

Animal Farm – Comparison of characters to the Russian Revolution

by George J. Lamont

Animal Farm	Russian Revolution
Mr. Jones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> irresponsible to his animals (lets them starve) sometimes cruel – beats them with whip sometimes kind – mixes milk in animal mash 	Czar Nicholas II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a poor leader at best, compared to western kings cruel – sometimes brutal with opponents sometimes kind – hired students as spies to make extra \$
Old Major <ul style="list-style-type: none"> taught Animalism workers do the work, rich keep the \$, animals revolt dies before revolution 	Karl Marx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> invented Communism “workers of the world unite,” take over gov’t dies before Russian Revolution
Animalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no owners, no rich, but no poor workers get a better life, all animals equal everyone owns the farm 	Communism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> same all people equal gov’t owns everything, people own gov’t
Snowball <ul style="list-style-type: none"> young, smart, good speaker, idealistic really wants to make life better for all one of the leaders of the revolution chased away into exile by Napoleon’s dogs 	Leon Trotsky <ul style="list-style-type: none"> other leader of “October Revolution” pure communist, followed Marx wanted to improve life for all in Russia chased away by Lenin’s KGB (Lenin’s secret police)
Napoleon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not a good speaker, not clever/witty like Snowball cruel, brutal, selfish, devious, corrupt his ambition is for power, killed opponents used dogs, Moses, and Squealor to control animals 	Joseph Stalin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not a good speaker, not educated like Trotsky same as Napoleon, didn’t follow Marx’s ideas cared for power, killed all that opposed him used KGB, allowed church, and propagandized
Squealor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> big mouth, talks a lot convinces animals to believe and follow Napoleon changes and manipulates the commandments 	Propaganda department of Lenin’s government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> worked for Stalin to support his image used any lie to convince the people to follow Stalin benefited from the fact that education was controlled
The Dogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a private army that used fear to force animals to work killed or intimidated any opponent of Napoleon another part of Napoleon’s strategy to control animals 	KGB – Secret Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not really police, but forced support for Stalin used force, often killed entire families for disobedience totally loyal, part of Lenin’s power, even over army
Moses the Raven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tells animals about Sugar Candy mountain – Heaven - animals can go there if they work hard Snowball and Major were against him – they thought Heaven was a lie to make animals work Napoleon let him stay because he taught animals to work and not complain 	Religion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marx said “Opiate of the people” a lie used to make people not complain and do their work Religion was tolerated because people would work Stalin knew religion would stop violent revolutions
Mollie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vain – loved her beauty and self didn’t think about the animal farm 	Vain, selfish people in Russia and world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some people didn’t care about revolution only thought about themselves

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> went with anyone who gave her what she wanted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> went to other countries that offered more for them
Boxer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strong, hard-working horse, believes in Animal Farm "Napoleon is always right," "I must work harder" gives his all, is betrayed by Napoleon, who sells him 	Dedicated, but tricked communist supporters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> people believed Stalin because he was "Communist" many stayed loyal after it was obvious Stalin a tyrant betrayed by Stalin who ignored and killed them
Benjamin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> old, wise donkey who is suspicious of revolution thinks "nothing ever changes," is right his suspicions are true about Boxer and signs change 	Skeptical people in Russia and outside Russia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> weren't sure revolution would change anything realized that a crazy leader can call himself communist knew that communism wouldn't work with power hungry leaders
Overall details about revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it was supposed to make life better for all life was worse at the end the leaders became the same as, or worse than, the other farmers (humans) they rebelled against 	Overall details of Russian Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supposed to fix problems from Czar life was even worse long after revolution Stalin made Czar look like a nice guy

Character

Allegorical Connection/Figure

Farmer Jones	Czar Nicholas II
Mr. Fredrich	German / Hitler
Mr. Pilkington	Britain / Winston Churchill
Human in general	Capitalists who exploit the weak – pigs transform to human-like creatures
Old Major	Karl Marx
Snow Ball	Leon Trotsky
Napoleon	Joseph Stalin
Squealer	Pravda / Dyachaslav Molotov
Pigs	Communist Party
Dogs	Pigs Private Army/KGB
Boxer and Clover	Proletariat
Moses	Religion: not valued by communism, just keeps people hard at work and submissive
"Beasts of England"	"Communist International" 1900's real song
Windmill	Russian Industrialization
Mollie	Bourgeoisie who fled from Russia after the revolution
Benjamin	Orwell
Murial	Educated laborer
Jessie and Bluebell	KGB ruling by fear
Hens	Peasants persecuted by Stalin