



Animal Farm and Related Readings

McDougal Littell , George Orwell (Contributor) , Michael Kort (Contributor) , Osip Mandelstam (Contributor) , Ariel Dorfman (Contributor) , Margaret Atwood (Contributor) , Kurt Vonnegut (Contributor) , Daphne du Maurier (Contributor)

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Animal farm / novel by George Orwell --

From The rise and fall of the Soviet Union / history by Michael Kort --

The Stalin epigram / poem by Osip Mandelstam --

The rebellion of the magical rabbits / short story by Ariel Dorfman --

Crow song / poem by Margaret Atwood --

Harrison Bergeron / short story by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. --

The birds / short story by Daphne du Maurier.

Animal Farm and Related Readings Details

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From Reader Review Animal Farm and Related Readings for online ebook

Tristan says

I liked how this book warned people about the government indirectly. The pigs represent the people high in power that make the rules while the dogs represent the people that enforce the rules. The rest of the farm animals represented the everyday civilian, they go by the rules and give the pigs power in doing so.

Jack says

I enjoyed this book. I've read it twice now and it's even better now that I have more background information. The way Orwell wrote about Russia's political history from 1917 to 1943 using an allegory was great. Using Old Major as Karl Marx to incite the rebellion and how he spoke really solidified what the ideas of socialism really were. The whole story followed very closely to how the Communist revolution actually happened. It was such a great read.

Chris Zull says

Animal Farm lives up to its reputation as one of the greatest and most powerful allegories ever written. The "related readings" in this edition are of varying degrees of interest. Particularly good are the Atwood poem and the Vonnegut essay.

Brittany Flores says

I also read this in high school. I remember it being disturbing which is probably why I didn't like it. I have to re-read...

Chris M says

I'm reading this book as a class and at first, I didn't really like it. But after chapter 3 I really started to understand and like the book. The plot is very interesting how smart the animals are and how they can function everything by themselves.

Alex Baker says

Animal Farm is a great example of classic historical fiction. Through its depiction of the history of communism through easily relatable characters and ideas, it shows the reader the perceived dangers of

communism. However, while reading the book I also caught a glimpse of what the perfect communist system could have been, and where it went so wrong. I think this book definitely deserves its place as a classic and as an example of communism gone wrong.

Chanel says

I love a good allegory. And maybe this is just because I've read this book too many times, but this one doesn't really do much for me. Not enough nuance and subtlety. Too precise and in your face with the symbolism. I understand that the purpose was to get people to see it for the allegory that it was at the time, but I'm not sure that it holds up to the test of time. Quite frankly, I'd prefer to phase this title out of having to teach it at my school, to be replaced with something that calls for deeper critical thinking.

Rebecca says

I thought this book was really good because its from the perspective of the animals and that they riot because of the farmers and overtake the farm. My favorite character in this story was Boxer and he was such a kind horse and the pig ended up sending him away to get killed.

Claudio Coleman says

"Animal Farm" by George Orwell was a story about animals on a farm who decide it was time to rebel against the Humans who gave no regard to the animals. The animals hoped that they would be the pioneers of the rebellion and that perhaps their future generations would rid all the lands of Humans, "four legs good, two legs bad." The author tried to convey throughout the story that we as humans are very much like pigs, greedy and that we take advantage of the inferior. Since the pigs in the story were smarter and remembered more than the other animals, it was easy for them to take over and convince the animals that they remembered something wrong.

A related story in this book was "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. had few similarities to "Animal Farm" as with how people always try to rise to power. In the story, everyone is truly equal, nobody was better than anyone else in every which way, no one smarter or stronger than anyone else. Harrison however, was much stronger and much smarter and kept becoming so the more 'handicaps' that were added to him. Eventually he escapes showing people in a theater (Being broadcasted on TV) what potential people could have without handicaps. The author tried to convey in this story that as we move towards true equality, the easier it would be for the government to take control of its citizens as it is easier to herd a flock of sheep than a crowd of Humans.

I enjoyed these stories as I got to view some people's perspectives in the world. Whether it was Animal Farm displaying how greedy people are and how we take advantage of the more inferior, or Harrison Bergeron on how total equality doesn't bode well for the people, you see their point of views and acknowledge that maybe they are onto something, or right on it.

Ethan FakeLastName says

One of the best pieces of all time. A truly amazing feat. by Orwell to embody those ideals in paper form.

Kat says

Basic Plot: The animals of Manor farm revolt and create their own Animalist utopia.

This book was a mind-blower. The version I read was actually a textbook version of Animal Farm, and included a few other readings at the end of the book that relate in one way or another to the larger novel, so I'll try to address a good amount of that in this review.

Animal Farm was written at the beginning of the Cold War, post WWII, and before Stalin had even actually died. Most of us know George Orwell as the writer of 1984, one of the most famous dystopian novels of all time. This book shows another, more pointed criticism. The story is short, only about 100 pages long, but that doesn't take away from its impact. I liked the way Orwell used animals' natural proclivities to place them into the society created by the animals at animal farm. The cat never can be relied on for anything, the dogs are guards, the horses work hard, the donkey is stubborn and contrary, the sheep follow, and the intelligent pigs rule all. Each character or group represents a different element of the Communist revolution in Russia, leading to the formation of the USSR. It is easy to see at the beginning why the animals want things to change. It's also easy to see why the proposed plan for the new Animal Farm was so attractive to all. However, it's also plainly obvious from moment one that the pigs have no intention of not taking advantage of their situation as the smartest on the farm, the leaders of the movement. The lies they spread, changing history, making the animals question their own memories- gaslighting them into thinking things had always been a certain way. It resonates today. The novel remains a powerful cautionary tale, even though the USSR has risen and fallen. Will it rise again?

The supplemental materials in this textbook included a brief history of the rise and fall of the USSR, beneficial to those who don't know the details or who may need a quick refresher. There was some poetry and a few stories. Harrison Bergeron is a story I've read before- where the American government undertakes to make everyone completely, truly equal in the worst possible way. It's a potent piece of literature. There was a potent Animal Fable in the book about a pet shop and what would happen if the animals all got out. The Birds by Daphne du Maurier also is included in the book. It's the only one that doesn't actually seem to fit. It's more of a simple horror piece, having nothing really to do with any societal criticism that I could identify.

In the current political climate of the USA, it's easy to see why old-school dystopian novels are hitting the top of best-seller lists. I would recommend this as one to add to the list.

Warwick Stubbs says

Excellent fable about leaders and followers and what happens when you don't question your leaders and their motives. I was a bit disappointed to have no definite resolution about what happened to both snowball and the cat. The cat suddenly never appeared again, and snowball was used as a patsy for spreading misinformation once he was run off the farm. On the other hand, as my wife just pointed out, that's the

perfect example of what happens, or what happened, in the tyrannical clutches of communism when dissenters are driven out, if they aren't outright murdered - they may never be heard from again.

The extra reading in this edition ranges from interesting to average.

Christine says

“Animal Farm” was an ‘eh’ book, but then again, the fact that I had to read this for school might’ve impacted my opinion. It wasn’t very interesting, and neither did it have a good storyline. It was just plain old normal life on a farm, really. Although there were parts of the book, where I was intrigued, I wouldn’t say this book was one I really enjoyed. “Animal Farm” goes very downhill, and you can tell from the beginning that this book isn’t going to have a happy ending. I like books, that have many struggles and challenges for the individuals to whom the story belongs, but in the end, they overcome it all by some miracle, and all is well. The ending is yet another reason I didn’t like the book much. “Animal Farm” wasn’t a horrible book, but I just wouldn’t say it was my favorite. :P

Jenn says

I like the metaphors...man itself can be pigs...we are animal-like in some way. we yearn for as much rebellion maybe even power as the dog who is sitting right next to us. I applaud George Orwell for making politics a little more imaginative and unconventional.

Jeremy says

Great book, draws you in from the very beginning.
