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| Minor character’s description | Allegorical | Character’s function / purpose | Key events / relationship to other main characters. | Orwell’s methods | Orwell’s intention |
| Benjamin  Introduced as ‘the oldest animal on the farm and the worse tempered’.  ‘Old Benjamin...seemed quite unchanged since the Rebellion. He did his work in the same obstinate way as he had done it in Jones’ time, never shirking and never volunteering for extra work either’ | Represents the Russian intelligentsia who could see the failings of Communist Russia but refused to speak out. | Intelligent, detached, cynical and bad-tempered.  Devoted to Boxer but refuses to express an opinion, is dismissive of the Rebellion and Snowball’s attempts to improve the animals’ lives. | C8 Battle of Windmill – watches men preparing to blow up the windmill with ‘an air of amusement’. Boxer works himself to death building it.  , only animal realises Squealer is drunk when falls off ladder.  Refuses to read the altered Commandments to Clover – he refuses to ‘meddle’ – this contributes to Napoleon’s success and Boxer’s downfall as he ‘meddles’ too late. ‘Fools! Fools!’…’Do you not see what is written on the side of the van’  C10 reads the single Commandment ‘For once Benjamin consented to break his rule’ but does not comment on it. All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others’ | Key quote ‘Donkeys live a long time. None of you has ever seen a dead donkey’  C10 – hunger, hardship and disappoint are the unalterable law of life | Benjamin has a true understanding of the realities of life on Animal Farm but doesn’t do anything to stop the pigs. Orwell uses Benjamin to show what happens to those who see wrongdoing but do nothing to challenge it. |
| Clover  ‘motherly mare’  Like Boxer, takes care not step on other smaller animals ‘concealed in the straw’ and makes hay nest for orphaned ducklings | Like Boxer represents the Russian Proletarian, exploited under Tsar & Stalin | Loyal disciple to Animalism, right to the end. Like the other animals she is brainwashed.  Devoted to Animalism - She criticises Mollie for her betrayal when she takes sugar & ribbons from one of Pilkington’s men.  Kind and protective – animals huddle next to her after executions; cares for Boxer in ill-heath.  She is slightly more intelligent than Boxer (learns alphabet) and checks the Commandments as the pigs take control but never acts upon her doubts believing, like the other animals, they have not been ‘violated’ and the altered words must have slipped their memory.  Often she feels things are not as they should be but she hasn’t got the intelligence or voice to express this.  For example, after the executions - Clover can’t speak her thoughts ‘Such were her thoughts, though she lacked the words to express them’ | | The omniscient, detached narrator sometimes shifts to her perspective.  Clover is the only animal whose thoughts and feelings we are given in detail. Like Boxer, we are meant to sympathise with her.  C10 when look into the farmhouse and questions the faces ‘Clover’s old dim eyes flittered from one face to another’ repetitive reference to her failing eyesight – her POV / unable to see betrayal. | Again Orwell carefully crafts her character so the reader cares about Clover. She is the one who questions the breaking of the Commandments but accepts the alterations rather than challenging them. Like many of the other animals she is gullible. |

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| Muriel the white goat | Orwell had goat called Muriel. Like Benjamin, she represents intelligentsia. | She is more intelligent than the other animals but unlike Benjamin she’s helpful but like Benjamin she doesn’t express an opinion or protest. | Makes use of literacy skills - reads to the other animals.  Muriel reads the altered Commandments to Clover but doesn’t comment.  She asks why Beast of England is banned but doesn’t protest.  She is pushed out the way by Benjamin when tries to spell out the writing on the side of the slaughter van. | Orwell encourages the reader to compare Muriel’s actions with Benjamin’s - both intelligent but Muriel helpful / Benjamin unhelpful. However, ultimately both fail to express an opinion on pigs’ corruption as the Commandments are insidiously altered.  Structural parallels – she is the one who reads the altered Commandments (apart from C10). Yet each time fails to comment. | |
| The dogs  Jessie and Bluebell and puppies | Stalin’s secret police similar to Hitler’s Gestapo. | Right from the start see dogs’ savage nature – attack rats. When old Major calls a vote ‘Are rats comrades’ The dogs vote both ways. | No-one questions the disappearance of the puppies. Napoleon turns them into loyal, vicious body guards. Wag their tails at Napoleon in the same way did for Jones.  Dogs are rewarded for their ruthlessness when dealing with opposition to Napoleon’s dictatorship. Like the pigs, they don’t work and are fed well. | Create atmosphere of terror & fear. Repetition of ‘snapping jaws’  Four porkers who protested when Napoleon abolished the Meetings ‘when they had finished their confession the dogs promptly tore their throats.’  Attack Boxer who pins them to the ground with his great hoof ‘the dog shrieked for mercy’ | Indoctrination of the young is common in totalitarian regimes – easily manipulated into supporting the regime. |
| Mollie  She comes late to Old Major's speech, and she "took a place near the front and began flirting her white mane, hoping to draw attention to the red ribbons it was plaited with" (1.4). | Represents the Russian middle class who had a comfortable life under the Tsar | Not interested in revolution.  Vain, selfish, spoiled, materialistic, lazy, cowardly. | She only learns the letters of her name. Snowball tells Mollie – ribbons are a ‘badge of slavery’ but she is not interested in the ideas behind the revolution or making sacrifices for the greater good.  C5 before N power grab, leaves to pull the pub landlord’s cart – seen with ribbons and sugar. | Ribbons and sugar – symbol of materialism, Capitalist greed and luxury. | Again represents those who are not interested in politics, but because self-serving, rather than cynical like Benjamin |
| Hens | The kulaks destroyed their own farms rather than let Stalin’s government take them over. Stalin starved (1930s famine), executed & exiled many of them. | The hens are the only group that shows resistance to Napoleon. The other animals do not unite to support them in their protest. | First to point out corruption – even Jones put some milk in their mash. | Old Major specifically criticises the taking of the hens’ eggs as an inhumane practice, yet under Napoleon they are told to surrender their eggs. They retaliate by smashing their eggs. They are starved into suppression so N can achieve his ruthless Capitalist ends. | |

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| Sheep | The sheep are like the Communist party ‘yes-men’ that Stalin pack meetings with and who voted for whatever he wanted. | Can’t think for themselves & blindly follow the pigs’ orders. | Mindlessly bleat the slogan ‘Four legs good, two legs bad’. | C10 takes Squealer a week to indoctrinate them - ‘Four legs good, two legs better’ – After the animals’ shock at seeing the pigs with whips ‘in spite of everything…they may have uttered some word of protest…But…all the sheep burst out into a ‘tremendous bleating’ | Mindless mob – used to silence protest.  The choice of sheep is satirical as stereotypically – sheep are seen as ignorant, unthinking and easily led. |
| Moses  He is a spy, a tale-bearer & good talker. | Russian Orthodox Church.  Religion was banned after revolution but later brought back under Stalin. | Jones’ pet raven. He is ‘tame’, closer to humans than the other animals. | Tells the animals about a paradise after-death ‘Sugarcandy Mountain’ – believe him b/c have nothing to look forward to.  C2 After Rebellion he follows Mrs Jones off the farm, choosing to be a pet rather than a free animal.  C9 Returns to the farm when animals’ oppressed again – pigs allow to stay because stories give hope & keeps them obedient. | Symbolism of Sugarcandy Mountain, Moses, Raven, alcohol. Structurally – leaves in C2 back C9. | Represents religion as name connotes – Biblically Moses & promised land.  Linked to corruption and vice as both Jones & pigs give him alcohol.  Draws from Marx’s famous comment **‘Religion is the opium of the masses’**  Raven – omen of bad luck. |
| The humans – all highly unpleasant characters. | Fredrick – Hitler & Fascism  Pilkington – Churchill. Stalin made pacts with both.  Mr Whymper Solicitor – represents Capitalism  End – Pilkington and fellow farmers mirrors Stalin’s dealings with the West – Britain & USA. | Represent those in power - deceitful, ruthless, argumentative, cruel, violent and greedy. | Old Major – humans are the enemy.  Napoleon’s dealings with the humans shows his betrayal of Animalism.  Dealings with Whymper – Napoleon wants to trade with neighbouring farmers.  At the end Pilkington praises Napoleon’s brutal regime for its achievements in exploiting the animals – work longer hours for less food – says he & fellow farmers intend to the same methods on their farms. | Forged bank notes – symbolize the treaty Hitler signed with Stalin not to invade Russia but failed to honour it.  Invasion of Windmill – linked to WW2 when Hitler broke pact with Stalin and invaded Russia (Battle of Stalingrad)  Pilkington and fellow farmers at end represent Wests short-lived pact with Stalin. Cheat at cards – shows no one trusts each other – start of the Cold War distrust between West and Russia. | Pigs become humans at the end anthropomorphism – is complete |