

ANIMAL FARM AS A SATIRE NOVEL



"Dissemination of Education for Knowledge, Science & Culture"

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

A Project on : "Animal Farm As A Satire Novel"

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of

Bachelor of Arts

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the project report entitled "**Animal Farm As A Satire Novel**" is my original work and has been carried out by me under the guidance of **Mrs. Padma V Patil**. This project report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of B.A-III.

I further declare that this work has not been submitted to any other university or institution for the award of any degree, diploma, or certificate.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the following students have successfully completed the Group Project work entitled "**Animal Farm As A Satire Novel**" for the academic year 2025-26 as the partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

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A Project on : **"Animal Farm As A Satire Novel"**

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A Project on :“Animal Farm As A Satire Novel”

Objectives:

1. To understand.....
2. To comprehend.....
3. To study.....
4. To know.....
5. To learn.....

Introduction

George Orwell wrote *Animal Farm* in 1945 as a powerful political satire. The novel tells the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human owner in the hope of creating a society where all animals are equal and free. However, as the story develops, the pigs who take control of the farm become just as cruel and oppressive as the humans they replaced. Through this simple animal story, Orwell criticizes the corruption of power and the failure of political ideals.

Animal Farm is considered a satirical novel because it uses humor, irony, and exaggeration to criticize political systems and human behavior. The events and characters in the novel represent real historical figures and events, especially the rise of dictatorship after the Russian Revolution. For example, the character Napoleon symbolizes the dictatorship of Joseph Stalin, while Snowball represents Leon Trotsky. By using animals instead of humans, Orwell makes the political message easier to understand and more impactful. The novel highlights themes such as power, corruption, betrayal, and the manipulation of truth. The famous line "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" shows how leaders can twist language and rules to maintain control. Orwell uses satire to warn readers about the dangers of totalitarian governments and blind loyalty to leaders.

Therefore, *Animal Farm* is not only an entertaining story but also a meaningful political satire that reflects real events and human weaknesses. It remains one of the most important satirical novels in modern literature and continues to teach readers about the misuse of power and the importance of freedom and equality.

George Orwell



George Orwell was one of the most important English writers of the 20th century. His real name was Eric Arthur Blair, and he was born on June 25, 1903, in Motihari, Bihar, India, during British rule. He later adopted the pen name "George Orwell" for his literary work. Orwell was educated in England at Eton College, but he did not attend university. Instead, he worked as a police officer in Burma (now Myanmar), which was then a British colony. His experience there made him strongly critical of imperialism and injustice, themes that appear in many of his writings. He is best known for his famous novels *Animal Farm* (1945) and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). *Animal Farm* is a political satire that uses animals to criticize the Russian Revolution and dictatorship, while *Nineteen Eighty-Four* presents a frightening picture of a totalitarian society controlled by surveillance and propaganda. Orwell's writing is admired for its clarity, honesty, and strong political message. He believed that literature should reflect truth and expose social and political problems. His essays, such as "Politics and the English Language," also highlight the importance of clear communication.

Despite facing financial struggles and health problems throughout his life, Orwell continued to write passionately. He suffered from tuberculosis and died on January 21, 1950, at the age of 46. Today, George Orwell is remembered as a powerful voice against oppression, inequality, and misuse of power.

Satirical Novel

In the previous module we have seen the definitions and characteristics of Historical and Psychological Novel. In this module, we are going to study Satirical Novel and Epistolary Novel in detail. Satirical Novel comprises all the characteristic features of a satire. Therefore we will have to study in detail about satire. Here we will try to understand the origin of satire, the definition of satire, some additional details of satire, types of satire, literary devices used in satire and some examples of satirical novel.

Origin of Satire:

The term is from the Latin *satura*, meaning “full” or “sated” and was derived from *satis*, meaning “enough” or “sufficient.” Satire began with the early Greek poets when they were supposed to tax weaknesses and correct vice. As a distinct literary form, satire was the creation of the Romans and was subsequently present in many forms of medieval literature. In *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer used this technique for “The Miller’s Tale” and “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale.” During the Renaissance, satire was more often prose rather than poetry. The Golden Age of Satire in England was the early Eighteenth Century when Henry Fielding, Jonathan Swift, Alexander Pope, John Gay and others dominated British letters.

Definition of a Satire: Satire is a literary device for the artful ridicule of a folly or vice as a means of exposing or correcting it. The subject of satire is generally human frailty, as it manifests in people’s behavior or ideas as well as societal institutions or other. In the previous module we have seen the definitions and characteristics of Creations. Satire utilizes tones of amusement, contempt, scorn, or indignation Towards a flawed subject with the hope of creating awareness and subsequent change.

Satire is the use of humor, irony, sarcasm, or ridicule to criticize something or Someone. Public figures, such as politicians, are often the subject of satire, but Satirists can take aim at other targets as well—from societal conventions to Government policies. Satire is an entertaining form of social commentary, and it Occurs in many forms: there are satirical novels, poems, and essays, as well as Satirical films, shows, and cartoons. Alec Baldwin’s impersonation of Donald Trump On Saturday Night Live is an example of satire.

❖ Characteristics Features Of Satire:

- Satire is a bit unusual as a literary term because it can be used to describe both a Literary device and the specific genre of literature that makes use of the device. Just like a comedy is comedic because it uses comedy, a satire is satirical Because it uses satire. For most of this entry, the word "satire" will be used refer To the device, not the genre.
- Satire often coincides with the use of other literary devices, such As irony, malapropism, overstatement, understatement, juxtaposition, Or parody.
- Though most satires seek to draw laughter, there are many unfunny or even dark Examples of satire, such as George Orwell's Animal Farm or Bret Easton Ellis's American Psycho, which criticize communist societies and capitalist Societies, respectively.

Animal form as a satire novel

Animal Farm is a direct comparison to the Russian Revolution and its aftermath, as a result of Joseph Stalin's Communism. Orwell substitutes animals for humans, so the big concepts of communism are shown on the farm. Communism is meant to be a society where all people are equal, yet the revolution of the Russians results in certain people having more power over others, but those people are the same kind of tyrants. The pigs take over because they think that they are the smartest and in order to protect them, it's eventually decided to reserve the best food for them. George Orwell's Animal Farm uses satire to show the political ideology and the misuse of power in communistic society.

Orwell uses humorous satire by making the setting on a farm and the characters animals. Orwell, then, shows the perversion of political ideals and the corruption of power which occur in human societies. The power of the new society becomes corrupt and the people aren't all equal. Napoleon, Stalin, slaughters the animals that disagree with him and who don't follow his orders. Napoleon slaughters the animals to strike fear into the other animals so that they don't rebel. When Napoleon accuses Snowball of destroying the windmill, even though it wasn't him. This shows that Napoleon even lies when it comes to making Snowball look bad to the other animals.

The main characters are animals but their failings are all too recognizably Human. They begin with an attempt to form a new society, separated from the Tyranny of humans and established on the principle of equality and freedom for Everyone, but it all goes wrong as the pigs take over. The animals, Russian people, try to create a new society and government but the new system didn't work well as certain groups took over. Protected by the brute power of the dogs, the pigs give themselves all manner of comforts and even luxuries for themselves, while treating the other animals in the same way as slavery and how they suffered under humans.

Napoleon, Stalin, uses the dogs, which is the KGB, to scare the people into obeying him and following his orders. Orwell uses irony throughout that goes hand-in-hand with satire. Major's words in the beginning of the book reflect throughout the novel, "all men are enemies. . . we must not resemble them. . . no animal must ever tyrannize his own" according to Robert Girard's, because they become a blueprint for the very behaviors of Napoleon once he's established his dominance over his own.

The commandments change as his Control over the animals changes and erases the original purposes of the revolution. The farmhouse, a symbol of the evil of man, is co-opted by Napoleon as his own and Helps transform him into the being indistinguishable from men. The windmill, a Symbol of the Revolution, becomes the means to manage the animals. Rebuilding it Certainly focuses their energies on one task and not on their health, but in making Snowball the enemy for its destruction, Napoleon convinces the animals into being More determined and faithful to their cause by telling them that they do not want to Work under the tyranny of Jones or one of his agents. Yet, in the end, they are Exchanging one tyrant for another.

Throughout the whole novel a strong phrase is said, "All animals are equal, but Some animals are more equal than others.", this phrase shows what the animals Originally tried to create in the beginning of the novel. When the new society started To build it became less and less equal, this is stated when Orwell states, "The Creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man Again; but already it was impossible to say which was which.", this shows that the Original society was starting to resurface but the pigs being man instead. Orwell's point that the pigs are really just the same as the human tyrants they Replaced is expressed in the ending of the novel, as the pigs mingle with humans to The extent that it becomes impossible to distinguish between them and the humans. Although the specific animals and events that he uses clearly resemble particular Parallels in the real world, their status as symbols allows them to signify beyond Specific times and places.

Summary

The novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell is one of the most powerful examples of political satire in English literature. It was published in 1945 and presents a story about farm animals who rebel against their human owner. On the surface, it appears to be a simple animal story, but it is actually a deep satire on politics, especially the events of the Russian Revolution and the rise of dictatorship in the Soviet Union. The story begins on Manor Farm, owned by Mr. Jones, a careless and irresponsible farmer. The animals on the farm suffer from hunger, overwork, and neglect. One day, an old pig named Old Major gathers all the animals and inspires them with a vision of a society where animals live freely and equally, without human oppression. His speech represents the ideas of Karl Marx and encourages the animals to revolt.

After Old Major's death, two pigs, Snowball and Napoleon, take leadership roles and organize the rebellion. Eventually, the animals succeed in driving Mr. Jones away, and they rename the farm "Animal Farm." At first, the animals work together and create a system based on equality, following the Seven Commandments of Animalism. This phase of the story shows the hope and idealism of the early revolution. However, the situation gradually changes. Napoleon, who is power-hungry and cunning, drives Snowball out of the farm and becomes the sole leader. He begins to control all decisions and uses fear and propaganda to maintain his power. The pigs, who are supposed to be equal to the other animals, start enjoying privileges like living in the farmhouse and drinking alcohol. This shows how leaders can become corrupt once they gain authority.

Napoleon uses a pig named Squealer to spread lies and manipulate the other animals. Squealer convinces them that everything is happening for their benefit, even when their conditions worsen. The hardworking horse Boxer represents the common people who blindly trust their leaders and continue to work harder, believing in the slogan, "Napoleon is always right." Tragically, Boxer is eventually betrayed and sold when he becomes weak. The Seven Commandments are slowly changed by the pigs to suit their needs. For example, the rule "All animals are equal" is altered to "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." This clearly highlights the hypocrisy of those in power.

The pigs begin to resemble humans, the very beings they once rebelled against. By the end of the novel, the animals can no longer distinguish between the pigs and the humans. Napoleon starts cooperating with human farmers, showing that the revolution has completely failed. The farm returns to a state similar to its original condition, but with pigs as the new rulers instead of humans. As a satirical novel, *Animal Farm* criticizes the misuse of political power and exposes how revolutions can be betrayed by leaders who become dictators. Each character and event in the story represents real historical figures and incidents. For example, Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin, while Snowball represents Leon Trotsky. Through humor, irony, and allegory, Orwell reveals the dangers of corruption, propaganda, and blind obedience.

Theme

Animal Farm, written by George Orwell, is a powerful satirical novel that explores several important themes related to politics, society, and human nature. Through the story of animals on a farm, Orwell presents deep messages about power, corruption, equality, and manipulation. One of the central themes of the novel is the corruption of power. At the beginning, the animals rebel against Mr. Jones to create a society where all animals are equal. However, as time passes, the pigs—especially Napoleon—gain control and begin to misuse their power. They become selfish and start behaving like the humans they once opposed. This shows that power can easily corrupt individuals, especially when there is no control or accountability. Another important theme is the failure of equality. The animals initially believe in the principle that “All animals are equal.” But gradually, this idea is destroyed as the pigs take special privileges and dominate others. The famous line “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others” clearly reflects how equality is replaced by inequality and injustice.

The theme of propaganda and manipulation is also strongly highlighted in the novel. The character Squealer uses clever language to spread lies and convince the animals that everything the pigs do is right. This shows how leaders can control people by manipulating information and hiding the truth. It also emphasizes the danger of blind trust and lack of awareness. Another significant theme is the exploitation of the working class. Characters like Boxer represent hardworking and loyal individuals who give their best for the farm. Despite his dedication, Boxer is treated unfairly and eventually betrayed. This highlights how the powerful often exploit the weak for their own benefit. The novel also explores the theme of ignorance and lack of education. Most of the animals are unable to think critically or question authority. Because of this, they are easily controlled by the pigs. Orwell suggests that education and awareness are necessary to protect individuals from being misled.

Symbolism in Animal Farm

Animal Farm, written by George Orwell, is a powerful allegorical and satirical novel filled with symbolism. Orwell uses animals, objects, and events to represent real-life people, ideas, and historical events. Through symbolism, he makes complex political ideas easy to understand. One of the most important symbols in the novel is the farm itself, which represents a country or a political state.

The events that take place on the farm symbolize the changes that happen in a nation after a revolution. The rebellion of the animals reflects the Russian Revolution, where people rose against an unfair ruler.

➤ Pigs

The pigs in the story symbolize the ruling class or leaders. Characters like Napoleon represent dictators who misuse power, while Snowball represents leaders with positive ideas who are removed from power. The pigs' gradual transformation into human-like figures shows how leaders can become corrupt.

➤ Boxer

Boxer, the horse, symbolizes the hardworking and loyal working class. His strength and dedication represent the common people who support the system but are often exploited. His tragic end shows how such individuals are used and then discarded. Dogs The dogs in the novel symbolize the military or police force. Napoleon trains them to protect his power and control the other animals through fear. They represent how force is used by leaders to maintain authority.

➤ Sheep

The sheep symbolize the unthinking masses who blindly follow what they are told. They keep repeating slogans like "Four legs good, two legs bad," showing how people can be easily influenced without understanding the truth.

Importance of Animal Farm

Animal Farm, written by George Orwell, is one of the most important and influential novels in modern literature. Though it appears to be a simple story about animals, it carries deep meanings about politics, society, and human nature. Its importance lies in the powerful messages it delivers through satire and symbolism. One of the main reasons for the importance of Animal Farm is its criticism of political systems.

The novel clearly shows how leaders can misuse power and become corrupt. It reflects the events of the Russian Revolution and the rise of dictatorship. Through this, Orwell warns readers about the dangers of blind trust in leaders and unchecked authority. Another important aspect is its focus on equality and justice. The animals start their revolution with the idea that all are equal, but this principle is slowly destroyed. The novel highlights how inequality can grow when power is concentrated in the hands of a few. It teaches readers the importance of fairness and standing against injustice.

The novel is also important because it shows the role of propaganda and manipulation. Through characters like Squealer, Orwell explains how information can be twisted to control people. This is highly relevant in today's world, where media and communication play a major role in shaping opinions. Animal Farm also emphasizes the importance of education and awareness. The animals who cannot think critically are easily controlled by the pigs.

This teaches readers that knowledge and awareness are essential to protect oneself from being misled or exploited. Another reason for its importance is its universal message. Although the story is based on a specific historical event, its themes apply to all societies and time periods. Issues like corruption, greed, and misuse of power exist everywhere, making the novel relevant even today.

Conclusion

In conclusion, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that uses a simple story to deliver deep and meaningful messages about society, politics, and human nature. Through the lives of farm animals, Orwell successfully presents the dangers of power, corruption, and inequality. The novel clearly shows how a revolution that begins with hope and good intentions can end in failure when leaders become selfish and power-hungry. The pigs, who once fought for equality, gradually turn into oppressors, proving that power without responsibility leads to corruption. This reflects real-life situations where leaders misuse their authority for personal gain. Another important idea highlighted in the conclusion is the failure of equality.

The animals dream of a fair society, but their lack of awareness and education allows the pigs to dominate them. This teaches readers that equality can only be maintained when people are informed, united, and willing to question authority. Orwell also emphasizes the role of propaganda and manipulation. Through the character of Squealer, the novel shows how truth can be twisted and used as a tool to control others. This reminds readers to think critically and not blindly believe everything they hear. Moreover, *Animal Farm* remains relevant even today because the issues it addresses—such as corruption, injustice, and misuse of power—still exist in many parts of the world. The novel serves as a warning and encourages readers to be aware of their rights and responsibilities.

In the end, *Animal Farm* is not just a story about animals but a reflection of real human society. Through his brilliant use of satire and symbolism, George Orwell leaves a lasting impact on readers, teaching them the importance of truth, equality, and justice.