

Year 8 – Animal Farm – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

This novel by George Orwell tells the story of a group of animals who take control of a farm after they felt angry at how they were treated by the farmer. It explores how dictators come into power and how political propaganda is used. The novel is considered an allegory for the Russian/Soviet Revolution and allows students to consider how we use storytelling to understand complex historical events.

Key Vocabulary taught:

- Allegory
- Tyrant
- Rebellion
- Revolution
- Propaganda
- Corruption
- Cult of Personality

Key terminology taught:

- Characterisation
- Extended metaphor
- Fable
- Political Speech
- Rhetoric
- Personification
- Irony

If your child needs support

Vocabulary help:

- Use a dictionary to find definitions of the key vocabulary.
- Write sentences about the novel using the key vocabulary
- Create a crossword/wordsearch where the answers are the key vocabulary

Terminology help:

- Find examples of the key terminology in your current reading book.
- Create your own examples of the key terminology to help your understanding
- Create flashcards or visual diagrams to help you remember the definitions of the key terminology

General help:

- Create a fact file on the context of the Soviet Revolution
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8khfrd/resources/1>
- Animal Farm was made into an animate film. Watch on youtube to help your understanding of the plot and characters.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXkicQRI6vg>
- Create a storyboard for each chapter as you read to help with your understanding.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- Why do leaders become dictators?
- Do you think that you can have a society where everyone is truly equal?
- Are Revolutions a good idea even if lots of people get hurt or possibly die?

Challenging activities to complete:

- Research Marxism and Communism – find out what Karl Marx believed in and how it formed Communism.
- Create an animal-based allegory for another big historical event. For example, could you write a story about the rise of Hitler and Nazism but using animals?
- Read this article by George Orwell (https://orwell.ru/library/novels/Animal_Farm/english/efp_go) Explain why you think he struggled to publish Animal Farm?

Suggested further reading:

- **1984 by George Orwell**
Orwell's famous novel of a future Britain ran by a cruel dictatorship has become increasingly more popular and important since it was published in 1949. Orwell creates a terrifying vision of a dystopian world where people can be imprisoned or killed for even thinking negatively about those in power.