

Literary and Historical Background Information

- *Animal Farm* (1945)- sells ½ million copies, is translated into 39 languages, and makes the author financially successful, but his wife dies unexpectedly during surgery.
- George Orwell = Eric Blair
- "I saw a little boy, perhaps ten years old, driving a huge cart-horse along a narrow path, whipping it wherever it tried to turn. It struck me that if only such animals became aware of their strength we should have no power over them, and that men exploit animals in much the same way as the rich exploit the proletariat." – George Orwell
- "When I sit down to write a book, I do not say to myself, 'I am going to produce a work of art.' I write it because there is some lie I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw attention, and my initial concern is to get hearing." – George Orwell

Government Terms of Interest

- **Proletariat**- the poorest class of working people
- **Tyranny**- a government in which a single ruler is vested with absolute power.
- **Tyrant**- a ruler who exercises power in a harsh or cruel manner.
- **Feudalism**- a political and economic system in Europe from about the 9th – 15th century, based on the relation of lord to vassal held on condition of homage and service.
- **Totalitarian**- designating a form of government in which one person or party exercises absolute control over all spheres of human life and opposing parties are not permitted to exist.
- **Aristocracy**- a hereditary privileged ruling class or nobility. A government by the nobility or by a privileged minority or upper class.
- **Bourgeoisie**- the middle class; in Marxist theory, the social group opposed to the proletariat in the class struggle: the capitalist class.
- **Democracy**—is a political system
- **Communism**- Is primarily a political system and somewhat of an economic system
 - **Democratic** and **communist** political systems are based on different ideological principles. Although superficially they seem to share the "power to the people" philosophy, in practice the two systems of government structure the economic and political fabric of society in markedly different ways. In the economic sphere, **communism** calls for the government to take control of all the capital and industry in the country in an effort to get rid of economic inequality. On the other hand, a **democracy** respects individuals' right to own property and means of production. The political landscape is also very different in a democracy vs. under communism. In a democratic society people are free to create their own political parties and contest in elections, which are free of coercion and fair to all contestants. In a communist society, however, the government is controlled by one political party and political dissent is not tolerated.
- **Socialism**-is primarily an economic system.
- **Capitalism**-Is and economic system
 - **Capitalism** and **socialism** are somewhat opposing schools of thought in economics. The central arguments in the socialism vs. capitalism debate are about economic equality and the role of government. Socialists believe economic inequality is bad for society, and the government is responsible for reducing it via programs that benefit the poor (e.g., free public education, free or subsidized healthcare, social security for the elderly, higher taxes on the rich). On the other hand, capitalists believe that the government does not use economic resources as efficiently as private enterprises do, and therefore society is better off with the free market determining economic winners and losers. The U.S. is widely considered the bastion of capitalism, and large parts of Scandinavia and Western Europe are considered socialist democracies. However, the truth is every developed country has some programs that are socialist.

Literary Terms of Interest

- **Fable**- story where animals speak and act like humans; expresses human failing and/or weakness
- **Allegory** – a story that reads on two levels; each character or event stands for someone or something else
- **Novella**—a short novel that reads like a long short story which focuses on one main conflict.

Student Notes:

Name Alina Period 4th
Italicize
underline
1945 - end of WWII
1/2 million
39
Eric Blair
George Orwell

How do you **type** the title of a novel?
 How do you **handwrite** the title of a novel?
 In what year did George Orwell write *Animal Farm*?
 How many copies did he sell in that first year?
 Into how many languages is the book translated?
 What is George Orwell's real name?
 What is Eric Blair's pen name?
 What incident in Orwell's life made him think about the poorest working class and the rich? The little boy and the horse.

What did this incident make him think about with regards to the poorest working class and the rich? The poor could overcome the rich. The rich abuse the poor.

Why does George Orwell sit down to write a book? What is his goal or purpose? expose a lie, draw attention to a fact, to get hearing

What are the two major Political Systems we discussed? 1. democracy 2. communism

What are the two major ECONOMIC systems we discussed? 1. socialism 2. capitalism

Circle the word that is associated with each term and then indicate that groups' type and level of power.

Proletariat:	Rich	<u>Poor</u>	Middle	Power <u>NO</u>
Bourgeoisie:	Rich	Poor	<u>Middle</u>	Power <u>very little power</u>
Tyrant:	<u>Rich</u>	Poor	Middle	Power <u>absolute power</u>
Aristocracy:	Rich	Poor	<u>Middle</u> +	Power <u>had power</u>
(Aristocrat)				
Democracy:	Rich	Poor	<u>Middle</u> +	Power <u>Yes</u>
(leader of a)				
Communist:	<u>Rich</u>	Poor	Middle	Power <u>Yes</u>
(leader)				

Since this book can be read as a fable, themes can be re-worded as morals and vice versa. Have a go at re-wording these themes into morals.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Moral</i>
(abstract noun or noun phrase, not a sentence, does not give advice)	(Is sentences, gives advice, tells people how to live and what to do)
Freedom	Ex: <u>People should fight for their freedom. To be free in the mind is to be truly free.</u>
Dignity	<u>Have dignity. You and everyone else should be respected</u>
The power of language	<u>Language is powerful. Communicate with others</u>
The power of fear	<u>fear has power to sway</u>
The power of strength	<u>the power of strength is within your reach</u>
The power of trickery	<u>Trickery is the power for fools and its no correct</u>
The importance of hope	<u>Having hope helps you succeed</u>
The importance of political and literary awareness	<u>You can then understand how the author means to the readers</u>