

Digital Lectures Series: Animal Farm, © April 2012 by Prestwick House, Inc. All rights reserved. ISBN 978-0-9823095-8-2 Item No. 308890

# PRESTWICK HOUSE Digital Lecture Series

### Animal Farm by George Orwell

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## Objectives

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After reading Animal Farm, you will be able to:

→ Identify the irony that arises from what the animals believe to be the truth and what the reader knows is the truth

State what the specific objects of the satire are in the book, and discuss the ways in which the targets are ridiculed



After reading Animal Farm, you will be able to:

→ State how this novel functions as

- *satire* an attack on totalitarianism
- *allegory* a symbolic representation of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and its aftermath

Discuss Orwell's belief that language is perverted in society to serve
political ends; provide examples to support answers

After reading Animal Farm, you will be able to:

→ Identify, define, and give examples from *Animal Farm* of the following:

- the big lie
- scapegoating
- revising history

### Literary Terms

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Novels may exist on three levels:

- Literal Level the simple plot of a novel, as the events unfold
- *Thematic Level* the main idea or ideas that can be inferred from the story
- *Allegorical Level* the people, places, and things in the book represent abstract ideas or moral qualities

While most stories exist on literal and thematic levels, *Animal Farm* operates on all three levels.

*Satire* – a type of story in which the author uses humor to attack and ridicule a person, event, or place

Ex. Manor Farm comes to represent all the evils of Communist Russia under Stalin.

Parody – a form of satire in which something well known is turned into something ridiculous. The similarity between the original and the parody is what provides the humor and satire. The copy is clearly mocking the original because of the ludicrous way or context in which it is done.

Ex. The song the farm animals sing greatly resembles the *Internationale*, a patriotic anthem used throughout Russia in the 1920s.



**Eugéne Pattier**