

ANIMAL FARM

A scenic view of a farm. A paved path leads from the foreground through green fields and trees towards a large, two-story house with a gabled roof. The sky is clear and blue. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and rural.

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INTRODUCTION

This year we read three books. This is an assignment for the second book. This assignment has two parts. The first part is a storymap about the elements of fiction and includes, for example, the characters and components of the Freytag's pyramid. The second part is the outline of an essay. This consists of a thesis statement and three arguments to support this statement. There will also be a short conclusion.

[I have chosen not to use the storymap and instead put all the different parts of the storymap under each other. I did this because a lot of text couldn't be seen in the story map due to the amount of text.]

There are a few sources I have used for this assignment. At the end of this document there is a list of all the sources I used for each part.

This is the link to the page about this assignment on my website:
<https://maasvermeulen.wordpress.com/bookassignment-2-engels/>

“All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.”

STORY MAP

Characters

Protagonist: The animals on the farm, as a group, are the protagonists of this book. They want to achieve equality and freedom for all animals.

Antagonist: The most obvious and important antagonist is Mr. Jones. The animals chased Mr. Jones away from the farm because they thought it was unfair that the animals had to do all the work, while Mr. Jones profited from them.



Main setting

Where: The story takes place at the Manor Farm, a small farm in the English countryside.

Social setting: The issue of changing class-structures and social hierarchy is an important theme throughout the book, both before the Rebellion and more importantly after the Rebellion.

When: Between 1917 and 1953.



Major conflicts

Internal conflict

Napoleon starts to execute other animals. All the animals remember the Seven Commandments in which was stated not to kill other animals. But the other animals are not sure what to do: to react or to be afraid.

External conflict(s)

- Power struggle between the farm animals and Mr. Jones (the humans)
- Power struggle between Snowball and Napoleon
- Power struggle between the animals and the pigs

Rising action

1. The animals on the farm turn against Mr. Jones, the owner of Manor Farm, and establish 'the Animal Farm'. This action is called the Rebellion.

2. After the Rebellion, the animals write the Seven Commandments and all seems to go well. But the pigs take control of the farm (especially Napoleon) and desire more power. Napoleon is exploiting the other animals.
3. Napoleon and Snowball compete for power.

Climax

The climax is when Napoleon makes Snowball leave the farm. He claims that the pigs are the only animals that can make decisions from then on.

Falling action

1. Napoleon starts to blame Snowball for the incidents that are happening on the farm.
2. The pigs start to do human things, such as drinking and wearing clothes.
3. When Boxer (a horse) is hurt, Napoleon sends him to a horse slaughter instead of a hospital.

Resolution

Napoleon continues with the consolidation of his power by killing his enemies. The other animals continue to obey Napoleon and the pigs, out of fear. The name of the farm is changed back to Manor Farm.

Themes

One of the most important themes is suppression. In the beginning all the animals were equal and there was not really a leader with more power than the others. Over time, the pigs take over the control of the farm. They had all the power and no one could do something about it. The other animals feared the power of the pigs.

Symbolism-imagery

The book Animal Farm symbolizes Russia and the Soviet Union under Communist Party rule. Napoleon for instance represents Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin and Snowball represents Trotsky, who was banned from Russia.

George Orwell depicts people as animals. In his book he refers, for example, to power struggles, intimidation, political terror and manipulation.

LITERARY ESSAY - SYMBOLISM

Introduction

Although the Russian Revolution is not mentioned in the book one single time in the book, the parallels between the Russian Revolution and the book are obvious and intriguing. My thesis statement is: There are many parallels between the Russian Revolution, communism, and the story of Animal Farm.

Argument 1

The first parallel is when there is dissatisfaction with the animals on the farm. This unhappiness of the animals - and taking over the farm - refers to Lenin pointing out to the working class that there was a big difference in wealth and that they work hard while their bosses get very rich.

“Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plow, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals.” (page 19)

Argument 2

The second parallel has to do with Napoleon's guard dogs protecting him. Napoleon is a reference to Stalin and the dogs stand for the KGB. This is a violent organization that guarded state security. Because of this organization, no one dared to oppose Stalin and thus he retained all power.

Argument 3

The last parallel is about Napoleon chasing Snowball away from the farm. Snowball and Napoleon battle for power in Animal Farm. Snowball represents Leon Trotsky, who is eventually banned by the violent Stalin.

“Somehow it seemed as though the farm had grown richer without making the animals themselves any richer—except, of course, the pigs.” (page 86)

Conclusion

The arguments are illustrating my thesis in the introduction. There are many parallels with the history of Russia and Animal Farm. I find it intriguing that the parallels are so obvious, but not a word is spend on them.

SOURCES

For this assignment I used a few sources. They are listed below.

Book

For the `Characters` part:

Sparknotes

Publication date is unknown

Animal Farm - Antagonist

Retrieved on 12 February 2022

[URL](#)

For the `Major conflicts` part:

MasterClass

3 September 2021

Sharpen Your Writing Skills: Internal vs. External Conflict and 3 Tips For Adding Conflict to Your Writing

Retrieved on 14 February 2022

[URL](#)

Animal Farm Blog

Publication date is unknown

Spilled Ink: The Story of Animal Farm

Retrieved on 23 February 2022

[URL](#)

For the `Falling action` part:

Sparknotes

Publication date is unknown

Animal Farm - Key Facts

Retrieved on 19 February 2022

[URL](#)

For the `Themes` part:

Thoughtco

Jeffrey Somers

12 march 2019

'Animal Farm' Themes and Symbols

Retrieved on 12 February 2022

[URL](#)

For the Essay:

Sparknotes

Publication date is unknown

Animal Farm - Symbols

Retrieved on 2 March 2022

[URL](#)

Thoughtco

Jeffrey Somers

12 march 2019

'Animal Farm' Themes and Symbols

Retrieved on 2 March 2022

[URL](#)

History

History

28 February 2020

Russian Revolution

Retrieved on 28 February 2022

[URL](#)

Britannica

8 November 2021

Russian Revolution - Russian History [1917]

Retrieved on 28 February 2022

[URL](#)