

Absolute Power Corrupts, Absolutely!

When someone comes across too much power, they become corrupt no matter what. *Animal Farm* is an example of how power corrupts a society. It's a book by George Orwell, a very inspiring allegory about the Russian Revolution which took place in 1917. In the beginning, the animals are governed by a farmer Mr. Jones who made the animals work a lot and didn't care much about them. Old Major (a boar) gave all the animals a motivating speech about revolting against Mr. Jones in which the animals win the rebellion. After the rebellion animal isn't equal, the pigs take advantage of other animals as they are with superior knowledge. Napoleon the evil pig wants to be the leader only for power. He changes animal farm from democracy to dictatorship. George Orwell uses specific animals to represent specific people. Based on a human's characteristics he uses an animal that he thinks fits the best.

Joseph Stalin is represented a pig, Napoleon. George Orwell chose a pig to represent Joseph Stalin because pigs are dirty; they play and stay in mud never wanting to get out of it. Similarly, politics is a dirty game that keeps you attached to it by the greed of power, money and luxury. Joseph Stalin gets into politics because he wants to be leader for all the power and money. His greed gets him hooked up to politics and never gets out of it. People who try to get into politics for a good deed often suffer. Snowball is the one who wants to be a leader so that he can improve life for animal farm. But, as he starts to become popular among the animals, Napoleon gets his dogs to chase him and is never seen. Snowball represents Leon Trotsky. He wanted to improve life in Russia but as he started improving, Stalin's KGB chased him away. In 1940 he gets assassinated in Mexico. George Orwell explains, "*nine enormous dogs wearing brass-studded collars came bounding into the barn. They dashed straight for Snowball, who only sprang from his place just in time to escape their snapping jaws. In a moment he was out of the door and they were after him...he was never seen again.*" After Snowball is chased away, Napoleon becomes in charge. Eventually Napoleon becomes greedy of power and turns animal farm into dictatorship from democracy. The animals are not treated equally. Pigs especially, are given importance and luxuries for ordering the animals, while other animals worked much harder than the pigs but don't get enough food. Socialism doesn't work in Russia as well. Stalin leaves socialism behind, gave himself all the power and comforts while the peasant suffered. George Orwell says, "*Somehow it seemed as though the farm had grown richer without making the animals themselves any richer--except, of course for the pigs and the dogs.*" Animals are frightened of Napoleon's dogs. When they think he is wrong, they step forward to go against him. But, his dogs always come growled and got the animal away from Napoleon. Stalin's KGB imprisons the people in Soviet Society who he thinks are a threat to him. Similarly, Napoleon always appears with his dogs because if anyone goes against him he will use his dogs to fright them away. This means he is scared. He knows he is doing the wrong thing with all the animals only taking decisions thinking about his own comforts. He became a leader only for money, power and comforts and not for improving life in animal farm. And because of changing the commandments for his profit he is scared that the animals would harm him so he takes his dogs with him for protection. George Orwell explains, "*In these days Napoleon rarely appeared in public, but spent all his time in the farmhouse, which was guarded at each door by fierce-looking*

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dogs. When he did emerge, it was in a ceremonial manner, with an escort of six dogs who closely surrounded him and growled if anyone came too near." Napoleon murders many animals who go against him just like Stalin kills the people who are supporters of Leon Trotsky. Stalin becomes a cruel dictator in Russia and makes many murders. By the end of Animal Farm, Napoleon stops pretending animal farm to be democratic. After changing the commandments and beasts of England, elections are held in which he is the only one to stand for it. He then becomes a dictator elected by the animals. Maybe Napoleon is believed to be the most intelligent pig on the farm, but we know that he is the shrewdest. By the end of the novel, Animal Farm becomes a machine that runs according to Napoleon's will.

The working class is represented by a horse, Boxer. George Orwell chose a horse to represent the working class because horses are labourers of humans and was the first animal humans used while fighting. Boxer is a labourer for Napoleon too. The most dedicated worker who always listens to his master, Napoleon. The working class is mastered by Stalin. They always listen and support him. A horse is a friendly animal that never lets its master down. A horse will do finest things to save his master. Boxer does the same. Whenever a problem takes place in animal farm, Boxer will blame it all on himself. Boxer says, *"'if Comrade Napoleon says it, it must be right.'* And from then on he adopted the maxim, *'Napoleon is always right'* in addition to his private motto off *'I will work harder.'*" He never blames his master; instead he works harder to get a good result next time. This shows how dedicated he is to his work and most importantly, his master, Napoleon. Same way, the working class are dedicated to their work and support their master, Stalin. They barely think about themselves and take all the blame on themselves. They are all good at convincing other people that communism is a good idea and whatever Stalin says is right. To show this in the novel, George Orwell explains, *"Their most faithful disciples were the two carthorses, Boxer and Clover. Those two had great difficulty in thinking anything out for themselves, but having once accepted the pigs as their teachers, they absorbed everything that they were told, and passed it on to the other animals by simple arguments."* The working class always support Stalin and convince others who don't. But he never cares about them. After Stalin is done with his evil plans and becomes the dictator, he didn't need his working class to work anymore. Stalin didn't understand the importance of the working class, just like humans don't understand horses. After Boxer collapses making the windmill, Napoleon sent him to the slaughter without letting any other animal know. Only Benjamin notices and says,

"'Fools! Fools!' shouted Benjamin, prancing round them and stamping round them and stamping the earth with his small hoofs. *'Fools! Do you not see what is written on the side of that van?'* That gave animals pause, and there was a hush. Muriel began to spell out the words. But Benjamin pushed her aside and in the midst of a deadly silence he read: ***'Alfred Simmonds, Horse Slaughterer and Glue Boiler, Willington. Dealer in Hides and Bone-Meat. Kennels Supplied. Do you understand what that means? They are taking Boxer to the knacker's!'***"

All the animals know how essential he is except the pigs and Napoleon. He took Boxer for granted and sent him to a horse slaughterer.

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The skeptical people are represented by a donkey, Benjamin. The skeptical people are wise and are aware of everything Stalin but they never revolt against him. George Orwell explains, "*the oldest animal on the farm and the worst tempered. He seldom talked, and when he did, it was usually to make some cynical remark.*" Boxer is bad tempered but the most intelligent animal in animal farm, even more than the pigs. He is as faithful as Boxer and always tries to help his horse friend, Boxer. Donkeys are stupid but in animal farm Benjamin is a very wise donkey. George Orwell creates an irony by saying Benjamin is a wise donkey because donkeys are believed to be stupid. A donkey represents the wise people in the Russian Revolution who never believe in Communism and knew it won't help the people in Russia. When we first think that a donkey represents the skeptical people, we think those people must be stupid and irresponsible. But as we read we understand he's a very wise and sensible donkey who doesn't talk a lot. When animal farm got into two parts one supporting Snowball and the other supporting Napoleon, Benjamin doesn't side anyone. George Orwell explains, "*The animals formed themselves into two factions under the animals formed themselves into two factions under the slogans, 'Vote for Snowball and the three-day week' and 'Vote for Napoleon and the full manger.'* Benjamin was the only animal who did not side with either faction." He never expects anything positive from animalism and so he doesn't bother voting on whose side he is. Nor did the skeptical people expect anything from communism. Benjamin is the most sensible character. He understands that the pigs are changing the Seven Commandments but he never revolts knowing it wouldn't make any difference, and he also knows Boxer is killed instead of peacefully dying at a hospital. When he sees Boxer is being sent to a horse slaughterer he chases the truck as far as he could and tells Boxer to come out, but it gets too late.

Every animal in Animal farm represents a person in the Russian Revolution. George Orwell chose specific animals based on their characteristics to represent the people who have similar characteristics like the animal. Animal Farm is story of a Revolution gone sour. Pigs get corrupted by all the power and comfort. George Orwell shows the deep universal truth by his novel Animal Farm by which animals and the incidents are represent the people and the incidents in the Russian Revolution. Based on person's characteristics, George Orwell represented those people by specific animals with similar characteristics.