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| Character’s description | Allegorically | Character’s function / purpose | Key events / relationship to other characters. | Orwell’s methods | Orwell’s intention as political fable |
| Mr Jones.  ‘too drunk to remember to shut the pop-holes.’  ‘He seized his gun and let fly..into the darkenss’. | Manor Farm – microcosm of RR (also Manor house – connotes upper-classes)  Unpopular Tsar Nicholas II – lived in luxury whilst peasants in poverty. | Highly unpleasant character like all the humans. Ideas of excess vices, neglect, absolute power, violence as a means to control & keep power.  Keeps Moses – religion to control the masses. | Threat of Jones - used by Squealer to appease the animals.  Squabbles with neighbouring farmers – but like all those in power come together to oppose a threat from masses.  Battle of Cowshed – easily defeated because of unity of animals & Snowball’s military prowess. | Drunk – ideas of vices and excess  Gun symbol of violence and fear  C1 has circular structure foreshadows circular structure of novella – becomes Manor Farm again. | Abuse of power in any society. Inequality between workers and upper class. |
| Old Major – 12 years old ‘majestic-looking pig, / Notice Napoleon described as ‘majestic’ at end.  ‘with a wise and benevolent appearance’  Notice how Napoleon use of propaganda presents himself in this way.  ‘highly regarded on the farm’  strange dream – end Animalism again becomes dream | Old Major represents Lenin's (leader of the Bolsheviks). His revolutionary ideals were based on Karl Marx’s Communist Manifesto - alternative economic system to Capitalism – Communism whereby ownership of the means of production that produces wealth is shared equally. | Speech presents the ideals on which Animalism is based.  -Man is the enemy - cruelly exploits for own benefit.  -Warns - not to trust man or take up their vices.  -Calls for Rebellion & unity and equality among the animals.  -Teaches the revolutionary song - Beasts of England.  -Skull – Lenin’s death. Cpt2 - His body was buried at the foot of the orchard – ideals will grow and flourish. End skull is buried after being at foot of flag staff – death of revolutionary ideals.  -After Rebellion - Pigs convert these ideals into the unalterable law of Animalism 7 Commandments -  Orwell’s omniscient narrator and use of irony - Immediately see these ideals being eroded and increasingly corrupted. | He uses the same rhetorical devices as Squealer – but to liberate the animals rather than betray them.  Structural parallels – all old Major’s warnings and ideals encapsulated in 7 Commandants are corrupted by pigs - circular structure – animals are arguably worse off. | Rhetorical devices  Man exploits the animals:  -Emotive P3 – ‘Our lives are miserable, laborious, and short’.  RQ – warns the animals about seeing this exploitation as natural ‘But is this simply part of the order of nature?  Circular structure  ‘in fighting against Man, we must not come to resemble him’  Revolutionary ideals  ‘no animal must ever tyrannise over his own kind. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers’.  ‘among us animals let there be perfect unity, perfect comradeship’  Symbolism of Beast of England alludes to Communist Anthem – vision of revolutionary ideals – banned under Napoleon. | Power of language – can be used to bring good but also be misused to corrupt.  Revolutionary ideals and warnings not heeded so become corrupted. |
| ‘Sly’ Napoleon  ‘fierce-looking’, ‘not much of a talker, but with a reputation for getting his own way’. (Orwell uses satire to mock Stalin)  'Napoleon was better at canvassing support for himself in between times' | Power struggle b/w Stalin & Trotsky after Lenin’s death.  -Stalin - General Secretary of Communist Party – built power base behind the scenes.  Stalin’s brutal dictatorship.  \*Secret police.  \*1903’s Purges.  \*Famine – starved land owning farmers into submission so could claim them for the State.  \* Siberian hard labour camps – gulags.  \*Industrialisation (modernisation) of Russian – 5 year plan – Russian people saw no benefits but Russia became an international nuclear superpower.  \* Via propaganda created cult personality | Before makes power grab ‘sly’, deceitful C5 pivotal chapter: after as tyrannical dictator.  Food C2 Immediately takes control of the milk, even under Jones hens had milk in mash. Later starves hens into submission. Constant repetition of animals being hungry whilst pigs get fatter.  Not interested in democratic process - windmill debate - ‘he had spoken barely thirty seconds’ & later stops it – repetition of animals be silent & terrified. Freedom of speech silenced – dogs & sheep; voting and debate stopped – orders dictated, Sunday meetings ended. Eventually, the animals no longer question or protest.  Violence - Wants to ‘procure fire arms, – foreshows later violence.  C3 Indoctrination of puppies rather than education for all. Makes power grab – C5 (pivotal chapter)  Fear & terror ‘enormous dogs’; ‘snapping jaws’. Repetition in second half creates constant atmosphere of fear & terror. Mass executions – false allegations removes potential opponents and instils fear so want rebel. | - Seen less and less in public and uses propaganda creates cult personality.  -Absent at Battle of Cowshed – cowardly but also sly - Squealer’s propaganda – rewrites N as hero and Snowball as traitor.  -Windmill - Urinates on plans but later claims own. Animals see no benefits – described like slave labour prisons.  Battle of Windmill – at a loss – leads from the back, tale clipped by pellet.  -Minimus’ poem ‘Comrade Napoleon’ – ‘Lord of the swill bucket’ Orwell mocking ‘giver of all that thy creatures love’ benevolent leader  Poem inscribed on barn wall next to portrait, opposite Commandments (polar opposites)  Structurally, under N’s regime each of the Commandments are corrupted until become nonsensical capitalised oxymoron ‘All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others’  Secures future of dictatorship -  Later sows 31 piglets – animals need to build school house – animals doomed.  Praised by Pilkington for exploitation of animals – ‘the lower animals on Animal Farm did more work and received less food than any animal in the country’ – farmers intend to introduce Napoleon’s regime on own farms. | Clearly satires Stalin through Napoleon by using stereotype of a pig = people greedy, self-serving, rich (fat) of Capitalism by exploiting others.  C10 ‘Napoleon was now a mature boar of twenty four stone’  Anthropomorphism – end Napoleon human – animals look in farm house – and can’t tell the difference b/w pigs and humans ‘it was impossible to say which one was which’  - Farm name reverts back to Manor Farm; animals still had hope whilst called Animal Farm.  Symbolism - removes **horn and hoof from green flag** – becomes meaningless.  No longer called Comrade – ‘foolish custom of address one another’  Walks ‘majestically upright, casting haughty glances’. He carried a whip in his trotter’ - sees himself as king lording over the animals.  Whip – symbol of cruelty and physical oppression. | Uses satire to undermine dictators but also warns how easily revolutionary ideals can become corrupted.  End - **successful totalitarian regime** – animals brainwashed – still believe in Animalism & can’t see reality of exploitation and oppression  Low status  ‘They worked diligently, hardly raising their faces from the ground’. Become too powerless to do anything.  Criticism – levelled at Animal farm – by using animals change cannot happen – as horses can’t become pigs etc. BUT pigs do become human – so anything possible. |
| **Snowball**  Charismatic, intelligent, embraces the democratic process, works for the good of all the animals.  ‘vivacious pig…quicker in speech and more inventive, but was not considered to have the same depth of character’. | Leadership style - mirrors Trotsky's & the power struggle b/w Trotsky & Stalin after Lenin's death.  Trotsky led Red Army to militarily success in civil war between Tsar supporters and Bolsheviks  Trotsky exiled from Russia & later assassinated | Generally presented positively in the novella.  Advocate of Animalism - one of leading pigs who elaborates old Major's teaching into Animalism   * Writes 7 Commandments   - Uses democratic process and cares for wellbeing of animals.  - Sets up committees and literacy good of animals.  - Foreword thinking wants to spread Animalism – sends out pigeons.  - Good military leader masterminds' Julius Caesar campaigns' the victorious Battle of the Cowshed.  - Brave and heroic in battle 'He himself dashed straight for Jones…The pellets scored bloody streaks along Snowballs back' Awarded 'Animal Hero: First Class'   * Plans for Windmill to   modernise farm – animals have more leisure time / work 3 days. | Power struggle 'These two disagreed at every point where disagreement was possible.' – against old Major’s teachings not unity.  **Snowball leadership style is democratic and promotes the ideals of Communism Vs Napoleon is a dictator and enforces a totalitarian regime.**  FLAWS – lead to downfall.  Often animals don’t understand him so fail to support when Napoleon makes his grab for power.  -Reduces the commandant to 'four legs good, two legs bad' birds worried - A bird's wing, comrades...is an organ of propulsion and not of manipulation. It should therefore be regarded as a leg.  The birds do not understand Snowball's jargon and it leaves it open to manipulation - also bleated mindlessly by the sheep who Napoleon later uses to silence debate.  -Corruption - Milk and apples corruption.  -Underestimates Napoleon - doesn't question the missing puppies'  -After chased off the farm - used as scapegoat **– invisible enemy** | **Speeches** 'At Meetings Snowball often won over the majority by his brilliant speeches'. - speeches are full of passion & animals are often swept away with them. Contrast with Squealer’s used to betray animals.  **Jargon** – animals don’t understand.    **Green flag** – symbolism - hoof and horn – unity – also hammer & sickle on Soviet flag – green – animals’ freedom.  **Windmill** – initially symbol of freedom  **Omniscient narrator** – b/c Snowball been presented positively can see Squealer’s lies when scapegoats him as invisible enemy, but his constant use of repetition animals increasingly question own memory & until brainwashed into believing lies about Snowball. | As political fable, through the character of Snowball, Orwell warns how great revolutionary ideals can easily become corrupted. Orwell clearly conveys Snowball's ideal of a democratic future for the animals as positive but shows how easily this can be corrupted and the terrifying alternative of a totalitarian regime. |
| **Squealer** – one of the three main pigs - sly, manipulative, -self-serving, sinister.  C2 - ‘brilliant talker’; ‘skipping from side to side’;  ‘turn black to white’.  C7‘he cast a very ugly look at Boxer with his little twinkling eyes'  C10 ‘Squealer was so fat that he could with difficulty see out of his eyes’. | Stalin’s propaganda machine helped create his cult personality. | Squealer’s rhetoric - meant to be contrasted with Old Major’s (and Snowball) – good of animals, Squealer’s to cover up pigs’ corruption of revolutionary ideals.  Takes advantage of other animals’ lack of intelligence and betrays animal’s trust.  Animals mistrust their own memories. Allows him to rewrite history. | Elevates Napoleon status by scapegoating Snowball – creates invisible enemy & Napoleon as benevolent, hero - Battle of Cowshed.  Boxer’s betrayal –blatantly lies to the animals & cruelly uses Boxer’s maxim - animals believe him ‘enormously relived’ – but reader disgusted.  After each Commandment corrupted – rewrites them until nonsensical oxymoron. | Omniscient narrator – reader can see what the animals can’t.  Squealer’s rhetoric is littered with persuasive devices:  -Euphemisms – ‘readjustment’ rather than reduction of rations.  -Repetition - ‘Comrades’ when clearly not equal.  Irony – milk & apples – ‘It’s for your sake that we drink that milk’  Veiled threats – RQ – Jones’ back? – can’t see life is becoming increasingly worse – circular structure.  Anthropomorphism and corruption complete ‘It was a pig walking on his hind legs’ | Metaphorically - Corrupt and exploitative human-leaders are stereotypical pigs.  Squealer’s rhetoric is so powerful animals still believe in Animalism even though in reality clearly not.  Conveys the power of language - how can be misused to manipulate & exploit for political purposes. |
| **Boxer –** first introduced in barn - gentle giant, ‘enormous beast’ but walks carefully in case there’s small animals ‘concealed in the straw’.  Respected by the animals, hardworking but lacks intelligence  ‘he was not of first rate intelligence, but he was universally respected for his steadiness of character and tremendous powers of work’. | Represents the proletariat (Russian hard-working masses) and their hopes for a better world that never materialised because of Stalin’s corruption.  Building of Windmill 5 year plan – reference to huge boulders – Siberian hard labour camps | Boxer antithesis of corrupt pigs.  Hardworking and selfless – gets up before the other animals.  Held in high regard by the other animals & his hard work crucial to the success of the farm, Harvest- ‘Boxer was the admiration of everyone...there were days when the entire work of the farm seemed to rest upon his might shoulders’. Windmill ‘Nothing could be achieved without Boxer, who strength seemed equal to the rest of the animals but together’.  Devoted to Animalism – ‘unfailing’ attendance at meetings, burns straw hat / Mollie wants to keep ribbons, but lack of intelligence doesn’t fully understand ideas behind Revolution straw hat – practical as keeps off flies. Makes him vulnerable to exploitation. Ultimately sacrifices is health and life for corrupt pigs.  Heroic ‘terrifying’ fighting at BofC but non-violent - contrasts with Snowball and Napoleon – Stable lad – ‘I have no wish to take a life, not even human life’  Shows integrity and honesty – defends Snowball’s – marks him out to Squealer – but ‘enormous’ beast is easily able to fight off ‘enormous’ dogs, but even after dog attack and mass executions ‘It must be some fault in ourselves…the solution is to walk harder’ – cannot see pigs corruption. | Pig’s betrayal – too trusting.  -Believes will retire Despite evidence to the contrary 'As yet no animal had actually retired ‘ and will have the leisure time to ‘improve his mind’ will be able to learn the rest of the alphabet (could only get to letter D) as lack of education made explicit in his fate.  -Blind loyalty maxim ‘Napoleon is always right’ cruelly betrayed.  Boxer's slaughter (emotional climax) see how much the pigs have betrayed the animals' trust. Boxer is the perfect proletarian His reward is being sold for slaughter. (Benjamin meddles too late to save his friend calls animals ‘fools’; other animals believe Squealer’s emotive lies - that he was by his side at hospital).  Pigs use Boxer's death to motivate the enslaved animals to work harder - use Boxer’s maxims - Boxer’s ‘very last words’.  The pigs hold a drunken memorial banquet in Boxer's honour - paid for by Boxer's death while the other animals starve. | Orwell – crafts his character sympathetically – he is individuated as virtuous, kind, heroic - the reader cares about Boxer.  -Maxim ‘I’ll work harder’ – sees as solution to everything - cruel irony worked to death.  Unquestioning loyalty – ‘Napoleon is always right’ – Omniscient narrator – reader can see irony & cruel betray – Boxer can’t.  -Poignant description of Boxer’s death knackers.  -Structural parallels - Major’s words become prophetic You, Boxer, the very day that those great muscles of yours lose their power, Jones will sell you to the knacker.  Irony Napoleon sends him to knacker – ‘his great haunches seemed to have shrunken'. Too weak to kick way out of slaughter van ‘the time had been when a few kicks from Boxer’s hoofs would have smashed the van to matchwood’ – unable to save self because worked so hard for pigs. | The animals' inability to help Boxer until it's too late suggests that this would have never happened if they had been more involved at the start of the revolution instead of relying on the pigs to take control.  **The importance of education** for critical thinking.  Maxims – blind faith people have in rulers leads to terrible consequences. Also same – if intellectuals (Benjamin) ignore atrocities they see by those in power (keep out of politics) and allow them to get away with it, it can lead to terrible consequences.  . |