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Animal Farm is Trivial



SUMMARY

The text "Orwell Subverted: The CIA and the Filming of Animal Farm" (2008) by Janine Utell informs the reader about the how the film and novel Animal Farm were significantly influenced by the Central Intelligence Agency of America. Not only that, but she reveals that the book and movie were used to

propagate against Stalin and totaliarianism in general overall. This is why Orwell demonizes Stalin (Napoleon) and the other pigs of Animal Farm. The movie is said to be carefully articulated so that it would encourage totalitarian opposition and entertain the public to the fullest extent. However, there was a great deal of conflict over the balance of artistic creativity and political agendas.

Orwell repeatedly convicts Stalin of corruption and inhumanity in his book, which causes people to resist the dictatorship. Utell even dramatically describes the extremity of Orwell's work as "psychological warfare." Her main point is that the production of the book and film version of Animal Farm will always be a crucial piece of Cold War history. Utell refers to the book "Orwell Subverted: The CIA and the Filming of

Animal Farm" by Daniel Leab multiple times in order to further prove her point, and even gives her complimentary thoughts about the book itself.

SAYS

MEANS

MATTERS

The author states, "Thus, Orwell makes the argument that corrupt capitalism and corrupt socialism are the same animal, and power and mendacity are the true enemies to social, economic, and political flourishing" (Utell 2).

This quote means that if a government is corrupt, it doesn't matter what type - it would be the same as another corrupt government because they don't treat their citizens properly.

This quote matters
because it shows that he
is not exclusively against
communism and facism,
but also any form of
government with
corruption and
totalitarianism.

The author says, "Where in the animals resign themselves to their fate, realizing that there is no longer any difference between the pigs who have established authoritarian rule over animal farm and the men who were the original oppressors" (Utell 2).

This quote means that there was no difference between the pigs and humans because none of them lead their "country" right, and the pigs went against everything they stood for at the beginning of the book.

This quote matters because it highlights and demonizes the general characteristics of communism and fascism as being extremely hypocritical and corrupt.

The author states,
"Tampering with
Orwell's work in order to
more fully articulate
their anti - Soviet agenda
[...] in order to be
particularly compelling
yet be a psychological
weapon" (Utell 2).

This quote means that the film itself was very carefully detailed so that it cannot just please and entertain crowds around the world, but also fulfill political responsibilities.

This quote matters
because it gives insight to
the reader about how the
film and novel were not
only for entertainment,
but also for the spread
and propagation of
political ideas, mainly
against communism and
fascism.

ORWELL'S ANIMAL FARM AND 1984 BY ANTHONY KEARNEY

THE REAL ANIMAL FARM

The main idea of this article is to show how unclear the true meaning of equal is, and how it is being used to express multiple points of view. Some people use it to express a positive note, such as equality. The pigs acknowledge that "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others," but this does not mean that they all are equivalent in the eyes of those around them. "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." That is the most famous quote from George Orwell's Animal Farm. But what, exactly, does that entail? When we think of equality, we think about the idea and fantasy of everyone being the same, no one greater than the others. We think and imagine an equal world being a perfect society, with peace and happiness prevailing. However, there cannot be such a thing. As shown by George Orwell, different people have a different perception of the word equal. The more privileged will not believe in equality nor desire the same equality that the less fortunate desire so much. The wealthy will want to stay wealthy, and the poor are just jealous of the wealthy's prevalence in society. Equality, as in the book, simply stands as a dream. This dream, is linked deeply to the the animals' perception of happiness. So, in a way, equality is not balanced. Equality is happiness. Understandably, some animals are more happy than others. With that being said, some animals are really more equal than others.

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SAYS, MEANS, MATTERS

Says: The author claims that, "The ideal of greater equality was obviously a basic tenet of his basic democratic socialism" (Kearney 2).

Means: The quote is saying that having "equality" was the basic idea of democratic socialism.

Matters: This quote is important because it lets us

Says: The author claims that "The slogan allows different readings due to the exploitable ambiguities of its key term, equal" (Kearney 1)

Means: The quote is explaining that there are different interpretations of the slogan because of the different meanings the word equal has.

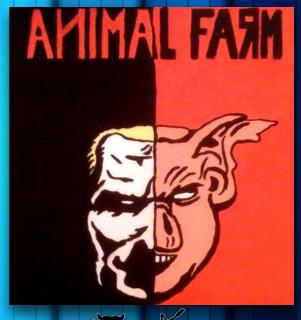
Matters: This quote reminds the reader that there are different points of view as to what the slogan means.



"Why 77 Unite"

By George Orwell





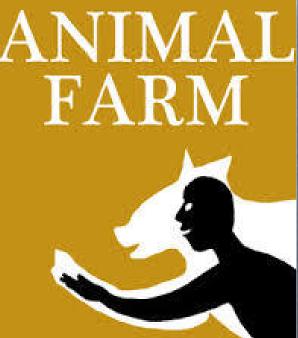




"WHY I WRITE"

In the article "Why I Write" (1946) by George Orwell, an English novelist and essayist, he introduced the role of writing in his childhood. He described the motives he had in writing such as exposing or confronting a certain issue or conflict towards the public. Throughout his life, he faced living in the conditions of poverty, and he was aware of Hitler's reign and the Spanish Civil War. Orwell's hate for authorities grew when he worked for the Indian Imperial Police. In retrospect, Orwell saw his works in a dull and pessimistic perspective. Ideally, he summarized his works as passages of sentences with a variety of fake assumptions followed by a history-influenced storyline. For the past ten years of George Orwell's writing, he tried to make political writing in his art so his starting point is always a partisanship, which is a sense of injustice. His work contains downright propaganda that full time politicians would consider irrelevant when carefully examined. His job is to reconcile his ingrained likes and dislikes with the public, non-individual activities that this age forces upon all. Orwell states a





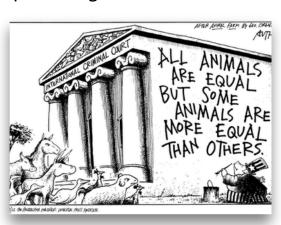
couple reasons why authors write. "Sheer egoism", which says that writers have a desire to seem clever, to be talked about and remembered after their death. "Aesthetic enthusiasm" is based on writers pleasure in the impact of sound on another, in the firmness of good prose or the rhythm of a great story. To desire to share an experience which a person feels is valuable and cannot be missed. "Historical Impulse", which is mostly about the passion to see things as they are, to find out the truth and store them up for the use of posterity, and lastly "Political function". Everything has a political purpose. To change what other people believe in and convincing them that you are right. A simple argument is itself a political purpose. Nothing is free of political statements or views. It is of our human nature that we argue. It is if Orwell's nature that he was born to write. It is if his job to be open minded. Even if he has to deal with the likes and dislikes to the public and their diverse thoughts and opinions. Orwell writes for what he believes in. He does not write about what is popular or trending, but what he believes in. He is willing to write about a topic that is deserved to be known or followed.

SAYS MEANS MATTERS

According to George Orwell, "I give all this background information because I do not think one can assess a writer's motives without knowing something of his early development" (Orwell 1).

This quote clarifies why the author is talking about his background life. He believes that in order for his audience to uncover his intentions, they have to first understand what he went through.

This quote reminds the reader that every author has a purpose in writing, and this purpose or these purposes may revolve around certain circumstances that the author faced. For example, he or she may have been raised in an environment full of poverty. This could be a factor in the author writing a story about poor living conditions.



The author plainly asserts, "writing a book is a horrible exhausting struggle, like a long bout of some painful illness" (Orwell 3).

In this quote the author describes how exhausting it is to write a book - it is frustrating and time-consuming. The purpose of this quote is to inform the reader that writing is so difficult that writers have to be driven by some type of encouragement or motivation.

In the author's words,
"outraging my true nature
and that sooner or later I
should have to settle down
and write books" (Orwell 1).

The quote clarifies why the author writes and foreshadows the whole article and his life's destiny to be a well-known author.

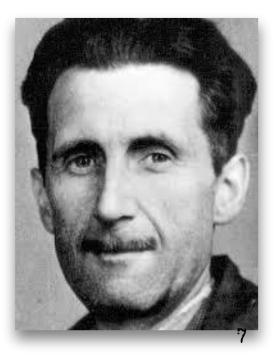
The quote demonstrates why the author writes. Not only is he incredibly talented in his

"WRITING A BOOK IS A HORRIBLE EXHAUSTING STRUGGLE"

This quote reminds the reader why he almost never chose the path to become a writer. The text is significant both within and outside the text. The quote connects with our world by our understanding of the effort each writer puts in their stories



writing, but it is in his nature to do so. Everyone has their own natural talent, and writing has to be one of Orwell's.



Animal Farm: Sixty Years On





Says Means Matters



Says

1.According to the author,
"political passion lies at the heart
of Animal Farm" (Pearce 1).

- 2.The text directly states, "if the book 'does not speak for itself, it is a failure" (Pearce 2).
- 3.The author claims that "Many parallels between Russian history and the revolution at Manor Farm are unmistakable." (Pearce 1).



Means

1.In this quote, the author describes that this really showed the politics of the 20s through 40s. That's because it portrays the old dictator's mentality.

- 2. The quote is saying that the book should have no problem being understood, and if it does, then it didn't reach its goal. Orwell doesn't mind the harsh criticism.
- 3.The quote is explaining the book and the revolution are very similar and almost exactly the same. This means that the text and the historical events correlate exactly except the book has animals taking the place of the historical figures.

Matters

- 1. This quote is important because the author is saying that politics during his time were awful and that things needed to be done about it. They really never stopped what was happening with Stalin, he just happened to have had a stroke.
- 2. This quote demonstrates that he wrote and worked hard for this book's success and hoped it appealed to others. The book ended up being one of his best sellers and his work paid off.
- 3. This quote includes an example of the Soviet Union and the huge reign of dictator Joseph Stalin, which Orwell despised and wanted to stop. Stalin was not stopped, but another dictator (Adolf Hitler) was stopped but killed himself in 1945, Stalin died of a stroke in 1953, before he could unleash another purge.



PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO HOW WEIRD THE STORY ANIMAL FARM CAN GET

In the article "Freud's Notion of the Uncanny in Animal Farm" (2011), Polly Sapakie discusses how George Orwell's novel Animal Farm and Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud's idea of the uncanny are directly related. She compares these two by citing and explaining significant events from the story and referring to Freud's ideas and views. Uncanniness, according to Freud, is anything we humans perceive as strange or abnormal. There are many examples in Animal Farm listed by Sapakie that illustrate Freud's concept of uncanniness. One of them was when the animals first saw Napoleon walking on his two hind legs. Orwell, who is

describes this scene as terrifying and unreal, which it certainly is. Napoleon the pig, who is represents Stalin, starts as a normal pig, yet gradually morphs into a "human" through propaganda and the ignorance and naivete of the animals on Animal Farm. At the point where all the pigs walk on two legs and the last commandment is broken, the animals all realize that it is too late to revolt against the dictator, who's actually worse than their original owner, Mr. Jones. The image of tyrant

pigs walking on two legs is simply disturbing and fearful, something that most would not like to witness. Freud says that the use of the uncanny can lead to fear. In addition to that, the ending of the story most vividly displays the uncanny. It is at the highest extent when the animals cannot tell the difference between man and pig. The thought of man and pig merging together is very frightening and freaky. The animals' past memories with Mr. Jones and their uncertainty of the

human-like pigs causes the reader to feel strange inside. Furthermore, it is claimed that free will is a lie and that there's always a higher power in control of you. Orwell purposefully includes uncanny events at the end of this story to depict how messed up the society became compared to the perfect illusion of Animal Farm when the animals were all "free and equal." This is also known as a dystopia.





Says

1. According to Gentile, "This doubling of Farmer Jones, a 'distorted version of a being already in existence" (qtd. in Sapakie 1).

- 2. As stated by Morse,
 "The supernormal sight
 of the pig-men supping
 with the men-pigs
 destroys, "whatever
 vestige of self-deception
 the animals may have"
 (qtd. in Sapakie 2).
- 3. In Gentile's words,
 "[T]he fear is [...] the
 primitive fear that our
 life is not our own, that
 free will is an illusion
 and our life has been
 mapped out by a higher
 power" (qtd. in Sapakie
 2)

MEANS

In this quote, Gentile describes the terror of the animals. This represents the formerly repressed reality of *Animal Farm*, the reality the animals have ignored - the pigs have become oppressors, remade in the image of active evil (based on Clover's terror when she sees Napoleon walking on his hind legs and carrying a whip on his trotter).

The quote clarifies with the repression of the covert fears of the unnatural they have tamped down for years now is now all too evident. The animals confront what readers have long known (based on final scene of Animal Farm)

In this quote, Gentile proposes that no animal on the farm has any semblance of autonomy or free will after being forced to acknowledge the illusory nature of the pigs' collective identity in the novel's closing scenes. The animals' dream of a golden future becomes an appalling nightmare.

MATTERS

This quote is important because Napoleon has become like Mr. Jones, the man that was run out of Manor Farm by the animals. Some leaders say that they will be better than the last leader, only to be similar to them. People will be shocked when they realize this.

An explanation of this quote reveals that the animals have returned back where they started. They wanted to change something, but they ended up right back at square one. However, some may not realize this.

This quote demonstrates how everything has escalated badly. The animals are doomed by the rule of Napoleon and the pigs. It could be referred to as a tyranny or dictatorship.



COMRADE NAPOLEON



COMRADE BOXER



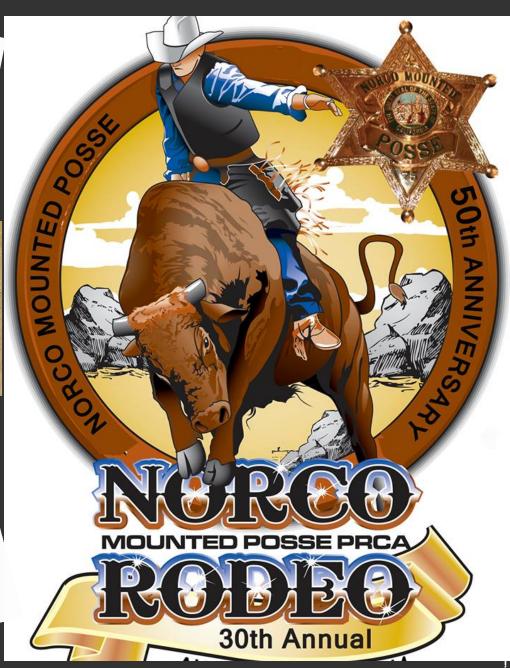
COMRADE SNOVBALL











DADA DRESS





GIRZS VS. GUYS

Animal Farm Exposes
Orwell's Sexism
By: Daphne Patai

"I'm not ashamed to dress 'like a woman' because I don't think it's shameful to be woman."

-Iggy Pop



SUMMARY

In the article "Animal Farm Exposes Orwell's Sexism" (1984), Daphne Patai argues that Orwell's writing is offensive to the female gender. Patai supports her claim by explaining how Orwell's text infers that the male gender is "supperior" to the female gender. She also provides examples from the novel *Animal Farm*, which supports the point she is trying to make about Orwell's sexism. Orwell's novel states that males are "masculine" and that they did all of the labor. It also depicts the women as motherly figures, and as ignorant individuals. In Orwell's novel, there are many gender stereotypes. The purpose of the article is to reveal Orwell's true feelings in order to inform people of how the famous author truly is. Patai establishes a formal tone to inform Orwell's readers of his sexist writing.

DISSECTING THE QUOTES

QUOTE 1

QUOTE 2

OUOTE 3

SAYS: According to the author Daphne,
"Leaders, then may be good (Major) or bad
(Napoleon) but they must be male and 'potent'" (Patai 1).

MEANS: In this quote the author describes how leaders can either be good like Major or bad like Napoleon, but if they want to be a leader, they must be a male and they must have great power, influence or an effect.

MATTERS: This quote demonstrates how only males would make a potent leader. It also refers to the two characters Major and Napoleon. In the animals' eyes, Major is seen as a good leader and Napoleon is the opposite of a good leader.

SAYS: The author claims that "in addition the relations among the sows competing for Napoleon's favor are hinted at near the story's end when Napoleon is on the verge of complete reconciliation with the human fathers the neighboring, farmers" (Patai 2).

MEANS: The quote is saying that all of the female animals were fighting over Napoleon to be his girlfriend. All the female animals in Animal Farm were attracted to Napoleon and were fighting over him.

MATTERS: This quote is important because it shows that Orwell makes the girls attracted to Napoleon simply because Napoleon has power. They don't want him because of his looks or his personality, but because he has power and can control all the animals in Animal Farm.

SAYS: As stated by the author, "A less important female character is the cat who, during Major's speech, finds the warmest place to settle down in and does not listen to a word he says" (Patai 1).

MEANS: The quote is explaining that females are ignorant. Females are not important and their opinions and presence does not matter in Animal Farm. The female animals are only there to supply the pig.

MATTERS: The quote demonstrates how females are not important. The male animals do not care about the female animals, and the females do not have a say in anything.

WMY SOGIALIST DON'T BELIEVE IN FUN'

GEORGE ORWELL

In the article "Why Socialists Don't Believe in Fun" (1943), George Orwell describes why utopias aren't a place where you can find happiness. He supports his claim by giving examples of of utopias created by H. G. Wells and Charles Dickens. The characters in the utopias are only giving the impression that they are happy. In the article, Orwell explains that the Cratchit family is happy because it's Christmas, which comes once a year and they can afford to have enough food to eat. They seem to be happy, yet the story is partially described. Orwell then discusses how utopias outline perfection instead of individual happiness. Orwell states that utopias are worlds without pain, suffering, fear, overwork, etc, but this does not give the people the opportunity to be happy. This may be due to the fact that utopias also control the individual by controlling his/her emotions. Finally, Orwell explains that the characters in utopias are only happy in contrast. For example, the Cratchits are happy on Christmas because they finally have a sufficient supply of food. Orwell is saying that you if you take away all the bad things in a society, it isn't going to make the people happy.



Vladimir Loni



Charles Dickens



DONT BELIEVE IN FUN

Says, Means, Matters

1) THE AUTHOR CLAIMS THAT "UTOPIAS SEEM TO BE POSTULATING PERFECTION WHILE BEING UNABLE TO SUGGEST HAPPINESS" (ORVELL 1).

THE QUOTE IS SAYING THAT UTOPIAS DEHAND PERFECTION, A SOCIETY WITHOUT PAIN OR SUFFERING. IT FOCUSES ON THAT INSTEAD OF THE PEOPLE FINDING THEIR HAPPINESS.

This quote is important because it outlines the characteristics of a utopia and it makes the reader aware of its environment.

2) According to the author, "It would seem that humans are not able to describe, nor perhaps to imagine happiness except in terms of contrast"

(Orvell 2)

THIS QUOTE IS EXPLAINING THAT HUMANS CANNOT BE HAPPY IF THEY ARE IN A SITUATION THAT THEY DO NOT LIKE. THEY CAN ONLY BE HAPPY IF THEY ARE IN ONE THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH.

THIS QUOTE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT LETS THE READER THINK ABOUT THE TEXT AND COMPARE IT TO HIS/HER LIFE SITUATION. IT WILL LET THE READER TRY AND CONNECT TO IT.

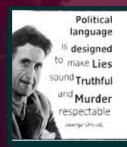
3) The author asserts, "Nearly all creators of Utopia have resembled the man who has toothache, and therefore thinks happiness consists of it not having a toothache" (Orvell 3).

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS QUOTE MEANS THAT THE PEOPLE WHO CREATED UTOPIAS THINK THAT IF YOU TAKE AWAY ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING, THE PEOPLE WILL BE HAPPY.

"Orwell Preaches Individual Responsibility as a Weapon Against Dictatorship"

Summary

In the article "Orwell Preaches Individual Responsibility as a Weapon Against Dictatorship" (1996), Katharine Byrne explains how people see the book *Animal Farm* as a counter-revolutionary book. At the end of the book, the animals do not revolt against Napoleon's dictatorship and readers are upset by this. They believe George Orwell is saying that it is not worth it to rebel. These people want to stand up for themselves and they don't like the fact that he is saying not to. Orwell believes that a revolution must be done for yourself. If a power-hungry person is leading the revolt, then the result will be a change in masters. Animal Farm shows that power corrupts and that there are many seeking it. Bryne and many others believe the book speaks against corruption. The book is warning about fighting for the wrong reasons. Make sure your heart is in the right place before you fight. Sometimes you must let others speak up.



One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes a revolution in order to establish a dictatorship.

George Orwell



During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.

(George Orwell)

Power is in inflicting pain and humiliation.

George Orwell



"A book that satirized the betrayal of Russia's revolution by its leaders was regarded, at the very least, as an affront to a friend" (Byrne 1).

Means: In the quote, the author describes <u>Animal Farm</u> as a mockery of the treason created by Russia's leaders. This would be a huge offense towards Russia, which America did not want since hey were our allies in World War II.

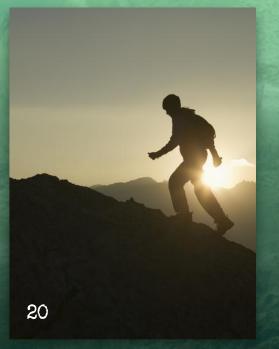
Matters: This quote demonstrates how Orwell didn't care about offending the Russians, even if it disturbed World War II. His main priority in writing was to write against corruption no matter where it occured.



"You can't have a revolution unless you make it for yourself; there is no such thing as a benevolent dictatorship" (Byrne 3).

Means: This quote is saying that a country can't revolt unless everyone contributes. The people can't lose faith or give in because there is no morality in a dictatorship.

Matters: This quote reminds the reader that <u>Animal Farm</u> was not supporting counter-revolutionists - that is the last message Orwell wanted the audience to gain. He wanted to ratify revolutions by distressed people.



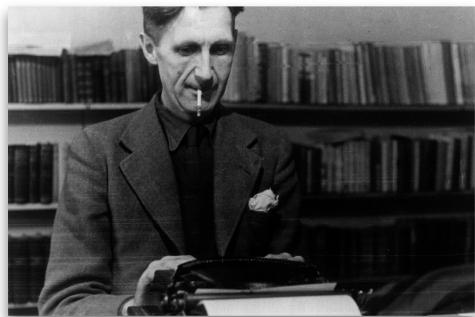
"The tendency of power to corrupt must always be recognized; people's hold over their own fate must previal: an alert, informed, and wary electorate" (Byrne 3).

Means: This quote is reinforcing the idea that any sort of fraudulent power should be realized so people can overcome it. People with an alert, informed. and wary electorate can overcome their leaders.

Matters: An examination of this quote reveals what oppressed citizens should realize. Orwell describes that with these traits, any society is capable of creating a rewarding revolution.



In the article "Animal Farm is Trivial" (1969). Keith Alldritt argues that Orwell's novel is only a means of expressing his own opinion and showing the Russian Revolution as a simple war. Since Animal Farm is subtitled "A Fairy Story" yet features no fairies or magical elements, Alldritt says that it is not an appropriate description. He Then concedes that since Orwell's novel tells the story of the Russian Revolution directly and easily (just like a fairy tale does), the subtitle is correct. Alldritt believes that Orwell oversimplifies the Russian Revolution in his novel and does not include the complexity of the problems in a society. He compares Animal Farm to a nursery tale due to the way that sentimentality is used to evoke feelings of sympathy and compassion, such as what happens when Boxer is sold because he is too ill to work anymore. Alldritt believes these feelings are tolerable in a nursery story since it is not for anyone except children, but they have no place in a story that claims to be for adult intelligence and political problems. He supports his claim by referencing Kipling's Second Jungle Book and the similarities it has to Animal Farm, like the laws that were painted on the wall of the cowshed by the animals. They were very similar to "The Law of the Jungle" in Kipling's book, and the notion of humanized animals could also be from his book. Alldritt's thoughts about Animal Farm are mostly negative because his belief that Orwell only wanted to express his own opinions.



George Orwell



Joseph Stalin



1a) The author states, "Take for instance, the emotional climax of the book when Boxer, [...] is sold to the knackers by the pig-commissars when he becomes too ill to work anymore. The feelings of simple compassion and absolutely righteous indignation has no pretensions to being anything other than a nursery tale" (Alldritt 2).

2a) The author plainly asserts, "He has found a form which is easy and pleasing to him, but which is a means for turning away from the disturbing complexities of experience rather than for confronting them" (Alldritt 2).

1b) In this quote, the author proposes that Orwell's Animal Farm doesn't capture the mood correctly of the Russian Revolution. The

good for a nursery tale.

2b) This quote is reinforcing the idea 2c) This quote matters because it of Orwell not capturing the complexity of situations in the actual Animal Farm and the revolution. revolution in Animal Farm. It only allows simple ideas and easy responses.

that Animal Farm is about the revolution. They should think of the parts that sound very nursery-like author says that certain parts are only and how they represent a situation in the revolution. Orwell probably had them in mind, but failed to express them effectively.

> shows how the author feels about This text connects to everything else because it really shows the opinion of the author. Alldritt probably finds his book too "kiddish."

3a) The author states, "For instance, an important stage in Comrade Napoleon's gradual abandonment of the principles of animalism occurs when he sits down at the table to eat. But in relating to this, Orwell tells just a little bit more; he 'always ate,' he tells us, 'from the crown Derby dinner service which had been in the glass cupboard in the drawing room" (Alldritt 3).

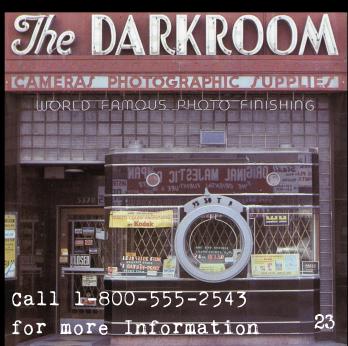
3b) In this quote the author is saying that Orwell uses a certain method of writing to try to engage and illuminate the reader. He calls it "the unmistakable mark of Dickens's writing."

3c) The author's statement matters because it once again shows how he feels about Orwell's book. Alldritt points out Orwell's lack of accuracy in expressing situations from the revolution, instead opting for the use of humor. He says that *Animal Farm* is a piece of literary self-indulgence.









LONG LIVE LEADER

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