

Week 1 - Context

- George Orwell was the pen name of Eric Blair (1903-1950).
- The book is without doubt intended to refer to the Russian Revolution and society following events of 1917.
- The book is considered a novella rather than a full-sized novel.
- The novella is an allegory of events in Russia from just before the October Revolution in 1917 to the 1940s.
- Animal Farm can also be read as a general criticism (disapproval) of any dictator and tyrant
- The Russian Tsar Nicholas II was a monarch equivalent to the British King (George V) at the time. He was deposed (got rid of) by the Revolution.

Week 2 - Punctuation: Direct Speech

The **general rules of direct speech** are:

- Each new character's speech starts on a new line.
- Speech is opened with speech marks.
- Each line of speech starts with a capital.
- The line of speech ends with a comma, exclamation mark or question mark.
- A reporting clause is used at the end (said Jane, shouted Paul, replied Mum).
- A full stop goes after the reporting clause.
- If the direct speech in the sentence is broken up by information about who is speaking, add in a comma or question mark or exclamation mark to end the first piece of speech and a full stop or another comma before the second piece (before the speech marks), for example: "It's lovely," she sighed, "but I can't afford it right now."
"I agree!" said Kate. "Let's go!"

Week 3 - Key Quotations

"All animals are equal but some are more equal than others,"

"Four legs good, two legs bad."

"Several of them would have protested if they could have found the right arguments."

"Can you not understand that liberty is worth more than just ribbons?"

"His answer to every problem, every setback was "I will work harder!"

Week 4 - Techniques

Allegory - a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one. *e.g. Animal Farm is an allegory for communist Russia.*

Fable - a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.

Microcosm- a community, place, or situation regarded as showing in miniature the characteristics of something much larger. *e.g. Orwell uses the farm as a microcosm for world politics.*

Satire - the use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or bad behaviour, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues. *e.g. Orwell satirises the communist politics of the Soviet Union.*

Symbolism - the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities *e.g. Snowball symbolises Stalin.*

Week 5 - Key Characters and what they symbolise

Boxer- the workers (proletariat) of Russia.

Mr Jones- Tsar Nicholas II, the previous, cruel, leader of Russia.

Napoleon- Stalin, communist leader of Russia from 1922.

Napoleon's dogs- Stalin's secret police who carried out murder and torture to ensure he stayed in power.

Old Major- Karl Marx/Lenin, the founder of communism/first communist leader of Russia.

Snowball- Trotsky, tried to rise up against Stalin and was exiled from Russia.

Squealer- Russia's propaganda machine.