Animal Farm
By George Orwell

Study Sheet

Animal Farm as a Fable, Allegory, and Satire

George Orwell wrote Animal Farm on various levels. He wrote it as a...

- Fable
- Political Satire
- Allegory

Fable
A short tale that is passed on by word of mouth that has animal characters with human qualities that teaches readers a moral and/or lesson

Animal Farm as a Fable...

- Characters are animals each with his/her own personality and human characteristics.
- The animals think, meet, talk, act, fight, disobey, and obey...

Allegory
The representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form.

An Allegory is...

- A form of extended metaphor
- A story with two meanings
  1. Literal meaning
  2. Symbolic meaning

- The underlying meaning of an allegory has moral, social, religious, or political significance
- In an allegory, characters are often personifications of abstract ideas as charity, greed, or envy.
- An allegory continues throughout the entire text

Animal Farm as an Allegory...

Animal Farm = History of Russia
From 1917-1943
Animalism = Communism
Characters = Russian Historical Figures
Satire

- A manner of writing that mixed a critical attitude with wit and humor in an effort to improve mankind and human institutions
- The writer tries to make the reader have a negative opinion about someone by laughing at them or making them seem ridiculous or foolish

Techniques of Satire used in Animal Farm

1. Exaggeration
   To enlarge, increase, or represent something beyond normal bounds so that it becomes ridiculous and its faults can be seen.

2. Parody
   To imitate the techniques and/or style of some person, place, or thing.

3. Ridicule
   Language or behavior intended to mock and humiliate

4. Reversal
   To present the opposite of the normal order (e.g., the order of events, hierarchical order).

Animal Farm as a Political Satire

- It is inspired by a personal grievance or passion for reform
- It is an attack on a group of people and social evil
- Exposes and ridicules Russian communism
- Aroused hatred for Russian leaders