

Symbolism in Animal Farm

Connect to the novel

FULL NAMES neatly written : _____

HOUR _____

Often, the names of characters in literature have been chosen very carefully by the author. The vast majority of the time, characters' names are somehow symbolic of the character, whether obvious or hidden to the reader. Such is the case with the animals of *Animal Farm*. Orwell has chosen the names of his animals very carefully, in order to emphasize and enhance the symbolism and significance of the allegory.

For each of the following characters, make an inference as to why Orwell chose these symbolic names for the animals. Brainstorm the meaning of the actual word, as if it was not a name; then explain the symbolism of the name as it connects with your thought process. There are no wrong answers here, unless your inferences are completely random and illogical. An example has been done for you.

EXAMPLE:

Snowball

a. **Thought Process:** *snow is white and pure; a snowball is a ball of snow, packed very hard, snowballs are made by packing on more and more layers of snow.*

b. **Symbolism of the name:** *Snowball could be a white or very light colored pig; his name could symbolize the "purity" of the farm--he could turn out to be the "good guy." He could have several layers, making him a talented pig and very important to the farm. He could also be very strong, packed with drive and power.*

1. Old Major

A. Thought Process

B. Symbolism of the Name:

2. Napoleon

A. Thought Process:

B. Symbolism of the Name:

3. Moses

A. Thought Process:

B. Symbolism of the Name:

4. Squealer

A. Thought Process:

B. Symbolism of the Name:

5. Boxer

A. Thought Process:

B. Symbolism of the Name: