

Name _____

Date _____

Author's Craft: Allegory

An **allegory** is a story that uses symbolic characters and events to convey deeper meanings. In *Animal Farm*, George Orwell uses the farm animals to symbolize the Russian Revolution and critique the corruption of political power. The story illustrates how revolutionary ideals are often betrayed by those in power.

Read the excerpt from *Animal Farm* and answer the questions about allegory and its impact on the story.

Excerpt:

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. The pigs, once champions of equality, now lived in the farmhouse and dined on fine meals, while the other animals toiled harder than ever. The commandments on the barn had changed, and no one dared to question them. The animals knew something was wrong, but they were too tired and frightened to resist."

Meet the Author:

George Orwell (1903–1950) was a British novelist and journalist whose works often critique political systems and human behavior. His observations of authoritarian regimes inspired *Animal Farm* as a satirical allegory of the Russian Revolution and the rise of communism.

1. How does Orwell use allegory to critique inequality and corruption in the excerpt?

Name _____

Date _____

Author's Craft: Allegory

2. What does the phrase “some animals are more equal than others” reveal about the hypocrisy of leadership?

3. How does Orwell's historical context shape his use of allegory in *Animal Farm*?

Write a short allegory using symbolic characters to critique an issue or idea in society.

Name _____

Date _____

Author's Craft: Allegory – Answer Key

Orwell critiques inequality by showing how revolutionary ideals are manipulated by leaders like the pigs, who exploit others while claiming equality.

2. What does the phrase “some animals are more equal than others” reveal about the hypocrisy of leadership?

The phrase highlights the hypocrisy of leadership, as it justifies oppression under the guise of fairness.

3. How does Orwell’s historical context shape his use of allegory in Animal Farm?

Orwell’s observations of Stalin’s regime and the betrayal of revolutionary ideals shaped his allegory, warning readers about the dangers of unchecked political power.

Write a short allegory using symbolic characters to critique an issue or idea in society.
