Continue



We're getting everything ready for you. The page is loading, and you'll be on your way in just a few moments. Thanks for your patience! Written by: Nick RedgroveReviewed by: Deb OrrockUpdated on 6 February 2025Snowball is presented as a natural leader and he attempts to present a positive vision of the future. However, like Napoleon, he is a
flawed character. SnowballKey characteristicsRole ThemesOverviewIdealisticArticulateBraveFlawedVulnerableSnowball is presented as a better leadership EqualityNatural leaderCondenses the CommandmentsBecomes a rival to NapoleonIs banished from the
farmSnowball is depicted as:Idealistic: Snowball follows the ideals of Old Major and dedicates himself to developing the animals' intellectual and physical lives. Snowball initiates the building of the windmill to help aid food production, run machinery, produce electricity and to give the animals more rest: "Snowball conjured up pictures of fantastic machines". Similarly, he views education as a means to improve the lives of the animals and establishes committees and introduces "classes in reading and writing". Articulate: Snowball is a confident and articulate speaker and is initially respected by the other animals. Despite divided opinions, he is able to convince the other animals of the windmill's
benefits, despite Napoleon criticising it as "nonsense". He introduces literacy to the other animals and paints the Seven Commandments to the simple statement, "Four legs good, two legs bad". Brave: Snowball is a courageous fighter and leads and
organises the animals during "The Battle of the Cowshed", where they retaliate with an ambush and a violent attack on the men: "Snowball is considered an "Animal Hero, First Class" for his bravery and an initiator of change. However, "after Snowball's expulsion" by the nine dogs, he
is simply portrayed as an enemy. Vulnerable: While the other animals respect Snowball, this makes him a target for Napoleon's hostility. Ultimately, violence is used by Napoleon and the dogs to force the other animals to confess their involvement with Snowball and these confessions and executions lead to carnage in the barn: "there was a pile of corpses". Snowball's use of language conveys his intelligence and his ability to inspire and motivate others through rhetoric. Visionary: Unlike Napoleon, Snowball is a visionary and inspires the other animals: "Snowball often won over the majority by his brilliant
speeches". His vision and creativity is juxtaposed with that of Napoleon's: "Napoleon produced no schemes of his own, but said quietly that Snowball is "more vivacious" and intellectually superior to Napoleon and uses his intelligence to resolve problems on the farm. His rhetorical
expertise enables him to act as an effective speaker and initially he is respected by Napoleon. The two leadership contenders have fervent debates, particularly about the building of the windmill, which would "supply the farm with electrical power". Snowball is seen by Napoleon as a threat to his leadership and he has him expelled from the farm:
"They [the dogs] dashed straight for Snowball". "Snowball read it aloud for the benefit of the others" - Narrator "Four legs good, two legs bad""Can you not understand that liberty is worth more than ribbons?"Chapter 3Chapter 4Chapter 9Snowball teaches the pigs to write: Snowball, a pig who is "quicker in speech and more inventive" than Napoleon, views education as important for improving the lives of the other animals. He educates the animals, simplifies the Commandments and arranges classes and committees. The cowshed battle: During the Battle of the Cowshed, Snowball demonstrates his vast knowledge of battle strategy and exhibits great bravery: "He himself dashed straight
for Jones" having no thought for his own safety. This reveals his courageousness and self-sacrifice. Scapegoat: Snowball has been expelled from the farm and Napoleon blames him for all of the misfortunes which now occur: "Whenever anything went wrong, it became usual to attribute it to Snowball". Once admired, Snowball is now depicted as the
enemy: "it was Snowball who had destroyed the windmill". History rewritten: Napoleon rewrites history and Snowball's former good deeds are completely erased. He is henceforth remembered as a traitor: "Snowball was in league with Jones from the very start!" This demonstrates how authoritarian propaganda can shape truth and memory. The
characters of Napoleon and Snowball represent the historical feud between Stalin and Trotsky, which led to the totalitarian regime of Soviet Russia. Through the dystopian elements of the novella, Orwell illustrates how the oppressive rule used by Napoleon and the ostracism of Snowball fail to bring about an improved life for the animals on the farm. The pigs' altering of the Commandments and Napoleon's reinvention and revision of Snowball's role on the farm symbolise the way the Soviet government continued to revise history in order to exercise control over their people's views and perceptions. Did this page help you? Orwell describes the three pigs in some detail. Napoleon is named
after the French revolutionary who turned a people's revolution into a dictatorship. Indeed, 'Animal Farm' was banned in France for many years and it still is not allowed to be published using the name 'Napoleon'. He takes charge immediately and is seen as a provider in that it is he who takes charge to feed the other animals. The fact that he takes
care of the milk is foreshadowing his greed. Snowball has an ominous name too; he will melt away and be forgotten. Squealer's name is indicative of his character. He is an effective orator and will be the voice of the new regime; a propaganda tool. Boxer and Clover are well respected and with their strong work ethic, lack of intelligence and inability
to think for themselves, they represent the oppressed Russian peasantry. As Petrograd became Leningrad, Manor Farm became Animal Farm. Orwell foregrounds the Seven Commandments and it is interesting to see how these are changed and ignored as the pigs begin to take power. In Animal Farm Chapter 2, after the death of Old Major, the animals start to organise themselves under the leadership of the pigs, principally two young boars named Napoleon and Snowball, on the other hand, is "quicker in speech and more inventive" than Napoleon. Another pig who plays a key role in the
revolution and the society that follows is Squealer, a "brilliant talker" who could "turn black into white". He plays an important role in the society that the pigs establish, persuading the revolution, the pigs struggle to counteract the lies of the raven Moses who claims to
know about a place called Sugarcandy Mountain that the animals will go to when they die. Farmer Jones lets Manor Farm fall into disrepair: "His men were idle and dishonest, the fields were full of weeds, the buildings wanted roofing, the hedges were neglected, and the animals were underfed." As a result, the revolution occurs much earlier than the animals expected, when they rise up, scaring Farmer Jones and his men away. In the aftermath of the revolution, they change the name of 'Manor Farm' to 'Animal Farm'. The farmhouse is declared a museum and it is agreed that no animal will ever live there. They decree that no animal will ever wear clothes, burning the ribbons that had decorated
the horses on market days and the hat that Boxer wore during summer. In this chapter, the pigs formalise the principles of Animalism to seven commandments that are written on the side of a barn. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend. No animal shall wear clothes. No animal shall sleep in a
bed. No animal shall drink alcohol. No animal shall kill any other animal. All animals are equal. At the end of the chapter, the animals consider what they will do with the cow's milk when Napoleon steps in front of the buckets and tells them not to worry. When they return from the field, the milk is gone. In Chapter II, the animals rebel and take over
the farm in a series of events that mirror the revolutions that occurred in Russia during 1917. At the time, Russia was ruled by Tsar Nicholas II. He was a brutal and ruthless leader nicknamed Bloody Nicholas. During this period, there were food shortages in cities where peasants had flocked to start working in factories. Working conditions and wages were poor and many of these people lived in crowded and unsanitary conditions. This combination of factors led directly to the Russians endured before the revolution and the way the animals are treated by Farmer Jones in Animal Farm. The animals are treated brutally,
underfed and worked within an inch of their lives which leads them to rise up and take over the farm. In the movel, the teachings of Old Major become known as Animalism. This is a clear reference to the idea of Communism, developed by writer Karl Marx in his 1848 book The Communist Manifesto, which explained that the working class would
eventually overthrow capitalists and wealth would be shared equally. There are some other historical figures in the novel. Snowball is a representation of Leon Trotsky who was a leader of the revolution. Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin who, after brief leadership struggle with Trotsky, went on to become the brutal and despotic leader of Russia.
While planning the revolution, the pigs struggle to counteract the lies of the raven Moses: "He claimed to know of the existence of a mysterious country called Sugarcandy Mountain, to which all animals went when they died. It was situated somewhere up in the sky, a little distance beyond the clouds." Throughout the novel, Moses represents the Russian Orthodox Church. After the revolution, the many church leaders found themselves on the losing side, living under a government that was opposed to religion. Many priests and believers were imprisoned, tortured and executed. Early in World War II, when Nazi Germany attacked the USSR, Stalin used the Russian Orthodox Church to rally
support for the war. In the novel, religion is ultimately used by the pigs as a tool to control the other animals, convincing them that although life is arduous, something better waits for them in the afterlife. Here's how Karl Marx, author of The Communist Manifesto, described religion: "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a
heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people." Essentially, Marx argued that religion as harmful. With the promise of idyllic afterlife, people would be less likely to rise up against the injustices of class structure and
oppression. In the novel, the pigs ultimately use this to their advantage, inviting Moses back to the farm to spread stories of Sugarcandy Mountain. While he certainly participated in religious ceremonies, Orwell has been described as either an agnostic and atheist. In Animal Fam, what he's really trying to illustrate is the way religion can be used by totalitarian regimes to maintain their control over people. In Animal Farm, George Orwell explores how power can corrupt. Like the USSR, the government established by the pigs in Animal Farm eventually becomes a ruthless and corrupt dictatorship where there is little freedom. The end of the chapter, when the milk is taken by the pigs,
foreshadows the greed and corruption to come. Write a short paragraph describing Napoleon that uses quotations from this chapter. Who is Moses? What do you think Sugarcandy Mountain represents? What can you find out about the Russian Orthodox Church and
how it was treated under communist rule and Joseph Stalin? Why does this chapter end on an ominous note? To show your understanding of Animal Farm Chapter 2, respond to the following topic: In Chapter 2 foreshodows how the pigs will manipulate and control the other animals. Discuss. Use TEEL structure when responding to this question:
Topic sentence. Explain your stance on the topic. How does this chapter foreshadow how the pigs will manipulate and control the animals? Does it foreshadow why they are susceptible to this? Explanation. Explain what which aspects of control and manipulation are foreshadowed in this chapter. Evidence. Use short quotations from the novel in sentence on the topic. Continue exploring Animal Farm with this article on Chapter 3 of the novel. Photograph: stephane.pouyllau Snowball was one of the major pigs that lead the other animals in Animal Farm. He believed that all animals
were equal, a principle that Old Major taught him. Life Snowball was a young swine who grew up into a great leader and comrade. He, along with Napoleon, turned Animals He also created the Seven Commandments (a large part of Animalism), the seven rules that all the animals had to live by. He had
a very good reputation and much support, until things took a turn for the worst. Snowball rallying the animals at the Battle of the Cowshed Napoleon and Snowball out with the use of his dogs, and whenever something bad occurred, he made sure that the animals believed that it was Snowball's doing. Snowball never returned to Animal Farm, and his current whereabouts are unknown. Snowball designing the windmill. These ideas were all meant for the betterment of everyone. He always
used the principles taught to him by Old Major, and made certain that all animals were equal. Legacy Although Snowball was an important figure with good characteristics, Napoleon and the other pigs blamed every bad incident that occured on Snowball. The
animals believed this, and from then on everyone dislike him (those who had liked him were killed on the spot by Napoleon's dogs). Old Major dies three days later. The animals begin planning to carry out his dying wish of overthrowing Mr. Jones, and more widely, the farmers. The organising falls to the pigs, the cleverest of the animals. Orwell
introduces the character of Napoleon, a large and fearsome-looking pig who is one of the leaders of the rebellion. Napoleon is cunning and ruthless, and he quickly establishes himself as the most powerful animal on the farm. He makes it clear that he will not tolerate any dissent from the other animals. Another pig called Snowball is introduced, who is more intelligent than Napoleon, and helps to organise the upcoming rebellion. Together, the animals plan to overthrow their owner and master, Mr. Jones, and begin calling each other 'comrade'. The pigs educate the other animals about Old Major's theory of Animalism from Chapter 1. Initially, there is some resistance: for instance, the carriage-
horse Mollie wants reassurance that she will be able to eat sugar cubes or wear ribbons, before she is reminded that they are tokens of slavery and must be abandoned in their new utopia. The biggest issue comes with Moses, the raven, who spreads tales of a place called Sugarcandy Mountain where the animals go when they die. The pigs work hard
to persuade the animals that Sugarcandy Mountain is just an invention. When Mr. Jones falls asleep and fails to feed them, the animals, led by Napoleon and Snowball, chase him off the farm. The animals destroy the last remaining evidence of their
subservience: chains, bits, whips and halters. They are shocked at the luxuries within Mr. Jones' farm and decide to turn his house into a museum under the requirement that no animal may ever live in it. They change the farm name to 'Animal Farm'. Animal Farm, Chapter 2 Full Text Three nights later old Major died peacefully in his sleep. His body was buried at the foot of the orchard. This was early in March. During the next three months there was much secret activity. Major's speech had given to the more intelligent animals on the farm a completely new outlook on life. They did not know when the Rebellion predicted by Major would take place, they had no reason for thinking that it would
be within their own lifetime, but they saw clearly that it was their duty to prepare for it. The work of teaching and organising the others fell naturally upon the pigs, who were generally recognised as being the cleverest of the animals. Pre-eminent among the pigs were two young boars named Snowball and Napoleon, whom Mr. Jones was breeding up
for sale. Napoleon was a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire boar, the only Berkshire on the farm, not much of a talker, but with a reputation for getting his own way. Snowball was a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive, but was not considered to have the same depth of character. All the other male pigs on the farm were porkers. The best known among them was a small fat pig named Squealer, with very round cheeks, twinkling eyes, nimble movements, and a shrill voice. He was a brilliant talker, and when he was arguing some difficult point he had a way of skipping from side to side and whisking his tail which was somehow very persuasive. The others
said of Squealer that he could turn black into white. These three had elaborated old Major's teachings into a complete system of thought, to which they gave the name of Animalism. Several nights a week, after Mr. Jones was asleep, they held secret meetings in the barn and expounded the principles of Animalism to the others. At the beginning they
met with much stupidity and apathy. Some of the animals talked of the duty of loyalty to Mr. Jones, whom they referred to as "Master," or made elementary remarks such as "Why should we care what happens after we are dead?" or "If this Rebellion is to
happen anyway, what difference does it make whether we work for it or not?", and the pigs had great difficulty in making them see that this was contrary to the spirit of Animalism. The stupidest questions of all were asked by Mollie, the white mare. The very first question she asked Snowball was: "Will there still be sugar after the Rebellion?" "No," said Snowball firmly. "We have no means of making sugar on this farm. Besides, you do not need sugar. You will have all the oats and hay you want." "And shall I still be allowed to wear ribbons in my mane?" asked Mollie. "Comrade," said Snowball, "those ribbons that you are so devoted to are the badge of slavery. Can you not understand that liberty
is worth more than ribbons?" Mollie agreed, but she did not sound very convinced. The pigs had an even harder struggle to country called a mysterious called a
Sugarcandy Mountain, to which all animals went when they died. It was situated somewhere up in the sky, a little distance beyond the clouds, Moses said. In Sugarcandy Mountain it was Sunday seven days a week, clover was in season all the year round, and lump sugar and linseed cake grew on the hedges. The animals hated Moses because he told
tales and did no work, but some of them believed in Sugarcandy Mountain, and the pigs had to argue very hard to persuade them that there was no such place. Their most faithful disciples were the two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover. These two had great difficulty in thinking anything out for themselves, but having once accepted the pigs as their teachers, they absorbed everything that they were told, and passed it on to the other animals by simple arguments. They were unfailing in their attendance at the secret meetings in the barn, and led the singing of 'Beasts of England', with which the meetings always ended. Now, as it turned out, the Rebellion was achieved much earlier and more
easily than anyone had expected. In past years Mr. Jones, although a hard master, had been a capable farmer, but of late he had fallen on evil days. He had become much disheartened after losing money in a lawsuit, and had taken to drinking more than was good for him. For whole days at a time he would lounge in his Windsor chair in the kitchen,
reading the newspapers, drinking, and occasionally feeding Moses on crusts of bread soaked in beer. His men were idle and dishonest, the fields were full of weeds, the buildings wanted roofing, the hedges were neglected, and the animals were underfed. June came and the hay was almost ready for cutting. On Midsummer's Eve, which was a Saturday, Mr. Jones went into Willingdon and got so drunk at the Red Lion that he did not come back till midday on Sunday. The men had milked the cows in the early morning and then had gone out rabbiting, without bothering to feed the animals. When Mr. Jones got back he immediately went to sleep on the drawing-room sofa with the News of the
World over his face, so that when evening came, the animals were still unfed. At last they could stand it no longer. One of the cows broke in the door of the store-shed with her horn and all the animals began to help themselves from the bins. It was just then that Mr. Jones woke up. The next moment he and his four men were in the store-shed with
whips in their hands, lashing out in all directions. This was more than the hungry animals could bear. With one accord, though nothing of the kind had been planned beforehand, they flung themselves upon their tormentors. Jones and his men suddenly found themselves being butted and kicked from all sides. The situation was quite out of their
control. They had never seen animals behave like this before, and this sudden uprising of creatures whom they were used to thrashing and maltreating just as they chose, frightened them almost out of their wits. After only a moment or two they gave up trying to defend themselves and took to their heels. A minute later all five of them were in full flight down the cart-track that led to the main road, with the animals pursuing them in triumph. Mrs. Jones looked out of the farm by another way. Moses sprang off his perch and flapped after her, croaking loudly. Meanwhile the
animals had chased Jones and his men out on to the road and slammed the five-barred gate behind them. And so, almost before they knew what was happening, the Rebellion had been successfully carried through: Jones was expelled, and the Manor Farm was theirs. For the first few minutes the animals could hardly believe in their good fortune. Their
first act was to gallop in a body right round the boundaries of the farm, as though to make quite sure that no human being was hiding anywhere upon it; then they raced back to the farm buildings to wipe out the last traces of Jones's hated reign. The harness-room at the end of the stables was broken open; the bits, the nose-rings, the dog-chains, the
cruel knives with which Mr. Jones had been used to castrate the pigs and lambs, were all flung down the well. The reins, the halters, the blinkers, the blinkers, the degrading nosebags, were thrown on to the rubbish fire which was burning in the yard. So were the whips. All the animals capered with joy when they saw the whips going up in flames. Snowball also threw on to the fire the ribbons with which the horses' manes and tails had usually been decorated on market days. "Ribbons," he said, "should be considered as clothes, which are the mark of a human being. All animals should go naked." When Boxer heard this he fetched the small straw hat which he wore in summer to keep the flies out of his ears,
and flung it on to the fire with the rest. In a very little while the animals had destroyed everything that reminded them of Mr. Jones. Napoleon then led them back to the store-shed and served out a double ration of corn to everybody, with two biscuits for each dog. Then they sang 'Beasts of England' from end to end seven times running, and after that
they settled down for the night and slept as they had never slept before. But they woke at dawn as usual, and suddenly remembering the glorious thing that had happened, they all raced out into the pasture together. A little way down the pasture there was a knoll that commanded a view of most of the farm. The animals rushed to the top of it and
gazed round them in the clear morning light. Yes, it was theirs—everything that they could see was theirs! In the ecstasy of that thought they gambolled round and round, they hurled themselves into the air in great leaps of excitement. They rolled in the dew, they cropped mouthfuls of the sweet summer grass, they kicked up clods of the black earth and snuffed its rich scent. Then they made a tour of inspection of the whole farm and surveyed with speechless admiration the ploughland, the hayfield, the orchard, the pool, the spinney. It was as though they had never seen these things before, and even now they could hardly believe that it was all their own. Then they filed back to the farm
buildings and halted in silence outside the door of the farmhouse. That was theirs too, but they were frightened to go inside. After a moment, however, Snowball and Napoleon butted the door open with their shoulders and the animals entered in single file, walking with the utmost care for fear of disturbing anything. They tiptoed from room to room,
afraid to speak above a whisper and gazing with a kind of awe at the unbelievable luxury, at the beds with their feather mattresses, the looking-glasses, the horsehair sofa, the Brussels carpet, the lithograph of Queen Victoria over the drawing-room mantelpiece. They were just coming down the stairs when Mollie was discovered to be missing. Going back, the others found that she had remained behind in the best bedroom. She had taken a piece of blue ribbon from Mrs. Jones's dressing-table, and was holding it against her shoulder and admiring herself in the glass in a very foolish manner. The others reproached her sharply, and they went outside. Some hams hanging in the kitchen were taken
out for burial, and the barrel of beer in the scullery was stove in with a kick from Boxer's hoof, otherwise nothing in the house was touched. A unanimous resolution was passed on the spot that the farmhouse should be preserved as a museum. All were agreed that no animal must ever live there. The animals had their breakfast, and then Snowball and
Napoleon called them together again. "Comrades," said Snowball, "it is half-past six and we have a long day before us. Today we begin the hay harvest. But there is another matter that must be attended to first." The pigs now revealed that during the past three months they had taught themselves to read and write from an old spelling book which had
belonged to Mr. Jones's children and which had been thrown on the rubbish heap. Napoleon sent for pots of black and white paint and led the way down to the five-barred gate that gave on to the main road. Then Snowball (for it was Snowball who was best at writing) took a brush between the two knuckles of his trotter, painted out MANOR FARM from the top bar of the gate and in its place painted ANIMAL FARM. This was to be the name of the farm from now onwards. After this they caused to be set against the end wall of the big barn. They explained that by their studies of the past three months the
pigs had succeeded in reducing the principles of Animalism to Seven Commandments. These Seven Commandments would now be inscribed on the wall; they would form an unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live for ever after. With some difficulty (for it is not easy for a pig to balance himself on a ladder) Snowball climbed
up and set to work, with Squealer a few rungs below him holding the paint-pot. The Commandments were written on the tarred wall in great white letters that could be read thirty yards away. They ran thus: The Seven Commandments 1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. 2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend. 3. No animal
shall wear clothes. 4. No animal shall sleep in a bed. 5. No animal shall drink alcohol. 6. No animal shall kill any other animal. 7. All animals are equal. It was very neatly written, and except that "friend" was written "freind" was written "freind" and one of the "S's" was the wrong way round, the spelling was correct all the way through. Snowball read it aloud for the benefit of the others. All the animals nodded in complete agreement, and the cleverer ones at once began to learn the Commandments by heart. "Now, comrades," cried Snowball, throwing down the paint-brush, "to the hayfield! Let us make it a point of honour to get in the harvest more quickly than Jones and his men could do." But at this moment
the three cows, who had seemed uneasy for some time past, set up a loud lowing. They had not been milked for twenty-four hours, and their udders were almost bursting. After a little thought, the pigs sent for buckets and milked the cows fairly successfully, their trotters being well adapted to this task. Soon there were five buckets of frothing creamy
milk at which many of the animals looked with considerable interest. "What is going to happen to all that milk?" said someone. "Jones used sometimes to mix some of it in our mash," said one of the hens. "Never mind the milk, comrades!" cried Napoleon, placing himself in front of the buckets. "That will be attended to. The having large and have the hardest in the property of Animal Forms. Chanten 2 Animal Forms.
Comrade Snowball will lead the way. I shall follow in a few minutes. Forward, comrades! The hay is waiting." So the animal strooped down to the hayfield to begin the harvest, and when they came back in the evening it was noticed that the milk had disappeared. Read more of Animal Farm - Chapter 1 Animal Farm - Chapter 2 Animal Farm - Chapter 2 Animal Farm - Chapter 3 Animal Farm - Chapter 4 Animal Farm - Chapter 5 Animal Farm - Chapter 6 Animal Farm - Chapter 10 For a broad summary of the novel and an analysis of its key themes, click here. For an overview of the novel's key characters and what they
represent, click here. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit,
provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of
the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. We're getting everything ready for your patience! Photos and videos are a great way to add visuals to your wiki.
Find videos about your topic by exploring Wikia's Video Library.