's fate, never spoke of her again.

In January, Animal Farm faced harsh weather that halted fieldwork, leading to many meetings where the pigs, particularly Snowball and Napoleon, debated the farm's direction. These two pigs consistently found themselves at odds, especially regarding the construction of a proposed windmill. Snowball envisioned a windmill that would generate electricity and ease the animals' workload, enticing many with promises of improved living conditions and leisure. Napoleon, however, dismissed these plans, advocating for increased food production to avoid starvation. The farm animals split into factions: Snowball's supporters who desired a three-day workweek and Napoleon's proponents who wanted a full manger.



Aside from the windmill debate, the defense of the farm from potentially retaliatory humans was discussed. Napoleon advocated for obtaining firearms, while Snowball suggested spreading rebellion to other farms. The animals were swayed by whichever pig was speaking at the moment, unable to commit fully to either approach.

As Snowball finalized the windmill plans, a pivotal vote set the stage for its potential approval. Snowball's passionate rhetoric nearly convinced the animals until Napoleon abruptly signaled an unexpected coup. Nine large, fierce dogs, previously raised privately by Napoleon, chased Snowball off the farm, solidifying Napoleon's dominance.

Napoleon ended the Sunday meetings where animals could voice their opinions, establishing a committee of pigs to decide all matters. Squealer, a pig adept at persuasion, justified this change, claiming Napoleon bore the heavy responsibility of leadership and discouraging dissent by inciting fear of Mr. Jones's potential return. Boxer, a steadfast workhorse, adopted the belief that "Napoleon is always right," echoing the mindset cultivated through propaganda.

Around this time, Napoleon surprisingly announced the decision to build the windmill, citing it as his original idea. Through Squealer's persuasive explanations, the animals accepted that the opposition to the windmill was a calculated move to rid the farm of Snowball, who was now painted as a



criminal and scapegoat. This manipulation and control marked a turning point in the governance of Animal Farm, as the animals, intimidated and bewildered, fell in line with Napoleon's rule.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The Corruption of Power and Manipulation

**Critical Interpretation:** Chapter 5 emphasizes the corrupting influence of power and the manipulation of truth, as Napoleon seizes control of Animal Farm by force and deceit, marking a stark shift in leadership. This crucial aspect serves as a cautionary tale in our lives, reminding us of the importance of vigilance and critical thinking to resist authoritarian control. It inspires us to be aware of those who wield power and influence with duplicitous intent, encouraging us to question narratives and actively participate in our governance rather than passively accept the status quo. By recognizing and resisting manipulation and deceit, we can strive for a more equitable and transparent society.



## Chapter 6 Summary:

In a year filled with intense labor, the animals of Animal Farm worked tirelessly, motivated by the belief that their efforts were for their own benefit rather than for the idle human beings they had overthrown. They worked long hours, even on Sundays, under Napoleon's leadership, who coerced them with reduced rations for those absent from "voluntary" work. Despite their industriousness, challenges arose. The harvest wasn't as successful as the previous year, and some fields remained unsown due to insufficient preparation. The looming harsh winter added to their concerns.

The construction of a windmill presented significant challenges. Although the farm had the necessary materials, the animals struggled to break the limestone into usable pieces since their anatomy didn't allow for using tools like picks and crowbars. Eventually, they ingeniously harnessed gravity to shatter the stones by dragging large boulders to the top of a quarry and letting them fall. This task was laborious and slow, yet Boxer, the strongest and most dedicated horse, inspired all with his relentless work ethic, often muttering his mantras, "I will work harder" and "Napoleon is always right." Despite heavy workloads, the animals managed, benefiting from not having to support wasteful humans.

However, shortages arose, making it challenging to procure essential supplies like paraffin oil, nails, and tools. To address these needs, Napoleon



announced a controversial policy to trade with neighboring farms, which contradicted one of the original resolutions. Though this raised unease among the animals, Napoleon assured them of its necessity and appointed Mr. Whymper, a solicitor, as an intermediary so no animals would directly interact with humans. Squealer, a persuasive pig, convinced the animals that no such trade ban had ever been established, attributing the misconception to propaganda from the exiled Snowball.

As the pigs asserted more control over farm life, they moved into the farmhouse. Although this seemed to violate another resolution, Squealer manipulated the animals' perceptions, claiming that the rule was only against sleeping in beds with sheets, a human invention the pigs now avoided by using blankets. Meanwhile, the animals continued their toil, finding satisfaction in the nearly half-built windmill, though resources were dwindling.

In November, a fierce storm destroyed the windmill, a devastating blow to the animals' morale. Napoleon quickly blamed Snowball for this sabotage, declaring him a traitor and announcing a reward for his capture. Footprints in the grass were purportedly Snowball's, motivating the animals to work harder, and construction continued despite the setback. Napoleon used the incident to reinforce loyalty, rallying the animals to rebuild the windmill with renewed determination, ensuring that their resolve remained unbroken.



## Chapter 7 Summary:

In the midst of a harsh winter, the animals of Animal Farm face a grueling struggle to rebuild the windmill, aware that human observers would take pleasure in any failure. Despite accusations from humans that Snowball, previously exiled, deliberately destroyed the windmill, the animals know the true cause to be the thinness of the walls. This time, they resolve to build thicker walls, necessitating the collection of more stone in freezing conditions. The work is difficult, and morale is low, with food supplies dwindling and animals enduring both hunger and cold. The only consistent source of motivation is Boxer the horse, whose mantra, "I will work harder," inspires his peers more than the speeches of Squealer, the pig who promotes the joy and dignity of labor.

As food shortages worsen, with corn rations reduced and potatoes ruined by frost, the animals face starvation. To prevent outsiders from learning the truth, Napoleon, the farm's leader, enacts a deception with the help of Mr. Whymper, a human intermediary. The illusion of abundance is maintained through fake reports and cleverly arranged visuals during Whymper's visits, while Napoleon himself becomes increasingly reclusive, guarded by fierce dogs and appearing ceremoniously only when necessary.

To address the grain shortage, Napoleon negotiates with Whymper to sell hundreds of eggs, provoking an outcry from the hens, who see it as a



violation of their rights. In protest, the hens destroy their eggs, prompting brutal retaliation from Napoleon, who stops their rations, leading to the deaths of nine hens. These events are concealed from Whymper, preserving the farm's facade of stability.

Meanwhile, the mysterious Snowball becomes a scapegoat for farm misfortunes, with Napoleon claiming that Snowball hides nearby, causing various troubles and alleging alliances with the enemy, Mr. Frederick of Pinchfield Farm. Fueled by fear, Napoleon initiates an investigation, supposedly uncovering Snowball's involvement in a conspiracy against the farm. The tension mounts when Squealer reveals documents "proving" Snowball's long-term betrayal, framing him as an accomplice of the ousted Mr. Jones.

This narrative of treachery culminates in a chilling assembly where Napoleon, after display of power with his nine ferocious dogs, orchestrates a series of forced confessions and executions. The accused animals, supposedly in league with Snowball, meet brutal ends, marking a descent into violence and fear among the farm's inhabitants.

Disturbed by the bloodshed, the remaining animals, except for the loyal Boxer, reflect on the grim reality of their existence. The hopes of the Rebellion, which envisioned a society free from human tyranny, have been replaced by internal oppression. Despite this, Boxer resolves to work harder,



embodying a tragic resilience.

In a poignant scene, Clover, a maternal mare, struggles to understand how their cause has devolved into such horror. Her lament is expressed in the nostalgic and mournful singing of "Beasts of England," the anthem of their rebellion, reverberating with unmet aspirations. But their connection to this past is severed by Squealer, who announces its banishment, replaced by a new song praising Animal Farm. This transition symbolizes the final loss of the true spirit of the Rebellion, as the collective vision of equality and freedom fades into a regime of control and manipulation.

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# Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Boxer's Resilience

**Critical Interpretation:** You have moments in life when everything seems to be stacked against you, when the odds are overwhelmingly unfavorable, much like the animals facing grueling physical and emotional hardship during the winter reconstruction of the windmill. In these times, from Chapter 7's retelling of your journey, you can draw inspiration from Boxer the horse. His unwavering perseverance, encapsulated by his motto, 'I will work harder,' becomes a beacon to guide you through adversity. While acknowledging the challenges, Boxer's resolve can reignite your belief that sheer determination has the power to transform dire circumstances. It's a subtle reminder that even when the world feels cold and unyielding, the resolute spirit within you can ignite perseverance where despair lurks, reminding you to continue pushing forward, hoping for a brighter outcome and inspiring others along the way.



## Chapter 8:

In this complex chapter of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, we witness the evolving dynamics and growing manipulations on the farm. After the fear induced by recent executions dissipates, some animals begin to recall a version of the Sixth Commandment forbidding the killing of other animals. However, when Clover asks Muriel to read it, they find it now includes an exception for reasons deemed justifiable, which they assume explains the alleged traitors' executions.

Life on *Animal Farm* becomes increasingly laborious. The animals toil harder than ever to rebuild the windmill with thicker walls, in addition to their regular duties. Nevertheless, they find themselves in conditions reminiscent of Mr. Jones's era, despite Squealer's optimistic statistics claiming increased productivity. Orders are communicated chiefly through Squealer, while Napoleon, rarely seen, enjoys luxuries such as private dining with canine waiters, and establishes a cult of personality with grandiose titles. Squealer regularly praises Napoleon, attributing all successes to his leadership, and even composes a reverent poem, "Comrade Napoleon," while engaging in secret trade negotiations.

Tensions escalate with neighboring farms. Napoleon's dealings suggest a sale of timber to Mr. Pilkington, despite widespread mistrust, but rumors indicate that Frederick intends to attack. Amidst this turmoil, more animals



are accused of plotting against Napoleon, leading to further executions. Napoleon then abruptly announces an agreement with Frederick, breaking relations with Pilkington. The transaction is seemingly cunning, resulting in the farm obtaining cash for timber — only to later discover the money is counterfeit. The deception prompts frantic defenses and desperate messages to Pilkington upon suspicion of an immediate assault.

The ensuing attack from Frederick's men results in a fierce battle. Despite the initial advantage, as the enemy seizes the windmill, the animals finally repel them, albeit at a grievous cost. The windmill lies in ruins, demolished by explosives used by Frederick's crew. While the animals grieve and contemplate the arduous task of rebuilding, the pigs, led by Squealer, manipulate this defeat into a narrative of victory, emphasizing the recapture of their territory and extolling Napoleon's leadership.

As the pigs unearth a long-forgotten cache of whisky, celebrations turn to debauchery. The subsequent morning, Squealer announces Napoleon's supposed deathly illness, hinted as a consequence of poisoning by Snowball. However, this ailment soon passes, leading to Napoleon's directive to cultivate barley, presumably for increased alcohol production.

A mysterious incident occurs when a ladder collapses under the Seven Commandments, revealing Squealer amidst scattered paint supplies. The animals, except the cynical and silent Benjamin, are oblivious to the



implications. Shortly thereafter, Muriel discovers another altered commandment — the Fifth now allows alcohol consumption in moderation, indicating deeper corruption and betrayal of the revolution's founding principles. Through these events, the farm's ideals grow increasingly distorted, reflecting the manipulation and deceit under Napoleon's regime.

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## Chapter 9 Summary:

The tale unfolds amidst difficult times on Animal Farm, as Boxer, the stalwart and hardworking horse, struggles with a split hoof which takes a long time to heal. Despite the pain, Boxer persists in his work, driven by the ambition to see the windmill rebuilt before his looming retirement. The original laws of Animal Farm had set retirement ages for various animals, with generous pensions promised. Though no animal had yet retired, plans for a retirement pasture were rumored to be underway.

Life on the farm is harsh, as the winter is particularly cold and food is scarce. Rations are reduced for all except the pigs and the dogs, justified by Squealer's manipulative rhetoric that twists facts to paint a rosier picture than reality. The farm faces greater demands with the birth of thirty-one piglets, all fathered by Napoleon, the sole boar. The piglets receive special treatment, and a school is planned for their education. New rules establish the pigs' superiority, giving them privileges like wearing green ribbons.

Financial strains on the farm necessitate selling livestock products to cover expenses such as building a schoolhouse, and saving for windmill machinery. Meanwhile, the pigs begin consuming all the barley, using it to brew beer, with Napoleon enjoying the largest share. To distract the animals from their hardships, Napoleon introduces "Spontaneous Demonstrations" to celebrate the farm's supposed triumphs, reinforcing the pigs' leadership.



In April, Animal Farm is declared a Republic, with Napoleon elected as President unopposed. This consolidation of power comes amidst further demonization of Snowball, the scapegoated pig, with fabricated tales of his betrayal. Moses the raven reappears, continuing to spread stories of Sugarcandy Mountain, a utopian afterlife for animals. Unable to work, he is allowed to stay, tacitly endorsed by the pigs as his tales provide the animals with hope.

Boxer's condition worsens with exhaustion, though he remains committed to the farm's cause, believing in the farm's principles wholeheartedly. Eventually, his strength gives out, and he collapses while working. This event instigates rumors and concern among the animals, leading to Boxer's removal for supposed medical treatment. However, as a van marked for a horse slaughterer arrives to take Boxer away, it becomes clear his fate is grim.

Despite initial panic and despair, Squealer spins a narrative of martyrdom and care, claiming Boxer died with unwavering loyalty to Animal Farm and Napoleon. The animals, wanting to believe in a noble end for their comrade, reluctantly accept this version. Napoleon praises Boxer and plans a memorial banquet, exploiting Boxer's legacy for further manipulation. However, the promised wreath ends merely in a banquet for the pigs, revealing their hypocrisy as they celebrate with whisky bought from selling



Boxer's life, showcasing the grim realities of the farm's new leadership.

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## Chapter 10 Summary:

Years slipped by on the Animal Farm, a time when only a handful of animals, such as Clover, Benjamin, and some pigs, recalled the old days of the Rebellion. The farm had changed significantly, with many of the original animals, including Muriel, Bluebell, and Boxer, having passed away. Snowball was forgotten, and Jones had died in a home for inebriates. Clover had aged and was two years beyond retirement, yet no animals had ever retired. The plan to allocate pasture for retired animals had long been abandoned.

Napoleon grew into a hefty leader, while Squealer became so rotund he struggled to see. Benjamin remained mostly unchanged, still taciturn and melancholic following Boxer's death. New animals populated the farm, most of whom only heard tales of the Rebellion. Although the farm had become more prosperous and organized, complete with new equipment and fields, the animals themselves did not share in the wealth. Snowball's dream of luxuries like stalls with electric lighting was dismissed by Napoleon, who labeled such notions as contrary to the spirit of Animalism.

Over time, the pigs and dogs minimized their physical labor, justifying their roles with elaborate administrative tasks. Despite this, the ordinary animals led lives not so different from earlier times—enduring hunger, hard work, and hardships yet still held onto the hope of their unique identity as



members of Animal Farm, the only farm in England owned by animals. They continued to cherish the ideals of the Rebellion, proud of their independence from humans.

In a sudden turn of events, the sheep were taken aside and taught a new chant, "Four legs good, two legs better!" Soon after, the animals witnessed pigs walking on two legs, a shocking inversion of the farm's founding principles, which reinforced the new hierarchy declared by the modified commandment, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

A visit from human farmers further blurred the lines between pigs and humans. The farmers, led by Mr. Pilkington, praised the pigs for running the farm efficiently, while Napoleon reassured them that any notion of a rebellious influence had been unfounded. Changes were made to the farm's rituals, and its original name, Manor Farm, was reinstated. As stories circulated, it became clear the pigs had become indistinguishable from humans.

When a quarrel erupted inside the farmhouse between Napoleon and Mr. Pilkington, the observing animals were bewildered to notice that the physical distinctions between man and pig had vanished entirely, leaving them unable to tell one from the other.

