

Approved for use in all levels of English I

Summary of the Work:

Animal Farm is a fable written about farm animals that begin a rebellion and overthrow their owner after a call to arms by an old boar and the mistreatment of fellow animals. The novel is written as a political allegory of The Russian Revolution. The major characters are set up as mirror images of Russian political figures. Although the novel has a strong historical connection, it can also be read as a vivid story of animals that have endured enough strife at the hands of humans and strive to create a farm based on equality and respect for animal life. The novel concludes with the utopian society crumbling, and the leaders of the animals resembling the humans from the beginning of the story.

Rationale:

The short novel illustrated multiple literary forms, such as allegory, fable, satire, and parable. While the novel can be read solely as entertaining prose, it also functions as a means for students to evaluate values, such as equality, dignity, and the use of violence, with characters that are removed from human beings. With the multiple layers of meaning in *Animal Farm*, a teacher may approach the novel from a variety of different angles: as a fable, a parable of the human condition, a political satire, or a stylistic model of masterful prose.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

Literature and Its Times: Profiles of 300 Notable Literary Works and the Historical Events that Influenced Them. Joyce Moss and George Wilson. Vol. 4: World War II to the Affluent Fifties (1940-1950s). Detroit: Gale, 1997. p. 14-20.

Atkins, George. *George Orwell: A Literary and Biographical Study.* New York: Fredrick Ungar Publishing Co., 1971.

Kalechofsky, Roberta. "Fable for Our Time: *Animal Farm* and 1984," *George Orwell.* New York: Fredrick Ungar Publishing Co., 1973.

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- Wilson's Fiction 03/16/06.
- Notable/Best Books (A.L.A.)

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 1170
- Readability Level: 9.0

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption: 1995

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Animal Farm, as an allegory for the Russian Revolution, contains mild violence, including the public killing of some animals. Students would gain by having knowledge of the Russian Revolution to clearly understand the connection and to notice George Orwell's criticism of Stalin and his Governmental tactics.

Connection to the Curriculum:

Animal Farm demonstrates the elements of satire and allegory in a piece of writing that is accessible to ninth grade students. Corruption, propaganda, and conformity are all critically examined in Orwell's eloquent novel

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

The novel is included in the Freshman English I course description but is appropriate for all levels of English I.