

What is *Animal Farm* about and why did George Orwell write it?

"Animal Farm" is a political allegory written by George Orwell. It was published in 1945. It is a satirical novella that uses a group of farm animals as characters to depict the events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the subsequent Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. The novel serves as a critique of totalitarianism, specifically the corruption and abuse of power that often accompanies such regimes.

The meaning behind "Animal Farm" lies in its portrayal of the dangers of totalitarianism and the betrayal of revolutionary ideals. Orwell uses the animals on the farm to represent various groups and figures from the Russian Revolution. For example, the pigs, led by the cunning and manipulative Napoleon, symbolise the Bolsheviks and the rise of Stalin. The other animals represent different social classes and aspects of society.

Through the story, Orwell exposes the corruption of power and how revolutions can be co-opted by individuals seeking personal gain. The novel showcases the gradual erosion of the animals' original principles of equality and justice, as the pigs take on human traits and exploit their fellow animals for their own benefit. The animals, who initially rebelled against their human oppressors, ultimately find themselves oppressed once again, but this time by their own kind.

Orwell wrote "Animal Farm" as a scathing criticism of the Soviet Union under Stalin's leadership and a warning against the dangers of totalitarianism in general. By using animals and a simple allegorical narrative, Orwell effectively conveys complex political ideas and satirises the hypocrisy and corruption that can arise in political movements. The novel remains a timeless and powerful commentary on power, oppression, and the distortion of revolutionary ideals.

