ANIMAL FARM

Holodomor:

Orwell believed that form and content are the same thing. If one doesn’t make sense, then the either doesn’t either. Orwell was concerned with how do you explain your thoughts clearly.

The poem, “Beasts of England” (p.7-8), is a call to a future that is going to be good. It is based on the song, “International”. At the beginning of the revolution, everyone is hopeful. It is talking about removing the authorities (“shoot the generals”). Violence will take place. The philosophy is that if everyone comes together to revolt, they can change the establishment. People are uniting to reach their collective interests.

Orwell is really against changing history.

p.4 – 5 & p.35 – 39

4 – 5:

35 – 39:

- Capitalism

- Man is evil

- Overthrow/rebellion

- Divisiveness/unity? (i.e. Divisiveness/unity?)

- Rewriting history (i.e. Commandments windmill)

- Hierarchies of value

- Reform vs revolution

Animal farm is about:

* Despair
* Violence
* Brutality/Cruelty/Bestiality (Quite literally)
* Profit and profiteering
* Abuse or power
* Despair and hopelessness
* Abuse no religion
* Tyranny
* Selfishness

Animal farm is fable, a simple, concise story using animals with human characteristics (“anthropomorphized animals”) to teach a lesson or a “moral”.

And Orwell’s “lesson” is about the power of language to construct or deconstruct social order, and to control people’s responses.

Confucius: “Without knowing the force of words, it is impossible to know more”.

Words are prescriptive, they prescribe human behaviour. Language has power… nope that’s bs

Language is not descriptive. We need to understand the issues of language.

The limits of my language are the limits of my mind. Where my language is limited, my world is limited. 2

p.