

In the name of Allah

A Guide to Animal Farm

(By George Orwell)

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Introduction

Eric Arthur Blair (25 June 1903 – 21 January 1950), better known by his pen name *George Orwell*, was an English novelist, essayist, journalist, and critic. His work is marked by lucid prose, awareness of social injustice, opposition to totalitarianism, and outspoken support of democratic socialism.

Orwell wrote literary criticism, poetry, fiction, and polemical journalism. He is best known for the allegorical novella *Animal Farm* (1945) and the dystopian novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). His non-fiction works, including *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937), documenting his experience of working class life in the north of England, and *Homage to Catalonia* (1938), an account of his experiences in the Spanish Civil War, are widely acclaimed, as are his essays on politics, literature, language, and culture. In 2008, *The Times* ranked him second on a list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".

Orwell's work continues to influence popular and political culture, and the term *Orwellian* – descriptive of totalitarian or authoritarian social practices – has entered the language together with many of his neologisms, including *Big Brother*, *Thought Police*, *Room 101*, *memory hole*, *newspeak*, *doublethink*, *paroles*, *unperson*, and *thought crime*.

Animal Farm is an allegorical novella by George Orwell, first published in England on 17 August 1945. According to Orwell, the book reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and then on into the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union. Orwell, a democratic socialist, was a critic of Joseph Stalin and hostile to Moscow-directed Stalinism, an attitude that was critically shaped by his experiences during the Spanish Civil War. The Soviet Union, he believed, had become a brutal dictatorship, built upon a cult of personality and enforced by a reign of terror. In a letter to Yvonne Davet, Orwell described Animal Farm as "a satirical tale against Stalin ("un contesatirique contre Staline"), and in his essay "Why I Write" (1946), wrote that Animal Farm was the first book in which he tried, "with full consciousness of what he was doing, "to fuse political purpose and artistic purpose into one whole".

In this collection, you will find some facts about Orwell's life and the social and historical context which gave rise to the emergence of Animal Farm. You will also find facts about the analyses of themes, symbols and characters of the story. At the final part, some quotations and questions on chapters of the book are included. We hope it can contribute to a better understanding of "Animal Farm".

The Authors

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