George Orwell wrote *Animal Farm* on various levels....

He wrote it as a...

- Fable
- Allegory
- Political Satire

(We’ll discuss satire more later.)
Fable

Definition:
A short tale that passed on by word of mouth that has animal characters with human qualities that teach 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 such 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