



METAPHORS IN ANIMAL FARM BY GEORGE ORWELL

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Abstract: *George Orwell's Animal Farm is widely celebrated for its sharp political commentary and its use of allegory and metaphor to explore the dynamics of power, corruption, and revolution. Metaphors play a crucial role throughout the novella, serving not only as literary devices but also as tools that deepen the impact of Orwell's message. By employing metaphors, Orwell transforms a simple story about farm animals into a profound critique of totalitarian regimes and the betrayal of revolutionary ideals.*

Key words: *novel, metaphor, function, simple, story, animals, progress, revolutionary ideals.*

At the heart of the novel is the metaphor of the farm itself. The farm is not merely a setting but functions as a microcosm of a nation, specifically reflecting the Russian Revolution and the rise of the Soviet Union. The transformations and events within the farm mirror political shifts, societal changes, and ideological conflicts that characterized early 20th-century history. This extended metaphor allows Orwell to expose the mechanisms through which revolutions can be corrupted by those who seize power. Each group of animals in the novel carries its own metaphorical significance. The pigs, for example, represent the ruling elite and political leaders. Their evolution from common animals to authoritarian figures embodies the central metaphor of corrupt leadership emerging from revolutionary ideals. Napoleon, the pig who becomes the farm's tyrant, is a metaphor for Joseph Stalin, while Snowball represents Leon Trotsky. The progression of Napoleon from a revolutionary hero to a despotic ruler symbolizes the way power can distort principles and lead to oppression.[1]



The working animals, including the horses Boxer and Clover, symbolize the proletariat or working class. Boxer's personal motto, "I will work harder," stands as a metaphor for the blind loyalty and exploitation of laborers under oppressive regimes. His tragic fate provides a poignant metaphor for the way the working class is often used and discarded by those in power. Clover's nurturing and protective nature highlights the emotional cost of political upheaval on ordinary citizens, her metaphoric role emphasizing empathy and the silent suffering of the masses.[2]

The language itself is laden with metaphorical meaning. The famous commandment "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" captures the central metaphor of corrupted equality, where the rhetoric of revolution is contradicted by the realities of hierarchy and privilege. This line has transcended the novel to become a metaphorical expression for the hypocrisy inherent in authoritarian and totalitarian systems. Orwell also uses the character of Moses, the raven, as a metaphor for religion, serving the role of myth-maker and opiate of the masses. His tales of Sugarcandy Mountain represent the promise of a better life after death, which functions as a metaphor for how religion can be used to placate the oppressed and divert their attention from their immediate suffering and exploitation. Moses' presence in the story reminds readers of how ideology and belief systems can serve political ends.[3]

The farm's physical transformations—initially hopeful and then increasingly bleak—serve metaphorically to represent the fate of revolutionary movements. Early optimism is reflected in the animals' efforts to organize and govern themselves, while the later decay of the farm embodies the disillusionment that follows when power is concentrated and abused. The destruction of the windmill, which symbolizes industrial progress and collective effort, metaphorically signals the failure of the revolution's promises.[4]

Furthermore, the novel uses metaphor in its portrayal of language and propaganda. The pigs' manipulation of the Seven Commandments epitomizes the metaphor of distorted truth and the use of language as a tool of control. Slogans and songs, initially sources of hope and unity, are twisted to enforce obedience and



suppress dissent. Orwell's metaphorical depiction of propaganda underlines the fragility of truth in the hands of those who seek to dominate. Animal Farm also employs metaphor through its narrative structure and point of view. The seemingly simplistic tale of talking animals is a metaphor for the layers of meaning in political discourse and historical events. By masking complex ideas in a story accessible to all ages, Orwell metaphorically communicates how propaganda and ideology can mask harsh realities and manipulate perception.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, metaphor is arguably the most significant literary device in Animal Farm, enriching Orwell's critique of political systems and human behavior. The metaphors woven through the narrative transform a straightforward animal fable into a profound examination of power, corruption, and betrayal. Through the farm, the animals, and the language they use, Orwell crafts a compelling metaphor for the dangers of totalitarianism and the fragility of revolutionary ideals. Understanding these metaphors allows readers to grasp the deeper meanings embedded in the novella, making Animal Farm not just a story about animals, but a timeless warning about the nature of power and the importance of vigilance in the pursuit of justice.

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