

Animal Farm

Author and Novel Info

George Orwell:

- 1. George Orwell was the pen name of **Eric Blair**
- 2. A **British political novelist** and an independent socialist born in **India**
- 3. Could not go to Oxford or Cambridge to study because of **finances**, so he spent 5 years with the **Imperial Police in Burma.**

- 4. Cited to have said that all his writings (both fiction and essays) were directed against **totalitarianism in ALL forms**.
- 5. His work criticized **Communist deceit** and **intellectual dishonesty**.

- *Animal Farm*= Satire, Fable and Allegory
 - A satire that comments on/mocks the development of the **Russian Revolution under Joseph Stalin**

- -Similar to the style of **Aesop's fables**, it uses animals on an **English farm in a timeless period** to tell the history of **Soviet Communism**

- Though *Animal Farm* was written as an attack on a **specific government**, its general themes show that it can be an attack on **ANY political or military power that seeks to control people unjustly**

Important Definitions to know for Animal Farm:

- 1. Totalitarian: Relating to a **political regime** based on **subordination of the individual** to the state, and strict control of **all aspects of life**, especially by “**corrective measures**”
- omnipotent; all-powerful; authoritarian; oppressive

- **2. Socialism: A political movement based upon communal or government ownership, and control of production and distribution of goods**

- 3. Communism: The theory of social organization which supports a classless society and common ownership of means of production based on **NEED**.

- In theory:
 - The labor would be divided up among all citizens according to ability, and resources would be distributed according to NEED
 - There would be no ruler, president, king or dictator
 - Everyone is truly EQUAL
- Other definitions: see Allegory, Satire & Fable on YLW