

All the animals were looking forward to the new, happy lives they would lead when Mr Jones's rule over them came to an end.

When the animals get rid of Mr Jones and take over the farm, they are excited by their new freedom. But can they run the farm with tools that are designed for humans? Will they be able to harvest the food that they need for the winter?

The farmers decide to band together to win back the farm for Mr Jones. Will the animals be able to fight them off? Can life on Animal Farm be as wonderful as they had all hoped for – or will new dangers threaten their happiness?

Lexile® Level	AR Level	Word Count
940L	5.7	5,711

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ISBN 978-1-912464-46-3



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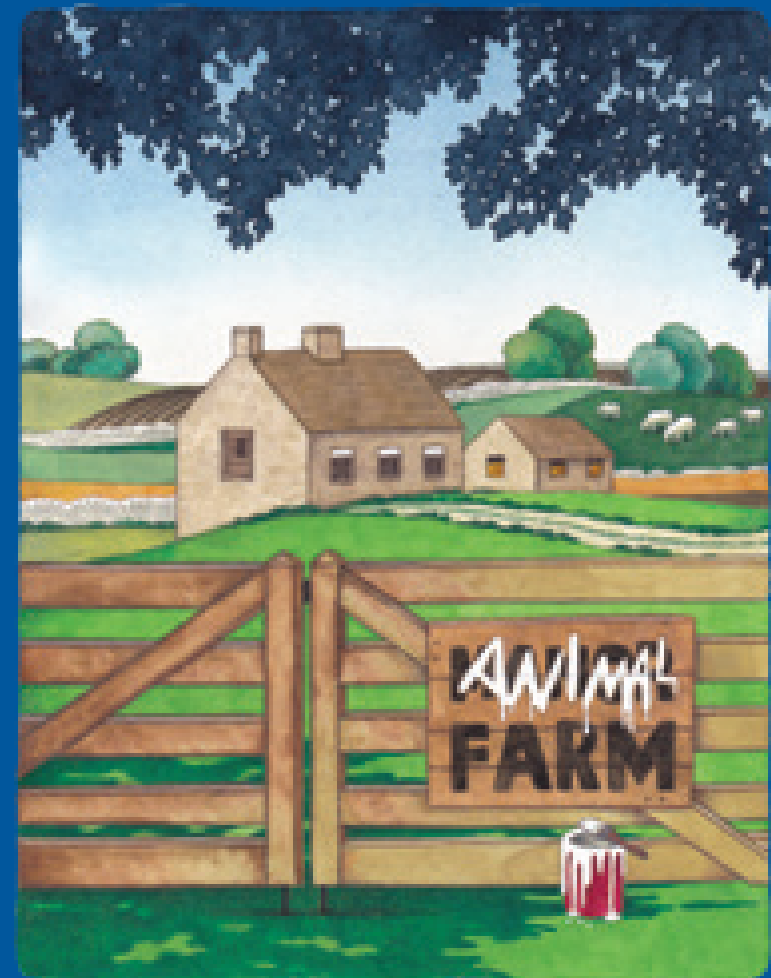
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ANIMAL FARM

GEORGE ORWELL

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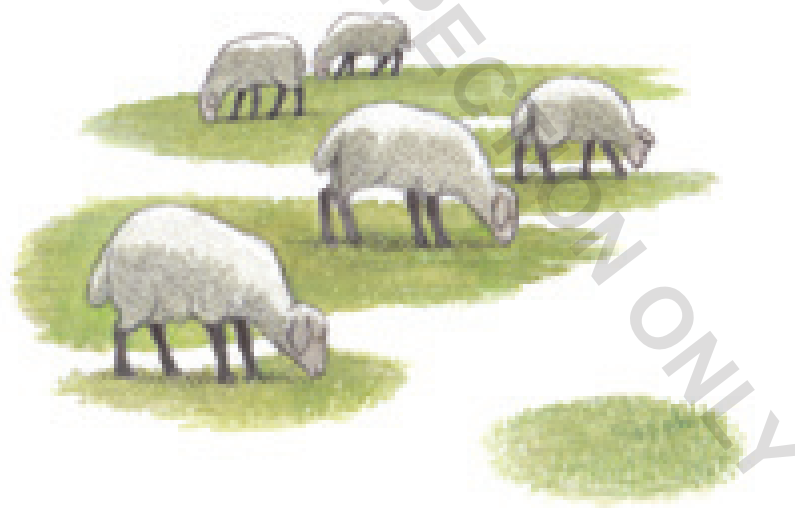
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Retold by Tony Evans
Illustrated by Angelo Ruta



CONTENTS

The Characters	4
Animal Farm	7
Looking Closer	55



THE CHARACTERS



Mr Jones

Mr Jones is the owner of Animal Farm. He treats the animals badly and is often drunk. How long will it be before the animals throw him out?

Old Major

Old Major is a wise pig who is respected by all the other animals. What important message will he give them when he calls them to a meeting in the barn?



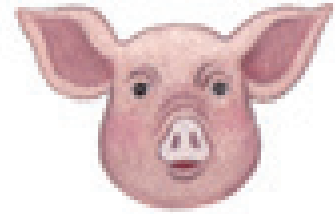
Napoleon

Napoleon is one of the cleverest pigs. He is rather fierce and is used to getting his own way. What will happen when he becomes the most powerful animal on the farm?



Snowball

Snowball is another important pig, full of ideas about making life on the farm easier for the animals. When he disagrees with Napoleon, which pig will win?



Boxer

Boxer is a powerful and hard-working carthorse who always does his best. He is looking forward to a well-deserved retirement. Will he be able to enjoy his old age?



Clover

Another strong and kind carthorse, Clover is Boxer's best friend. She is worried about some of the problems that the animals face. Will her future be a happy one?



The sheep, cows, and other animals

The animals are delighted when the farm becomes theirs. But troubles lie ahead for all of them. Will they be able to overcome their difficulties and make Animal Farm the home of their dreams?





ANIMAL FARM

Mr Jones, the owner of the Manor Farm, had gone to bed drunk as usual. As soon as the light in his bedroom went out there was a stirring and a fluttering all through the farm buildings. Word had gone around during the day that Old Major, one of the most respected and intelligent pigs on the farm, wished to tell everyone about a strange dream which had disturbed his sleep the night before.

It had been agreed that the animals should all meet in the big barn. Old Major took his place on a raised platform at one end, and before long the other animals began to arrive. First were the other pigs, who settled down in front of the platform. Then came the two large carthorses, Boxer and Clover, followed by the three donkeys and a large number of sheep, cows, hens and ducks. When everyone had settled down Old Major began to speak.

‘Comrades, I have had a long life, and I do not think that I shall be with you for many months longer. Before I die I wish to pass on to you my ideas about our life here on this earth, ideas which I have had years to think about. What is the nature of the life that we animals lead? Let us face it, our lives are miserable and short. We are given as little food as possible, and expected to work hard all the time. Many of us are slaughtered for food while we are still young and healthy. No animal is free. And this is all the fault of the humans who control our lives. It is clear that all the bad things in our lives spring from the rule of Man. If we could get rid of Man, then what we produce – the corn, the apples, the milk – would be our own. Almost overnight we could become rich and free. What then must we do? Why, work night and day, body and soul, for the overthrow of the human race! That is my message to you, comrades: Rebellion!’

When Old Major paused for breath, he

could see that all the animals were listening to him intently. He moved to the front of the platform and continued.

‘The dream that I had last night was of the earth as it will be when Man has vanished, and all the animals live happy and comfortable lives. Now, I have one more thing to say to you. Remember that you will always be the enemy of Man. Whatever goes on two legs is bad. Whatever goes on four legs, or has wings, is good. Even when you have defeated Man, you should never imitate him. No animal must ever live in a house, or sleep in a bed, or wear clothes, or drink alcohol, or smoke tobacco, or touch money, or engage in trade. All the habits of Man are evil. And, above all, no animal must ever rule over his own kind. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers. No animal must ever kill any other animal. All animals are equal.’

As Old Major finished speaking the animals became wildly excited. Unfortunately

After *Animal Farm* was published Orwell made it clear that his fable was not just about the events in Russia between 1917 and 1945. He was also thinking about any situation in history where people started out with good intentions, aiming to help others improve their lives, but ended up by being greedy and selfish, thinking only of themselves. *Animal Farm* sends us a powerful warning, whilst at the same time entertaining us with a clever, touching and unforgettable story.

Filling in the spaces

The loss of so many of George Orwell's original words is a sad but necessary part of the shortening process. We have had to make some difficult decisions, omitting subplots and details, some important, some less so, but all interesting. We have also, at times, taken the liberty of combining two events into one, or of giving a character words or actions that originally belong to another. The points below will fill in some of the gaps, but nothing can beat the original.

- One of the pigs, called Squealer, spends his time persuading the animals that everything that Napoleon says and does is right. When

there is a great shortage of food, Squealer tells them that in fact there is more food to eat than ever before. Squealer also secretly changes the commandments to suit the pigs. He represents the Russian officials who worked for Stalin to produce 'propaganda' or false information which was then given to the people.

- As well as Mr Jones, two other farmers feature in the original: Mr Frederick, who represents Hitler, and Mr Pilkington, who represents the allied nations in World War II, including Britain and America. Napoleon's dealings with the two farmers are similar to Russia's relationships with Germany and the allies during World War II.
- Mollie the pony does not like working on *Animal Farm* and she eventually runs away to live in comfort amongst the humans, who make a fuss of her because she looks pretty. She represents the Russians who rejected the Revolution and moved to other countries.
- The pigs tell the animals that when they get old they will be able to retire and will be given plenty of food, and have their own field to graze