

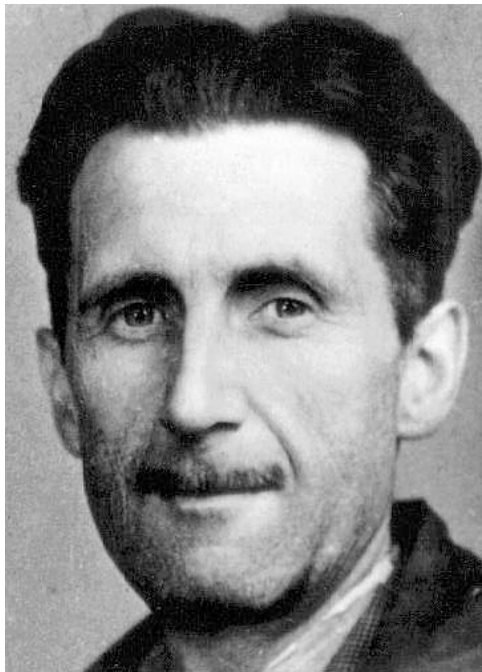
Animal Farm

George Orwell

UNIT 1

About the Author

George Orwell (1903-1950)



George Orwell was actually born Eric Arthur Blair, but used George Orwell throughout his life as a pen name. He is one of England's most famous modern authors. He was born in India, to British parents, during the time of British Imperialism. As he was growing up, and was educated in some of the most elite schools in England, he dreamed of becoming a famous writer and was much influenced by the writing of H.G. Wells, a famous British science fiction writer.

Orwell was also influenced by his privileged upbringing and short military career, which caused him to question the motivations of large governments and ruling classes. He expressed these critiques through his writing, much of which is satire or political commentary told through fiction. *Animal Farm* is probably one of his most famous works of satire.

Literary Analysis: Allegory

Sometimes stories are told directly. The characters represent no one but themselves, and the basis of the plot is formed within the writer's imagination. Perhaps some characters or events are based on real-life people and occurrences, but understanding those real-life influences does not help the reader to understand the book any better.

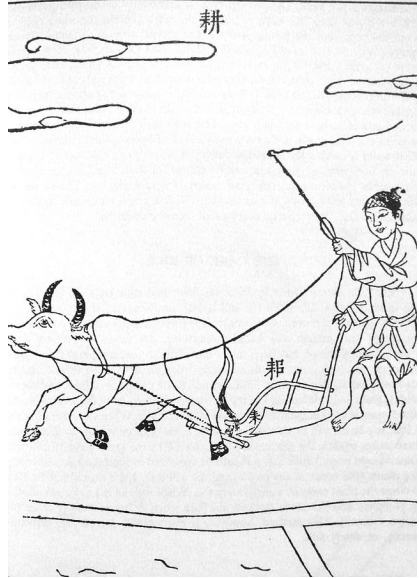
Other times, stories are written as representations of something else like a political movement or a famous politician. The writer may choose to disguise the real subjects of the story to protect the subjects, or perhaps even to protect the author themselves—in the case of political censorship and control.

An allegory is a work of literature (poem, novel, play, etc) that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning. That meaning usually describes a moral imperative or political reality. In the story, every character and event can be interpreted as representing something that exists in real circumstances.

Animal Farm is widely understood as an **allegory**, the real-life circumstances of which we will get into more detail as we continue reading. For now, as you read, question and consider what the book could be about—if it isn't just a tale of some cute animals on a farm.

Vocabulary

Lurch (n.)	A sudden and uncontrolled movement
Scullery (n.)	A small kitchen at the back of a house used for washing dishes or other dirty housework
Boar (n.)	A wild pig, from which farm pigs come
Ensconce (v.)	To settle in a safe place
Tush (n.)	A long, pointed tooth (such as in a dog)
Mare (n.)	Horse
Abolish (v.)	To formally put an end to
Plough (n.)	A farming tool, often put in the back of a horse
Spinney (n.)	A small area of trees or bushes
Toil (v.)	To work extremely hard

	
Motto (n.)	A short sentence or phrase that can represent someone's beliefs
Indefatigable (adj.)	Continuing without getting tired