

Week 1- Context

- George Orwell was the pen name of Eric Blair (1903-1950).
- The book is without doubt intended to refer to the Russian Revolution and society following events of 1917.
- The book is considered a novella rather than a full-sized novel.
- The novella is an allegory of events in Russia from just before the October Revolution in 1917 to the 1940s.
- Animal Farm can also be read as a general criticism (disapproval) of any dictator and tyrant.
- The Russian Tsar Nicholas II was a monarch equivalent to the British King (George V) at the time. He was deposed (removed from power) by the Revolution.

Week 2 - Punctuation: Direct Speech

The **general rules of direct speech** are:

- Each new character's speech starts on a new line.
- Speech is opened with speech marks.
- Each line of speech starts with a capital.
- The line of speech ends with a comma, exclamation mark or question mark.
- A reporting clause is used at the end (said Jane, shouted Paul, replied Mum).
- A full stop goes after the reporting clause.
- If the direct speech in the sentence is broken up by information about who is speaking, add in a comma or question mark or exclamation mark to end the first piece of speech and a full stop or another comma before the second piece (before the speech marks), for example: "It's lovely," she sighed, "but I can't afford it right now."
"I agree!" said Kate. "Let's go!"

Week 3 - Ambitious Vocabulary

Committee - a group appointed to decide things for a larger group that they are a part of.

Parasite - something or someone that benefits at another thing's expense.

Pre-eminent - more important or better than others.

Hoist - to raise something with a rope or pulley. Each day the animals hoist the flag on Manor farm.

Resolution - A firm decision to do or not do something.

Week 4 - Techniques

Allegory - a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one. *e.g. Animal Farm is an allegory for communist Russia.*

Fable - a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.

Microcosm - a community, place, or situation regarded as showing in miniature the characteristics of something much larger. *e.g. Orwell uses the farm as a microcosm for world politics - Russia has a particular focus with Manor Farm acting as a microcosm for Russia.*

Satire - the use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or bad behaviour, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues. *e.g. Orwell satirises the communist politics of the Soviet Union.*

Symbolism - the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities *e.g. Snowball symbolises Stalin.*

Week 5 - Key Characters and what they symbolise

Boxer - the workers (proletariat) of Russia.

Mr Jones - Tsar Nicholas II, the previous, cruel, leader of Russia.

Napoleon - Stalin, communist leader of Russia from 1922.

Napoleon's dogs - Stalin's secret police who carried out murder and torture to ensure he stayed in power.

Old Major - Karl Marx/Lenin, the founder of communism/first communist leader of Russia.

Snowball - Trotsky, tried to rise up against Stalin and was exiled from Russia.

Squealer - Russia's propaganda machine.