

event. The verb “promptly” conveys the dog’s lack of hesitation and complete loyalty to Napoleon, reflecting Napoleon’s ruthless personality as he raised the dogs intending to kill Snowball. The alliteration in the lexemes subtly illustrate the horrific violence through the consecutive harsh “t” sound.

- A link between Animal Farm and Manor Farm is made when Orwell says the “Smell of blood... was unknown there since the expulsion of Jones”. The use of sensory imagery for the “blood” is rarely used elsewhere in the Novella and therefore deeply shocks the reader who can visualise the horrific murder in that enough blood was spilt that it accumulated into a smell. This reminds the reader that Animal farm is becoming more like it was in Jones’ time, implying that inequality is returning or becoming more apparent in the farm. An indirect parallel is made between Napoleon and Mr Jones, emphasizing the cyclical structure of the novel and highlighting that Napoleon’s ruthlessness parallels that of Jones. Orwell’s message is that the newly appointed leader of the Soviet Union Stalin is no different to the Tsar Nicholas II in that they were both ruthless dictators with no regards to human rights.
- Napoleon is described as “not much of a talker” suggesting that Napoleon has fewer ideas than Snowball and is not as good as accumulating support for himself from the other animals, and therefore must resort to darker methods. Furthermore, Napoleon’s lack of speech gives him a sinister and secretive personality implying that he may come to forceful means in taking control of the farm.
- The dogs “dashed straight for Snowball... sprang from his place just in time to escape their snapping jaws”. Orwell’s use of sudden onomatopoeia in “dashed”, “sprang” emphasize the sudden nature of the attack while the violent onomatopoeia present in “snapping jaws” reflects the brutal and horrifying dogs. The reader can visualise the attack from the sensory effect of the onomatopoeia making the event more horrifying for the reader. The violent expulsion of Snowball parallels the falling-out between Stalin and Trotsky. Napoleon, who was clearly losing the contest for hearts and minds of the animals, turns to his dogs which reflect his ruthless nature. This parallels Stalin, who built his power through his secret police (the dogs) to overthrow Trotsky. Orwell criticises Stalin’s brutal and ruthless methods used to obtain power which he disapproved of as they ignored the principles of Animalism.

Leadership

- “It was noticed that [the dogs] wagged their tails to him in the same way as the other dogs had been used to do to Mr Jones”. The dogs wagging their tails show their devotion and loyalty to Napoleon. The syntax of this description is significant in that it was “noticed”, which conveys the idea that someone insignificant noticed this. The ironic narrator highlights to the reader of the parallel to Mr Jones and therefore the disillusionment and betrayal of revolutionary ideals on the farm. An immediate parallel is drawn between Napoleon and Mr Jones reflecting the

cult of personality which is used to portray Napoleon in a positive and heroic light to the other animals. The verb “sprang” is onomatopoeic which is used to make the lie more believable and realistic, while the visual image of “sank his teeth” further emphasizes Napoleon’s heroic nature, while in reality, Napoleon was not named during the battle of the Cowshed, emphasizing his cowardice.

Cruelty

- Squealer uses the threat “Surely, comrades, you do not want Jones back?” This threat is repeated throughout the novella as a means to control the other animals and suppress a revolution. The adverb “surely”, with its emphatic position is used to emphasize Squealer’s assuring and confident tone, creating no doubt in the animals’ minds that Squealer is wrong. The noun “comrade” is used to remind the other animals of their duty to serve the farm and help each other, making them agree with Squealer about Mr Jones. This is followed by the threat “you do not want Jones back”, which puts the blame on the animals and the monosyllabic assertive phrase “you do not want” makes the animals question themselves rather than the pigs. The verb “want” suggests that the animals actually wish to have Jones return on the farm. This threat is used ironically as the reader would know that Mr Jones would never return to the farm, emphasizing how the animals have been manipulated and controlled by Squealer’s propaganda.
- Squealer “cast a very ugly look at Boxer” emphasizing the sinister side to Squealer’s character, as his role on the farm is to ensure that any opposition to Napoleon is eliminated. The verb “cast” has connotations of magic and superficiality, highlighting Squealer’s actions in animal farm, in which he manipulates the other animals with such ease that it is comparable to magic, conveying his God-like and Omni-potent abilities.
- After some animals believe that Boxer was taken to the knackers, “Squealer’s demeanour suddenly changed”. This shift in tone indicates to the reader that Squealer is about to manipulate the animals again. Squealer’s “sudden” change suggests that he is able to quickly adapt to the situation to manipulate the other animals. Squealer then “darted suspicious glances from side to side”. The metaphor “darted” conveys a feeling of danger, implying that Squealer is prepared to take action against the other animals at moment’s notice, and also reflects his awareness of the situation and his quick reactions. The sibilance suggests that his propaganda is more sinister than simply ensuring the other animals obey Napoleon; it is also used to eliminate anyone who opposes the farm in any means possible. Squealer’s arrogance and contempt for the other animals show his dismissive attitude he has towards those he exploits.

THEMES



Irony used to show naivety of animals

- Squealer “was so fat that he could with difficulty see out of his eyes”. The fact that Squealer can’t see is ironic as throughout the novel Squealer manipulates the other animals to disbelieve what they see with their own eyes and instead believe the lies which Squealer has told them. This also represents how the pigs have taken advantage of the other animals, who have been eating on rations, while Squealer has managed to gain weight from the overeating of food.
- Orwell narrates that “somehow it seemed as though the farm had grown richer without making the animals any richer - except, of course, for the pigs and dogs”. Orwell uses the ironic tone of the narrator and the adverb “somehow” to show that the animals have no idea why the farm is prospering yet their working conditions remain the same. The verb “seemed” conveys the animals’ disbelief that the pigs/dogs have gotten richer, showing that they still believe that equality is present on the farm. The contrasting connective “except” makes it clear to the reader that the pigs and the dogs are keeping all of their luxuries and profits of the farm to themselves. The phrase “of course”, suggests that the animals have accepted that inequality on the farm was natural and accepted.
- Orwell narrates that “If they [the animals] were hungry, it was not from feeding tyrannical human beings”. This is ironic as the animals weren’t hungry from feeding humans, but instead tyrannical pigs who act in the same way as humans. The adjective “tyrannical” highlights the animals’ deep hatred towards the humans however it also suggests that they do not recognise the pigs’ tyranny.
- Orwell narrates that “the work of teaching and organizing fell naturally upon the pigs, who were generally recognized as being the cleverest of animals”. The adverbial “naturally” is ironic as it indicates that the animals do not realise that the pigs are taking control of the farm. The verbs “teaching” and “organizing” indicate a level of power and authority over the other animals, suggesting that inequality is present on the farm. The adverbial “generally recognised” hints to the reader that not all the animals on the farm agree that the pigs should assume authority and leadership, however they do nothing to prevent this.
- The Seven Commandments were “an unalterable law”. These commandments are the foundation for the post-revolutionary society; they echo Christianity’s Ten