

Parents' Guide to *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Grade Level: 12 (English IV)

Lexile Level: 1170L

Genre: Allegorical Novella/Political Satire

Publisher: Signet Classics

ISBN: 978-0451526342

Page Count: ~140 pages

About the Book

Animal Farm is a political allegory in which a group of farm animals overthrow their human owner, hoping to create a more just and equal society. However, the pigs gradually become indistinguishable from the tyrants they replaced. Orwell's novella is a powerful satire of the Russian Revolution and the rise of authoritarian regimes, particularly Stalinist Russia, but it also serves as a timeless warning about power, propaganda, and corruption.

Educational Value

This novel supports key literacy and social-emotional learning goals:

- **Political Context:** This novel helps students understand propaganda, manipulation of language, and the mechanics of authoritarianism.
- **Historical Connections:** *Animal Farm* serves as an accessible allegory of Soviet communism and totalitarian regimes.
- **Literary Analysis:** The story uses allegory, irony, symbolism, and characterization to convey political commentary.
- **Cross-Curricular Engagement:** This novel connects to history and government (Russian revolution, communism), religion (ethics and morality), and media literacy (propaganda, rhetorical analysis).

Discussion Topics for Home

- What does *Animal Farm* suggest about the nature of power and leadership?
- In what ways do propaganda and fear shape the animals' beliefs and behaviors?
- How do the pigs change the rules over time—and why does no one stop them?
- Are there modern parallels to the events and dynamics in the story?
- How does [Luke 22:25-27](#) challenge the leadership style of Napoleon and the pigs?

Why We're Reading *Animal Farm*

Animal Farm is a short but powerful introduction to the dangers of authoritarianism and the importance of civic awareness. Its accessibility and layered meanings make it an excellent starting point for conversations about justice, freedom, history, and leadership. Orwell's use of allegory encourages students to analyze beyond surface meaning and apply lessons to both historical and current events.