The animals of Manor Farm in England rebel against their farmer, Mr. Jones, and rename their homestead Animal Farm. Although they begin with guidelines for equality, the pigs eventually rule by fear, setting up a totalitarian existence. In this memorable allegory of the Russian Revolution of 1917, the characters represent specific historical figures.

**Allegory of Rebellion & Corruption**

**Main Characters**

- **Napoleon**
  - Leader of rebellion who rules by fear; represents Soviet leader Joseph Stalin

- **Squealer**
  - Manipulative pig; represents Russian media, which spread propaganda to the masses

- **Snowball**
  - Intellectual pig cast out from the farm; represents banished Russian leader Karl Marx

- **Boxer**
  - Powerful but dense cart horse; represents the proletariat

- **Snowball**
  - Intellectual pig cast out from the farm; represents banished Russian leader Leon Trotsky

- **Mr. Jones**
  - Represents the tyrannical Tsar Nicholas II

- **Old Major**
  - Old, wise pig; represents socialist revolutionary Karl Marx

**Themes**

- **Exploitation**
  - Animal Farm illustrates how class stratification occurs when someone holds power over an overworked and undereducated underclass.

- **Corruption**
  - A critique of Soviet Communism, Animal Farm shows how a totalitarian society can emerge after a rebellion intended for equality.

- **Deception**
  - To maintain rule, Napoleon and the other pigs lie to the other animals, changing the rules.

**Animal Farm by the Numbers**

- 4 Publishers that rejected Animal Farm
- 7 Commandments the animals begin with in Animal Farm, which is reduced to one
- 9 Attack dogs raised by Napoleon in an effort to enforce his demands through fear
- 1954 Year Animal Farm was adapted as an animated film directed by John Halas and Joy Batchelor

**Author**

**George Orwell**

1903-50
Born Eric Arthur Blair in British-controlled India, he used the name George Orwell for publication. Written during World War II, Animal Farm is an allegory of the Russian Revolution that criticizes the Stalinist government. Through his writings, Orwell became a leading voice on political and social issues.

**Motifs**

- **Songs & Chants**
  - The songs and chants the animals sing rally for rebellion illustrate the pigs’ control.

- **Religion & Ritual**
  - The working animals’ attachment to beliefs and rules shows a penchant for hysteria and vulnerability to being controlled.

- **Animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others.**

**Sources:** Encyclopedia Britannica, The New Yorker, The Telegraph

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