

**“ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL”: A COMPLETE STUDY OF ORWELL’S POLITICAL ALLEGORY****Pallavi G<sup>1</sup>, Jaithoon Beevi P<sup>2</sup>**Assistant Professor<sup>1</sup>, Student<sup>2</sup>, Department of English, Thirumurugan Arts and Science College for Women, Thirupatchur, Tiruvallur**Article Received:** 26/12/2025**Article Accepted:** 27/01/2026**Published Online:** 28/01/2026**DOI:**10.47311/IJOES.2025.8.01.414**Abstract**

George Orwell, published *Animal Farm* in 1945, as he was inspired by the 1917 Russian Revolution. *Animal Farm* is a political allegory that critiques totalitarianism, power, and corruption through the satirical portrayal of a farmyard revolution. The Farm transfigure into a dictatorship where propaganda, fear and manipulation maintain control, reflect, the rise of Stalinism in Soviet Russia. The *Animal Farm* is an animal story outwardly but inwardly this novel is an allegory and a satire about Russian Revolution of 1917 with false qualities of class struggle. The need of the study is to show how literature critiques and throwback existent historical and political events, to find how societies that go about with ideals of equality can slowly turn into tyranny through power structures, and to look into how language and slogans are pre-owned as powerful tools of control and trickery. It will also help readers recognize Orwell’s important warning against blind obedience and unchecked authority. The present study focuses on George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* as a political allegory, with specific heed to the slogan “*All animals are equal.*” The scope includes the analysis of major concern such as equality, power, corruption, propaganda, and the gradual shift from democracy to dictatorship within the narrative. The study examines selected characters, events, and symbols to understand how they mean for the really historical and political situations.

**KeyWords:** Allegory, Satire, Totalitarianism, Propaganda, Betrayal, Stalinism, Dictatorship**Introduction:**

George Orwell, born as Eric Arthur Blair in 1903, was one of the most remarkable writers of the twentieth century. Though he later became famous under the pen name George Orwell, in his early years he lived a very ordinary life. His birthplace was Motahari, a small town in Bihar, India, where his father was working in the British civil service. Even though he was born in India, Orwell spent most of his childhood in England after being sent there for

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schooling.

From his younger days, Orwell had a sharp eye for the world around him. He disliked injustice, inequality, and false authority. These qualities shaped both his personality and his writing career. Unlike many writers who stayed away from politics, Orwell boldly connected literature with society. He strongly believed that writing was not just for entertainment but also for truth-telling. His works often deal with themes of poverty, oppression, dictatorship, and the misuse of power. For a short time, he served in the Indian Imperial Police in Burma, but he resigned because he was uncomfortable with the idea of ruling over people. This decision shows his moral stand against imperialism. Later, he struggled with poverty in Paris and London, which gave him firsthand experience of how the poor suffered. He wrote about this period in his book *Down and Out in Paris and London*.

Orwell was also deeply affected by political events in Europe. He fought briefly in the Spanish Civil War, where he saw how political leaders betrayed their own ideals for power. This experience opened his eyes to the dangers of propaganda, lies, and authoritarianism. These themes appear again and again in his later works. Orwell's most famous writings include *Animal Farm* (1945) and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). While *Animal Farm* uses animals on a farm to tell the story of the Russian Revolution and its aftermath, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* presents a frightening picture of a future where the government controls every aspect of life. Both books carry one central message: power, when unchecked, can easily turn into oppression.

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell is a political allegory that tells the story of a group of farm animals who overthrow their human owner in hopes of creating an equal and just society. Inspired by Old Major's dream of freedom, the animal's revolt against Mr. Jones and take control of the farm, renaming it "Animal Farm." At first, they believe that all animals will live together in equality, sharing work and benefits fairly.

However, as time passes, the pigs—especially Napoleon—begin to assume leadership and power. They gradually give themselves special privileges, alter the farm's commandments, and manipulate the other animals through fear and propaganda. The famous principle "*All animals are equal*" is slowly changed into "*All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.*" At last, the pigs become indistinguishable from humans, and the promise of equality is completely betrayed.

Through simple language and animal characters, Orwell powerfully portrays the rise of dictatorship, the corruption of ideals, and the dangers of unquestioned authority. Although the story is set on a farm, it reflects real historical events and remains relevant to modern political and social systems.

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Thus, this Study aims to examine George Orwell's *Animal Farm* not only as a story, but as a serious political allegory. Through this study, it was aim to explore how Orwell used fiction to reflect reality, and how his message remains meaningful even today.

**Analysis:**

The study of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* reveals how the slogan "*All animals are equal*" functions as the central ideological device of the allegory. At the beginning of the narrative, the phrase represents the promise of a just and classless society. However, as the plot progresses, the analysis shows that this ideal is gradually distorted by those in power. The pigs, who initially appear as leaders of liberation, slowly assume privileges, manipulate rules, and transform themselves into new oppressors. This demonstrates how revolutions can reproduce the very systems they seek to destroy.

The story of *Animal Farm* begins on a farm owned by Mr. Jones, a careless and often drunk farmer. The animals are unhappy because they are treated badly, given little food, and forced to work hard. One night, an old pig named Old Major gathers all the animals and shares his dream of a better world. In his dream, animals live freely, without human masters, and enjoy the fruits of their own labor. Inspired by his vision, the animals begin to imagine a life of equality where no one is exploited. Soon after, Old Major dies, but his ideas remain alive in the hearts of the animals. Encouraged by the pigs, especially Snowball and Napoleon, the animals rise in rebellion. They chase Mr. Jones out of the farm and take control of it themselves. They rename it "*Animal Farm*" to mark a new beginning. To guide their new society, the pigs write down Seven Commandments, which declare that all animals are equal and that no animal should ever behave like humans.

In the early days, the farm seems to run well. The animals work jointly and take pride in their independence. However, slowly, problems begin to appear. Napoleon and Snowball, the two leading pigs, disagree about how the farm should be managed. Snowball is intelligent and has many ideas, such as building a windmill to generate electricity and make life easier. Napoleon, however, has a great desire for power. He wants complete control. Finally, using trained dogs as his secret police, Napoleon drives Snowball out of the farm. From that moment on, Napoleon becomes the sole leader.

After gaining power, Napoleon begins to change the rules. The Seven Commandments are secretly altered to benefit the pigs. Squealer, another clever pig, uses persuasive speeches to convince the animals that nothing wrong has happened. The animals, though confused, accept his explanations because they are afraid to question authority. Meanwhile, the dream of equality slowly fades. The pigs take the best food, sleep in comfortable beds, and live like humans, while the other animals suffer and work harder than before. The building of the windmill becomes a symbol of their endless labor, but it brings little benefit to the common animals. Those who protest are silenced. Even the loyal horse

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Boxer, who works tirelessly with the motto "*I will work harder,*" is betrayed in the end. Instead of being cared for in his old age, he is sold to a slaughterhouse.

At the end of the novel, the pigs have become as like as humans. They walk on two legs, carry whips, and even host meetings with neighboring farmers. The original principle, "*All animals are equal,*" is finally changed to the shocking line: "*All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others*". The revolution that began with dreams of freedom has ended in tyranny, proving that power has corrupted the pigs completely.

Thus, the story of Animal Farm is simple on the surface but deeply meaningful. It begins with hope and ends with betrayal. The most important themes of the novel are corruption of power, equality and inequality, betrayal of trust, propaganda and lies, and the cycle of oppression. Orwell uses this theme to show how promises of fairness are often broken by those in power.

The most Important background to Animal Farm is the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the events that followed. In Russia, the people were tired of the Tsar's misrule, poverty, and inequality. Inspired by revolutionary leaders such as Lenin, they overthrew the monarchy and established a new government based on the ideas of communism. The promise was simple: equality for all and an end to exploitation. However, the dream of freedom soon turned into a nightmare when Joseph Stalin rose to power.

In Animal Farm, Orwell replaced human politicians with animals. By doing so, he simplified the story but made it even more powerful. Each character on the farm represents a real figure from Russian history. For example, the farmer Mr. Jones represents Tsar Nicholas II, the ruler who was overthrown. The pigs represent the revolutionary leaders. Old Major represents Lenin or Karl Marx, the thinkers who inspired the revolution. Snowball represents Leon Trotsky, an Intelligent leader who was later chased away, while Napoleon clearly represents Stalin, the dictator who took control.

Old Major, the wise old pig who inspires the animals with his speech, symbolizes both Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin. Karl Marx was the philosopher who first imagined communism a system where everyone is equal and resources are shared fairly. Lenin, led the Russian Revolution after being influenced by Marx. As he said, his voice was hoarse, but he sang well enough, and it was a stirring tune, something between Clementine and La Cucaracha.

In the novel, Old Major's dream of equality represents Marx's and Lenin's revolutionary ideas. His famous speech before his death gives the animals hope for a better future, just as Marx's writings and Lenin's leadership inspired the Russian people. However, Old Major dies before the rebellion, just as Marx died before communism was ever tried,

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and Lenin died before seeing the full outcome of the revolution. This leaves the way open for others, like Napoleon and Snowball, to shape the future.

Orwell's purpose was not only to talk about Russia but to warn every nation and every generation. He wanted readers to ask themselves: What happens when leaders become too powerful? What happens when citizens stop questioning authority? In this way, the novel remains timeless. Ordinary people, like the animals on the farm, sometimes believe these lies because they are afraid or because they do not have enough knowledge to question them.

A close reading of the text highlights the use of allegory and symbolism. The animals symbolize different social groups, while the farm represents a political state. Characters such as Napoleon and Snowball embody conflicting leadership styles, revealing struggles for power, ideology, and control. The transformation of commandments, especially the alteration of the original maxim into "*All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others,*" exposes how political language is used to justify inequality. This indicates that language is not neutral; it becomes a mechanism through which authority reshapes reality.

When the animals of Manor Farm overthrow Mr. Jones, they are not only rebelling against human cruelty but also laying the foundation for a just society. To make sure that everyone lives equally and fairly, the pigs write down the Seven Commandments of Animalism. These rules were supposed to act as the heart of the revolution, a guarantee that no animal would dominate another.

The commandments were simple, memorable, and powerful:

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.
7. All animals are equal. (pg.23) \*

These rules inspired the animals with hope. They believed they were entering a new world of equality and fairness. But as the story unfolds, Orwell shows how easily ideals can be bent, erased, and rewritten by those in power.

The corruption of the Seven Commandments is the clearest proof of the revolution's failure. What began as a movement for equality ends with a system more oppressive than before. The tragedy of Animal Farm is not just the fall of a farm it is the story of how every revolution risk being destroyed from within when leaders value power more than justice. The analysis further shows that propaganda and education are major instruments of domination in the novel. Squealer's speeches, repetition of slogans, and rewriting of history

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illustrate how truth can be manipulated to maintain power. The other animals become victims of ignorance and fear, demonstrating how lack of awareness enables tyranny. Thus, the text critiques not only corrupt leaders but also passive citizens who fail to question authority.

Finally, the study establishes that Orwell's allegory extends beyond its historical reference to totalitarian regimes and remains relevant in modern contexts. The narrative reflects ongoing issues such as political corruption, class inequality, misuse of media, and betrayal of democratic ideals. Through satire and irony, Orwell critiques human nature and suggests that equality cannot survive without vigilance, ethical leadership, and informed participation of the people.

### **Materials and Methods**

#### **Materials:**

The primary material for this study is George Orwell's novella *Animal Farm*. In addition, related secondary sources such as scholarly articles, critical essays, books on political allegory, online academic databases, and historical references on the Russian Revolution and totalitarian regimes were used. Classroom notes, commentaries, and previous research studies on Orwell's works also support the analysis.

#### **Methods:**

This study adopts a qualitative, descriptive, and analytical research method. A close reading of *Animal Farm* was carried out to identify themes of equality, power, tyranny, propaganda, and political manipulation. The text examined through allegorical and thematic analysis, comparing characters and events in the novella with real historical and political situations. Relevant critical writings reviewed to support interpretation. Content from the text organized, analysed, and interpreted to understand Orwell's message, symbolism, and the political implications of the statement "All animals are equal."

#### **Results and Discussion:**

The analysis of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* shows that the principle "All animals are equal" is gradually transformed into a tool of political manipulation rather than genuine equality. The study reveals that although the revolution begins with ideals of justice, unity, and equal rights, power soon becomes concentrated in the hands of a few, particularly the pigs, leading to inequality and oppression. The results indicate that the farm society shifts from collective governance to authoritarian rule, demonstrating how revolutions can betray their original objectives.

The discussion highlights how language and slogans play a central role in maintaining control. Phrases such as "All animals are equal" are repeatedly altered and simplified to confuse the other animals and suppress dissent. This shows how propaganda, misinformation, and controlled education become powerful political weapons. The changing commandments illustrate the flexible nature of truth under totalitarian systems.

The study further finds strong parallels between the events of the novel and real historical situations, particularly dictatorships where leaders promise equality but create hierarchical

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systems. Readers can relate these findings to contemporary politics, where citizens may face manipulation through media, false promises, and misuse of power. The results show that Orwell's allegory remains highly relevant today.

Overall, the discussion confirms that Orwell warns against blind obedience, lack of critical thinking, and unchecked authority. Equality without accountability turns into oppression, and revolutions without ethical leadership collapse into new forms of tyranny. The study therefore demonstrates that *Animal Farm* is not only a political allegory of its time but a continuing lesson on democracy, power, and human nature.

### **Conclusion:**

The Conclusion of the study of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, centred on the maxim "All animals are equal," demonstrates that ideals of equality can be easily corrupted when power is concentrated in the hands of a few. Although the revolution on the farm begins with promises of justice and collective welfare, it gradually turns into a dictatorship marked by inequality, fear, and exploitation. The transformation of the original commandment into "*All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others*" clearly reveals how political language and propaganda are used to distort truth and justify oppression.

This study concludes that Orwell's allegory is not only a satire on specific historical events but also a universal warning. It highlights the dangers of blind obedience, lack of critical awareness, and unchecked authority in any society. The text shows that true equality requires constant vigilance, ethical leadership, and informed participation of citizens. *Animal Farm* therefore remains deeply relevant today, reminding readers that democracy and justice can survive only when people question, think critically, and resist the abuse of power.

### **Limitation of the Research:**

This Study is limited to rhetorical analysis and interpretation of the story and does not involve field surveys or statistical data. It also includes the study of relevant critical essays and scholarly discussions to support interpretation. The findings are confined to Orwell's work and do not attempt to analyse all ministerial allegories in Writing. Within these limits, the study aims to highlight the continuing relevance of *Animal Farm* to modern socio-political state of affairs and to literary analysis.

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