

GEORGE ORWELL
Animal Farm

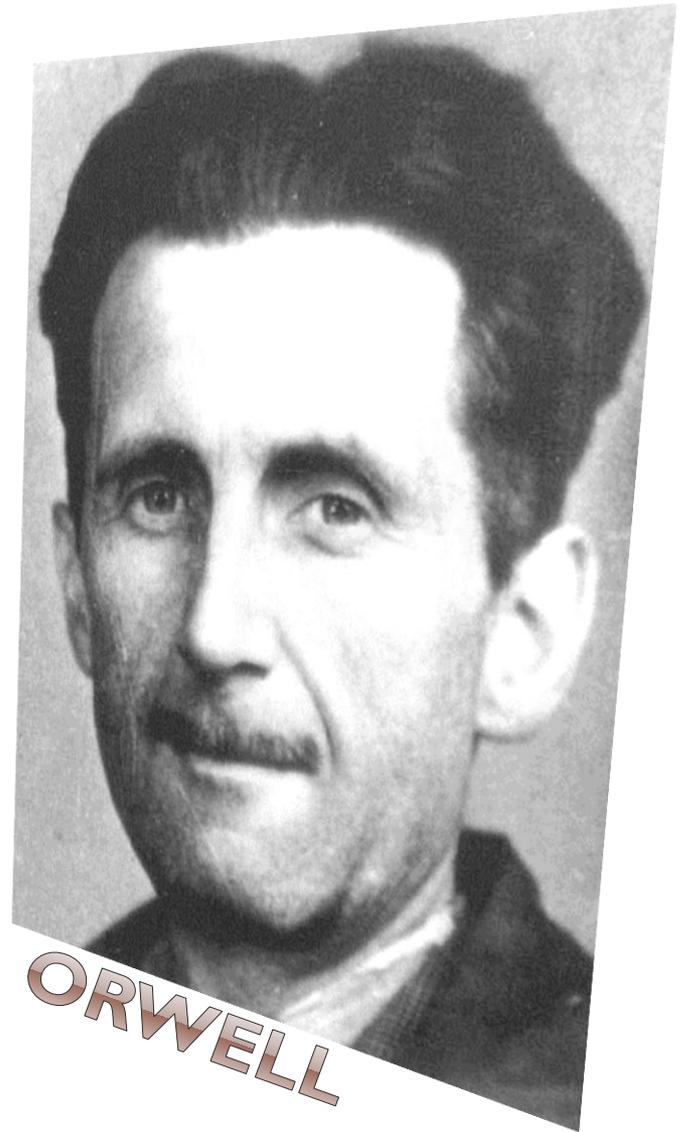
About the Author ...

- George Orwell's real name is Eric Blair.
- He was born in India in 1903.
- He attended a posh boarding school, but was not rich. He referred to it as “a world of force, fraud, and secrecy.”



About the Author ...

- He was singled out for his intelligence but humiliated for his poverty.
- He later studied at Eton and one of his teachers was Aldous Huxley – Brave New World.



About the Author ...

- He became a member of the Indian Imperial Police and worked in Burma.
- He did not like the way the Burmese were treated by the English.
- He resigned in 1927.

About the Author ...

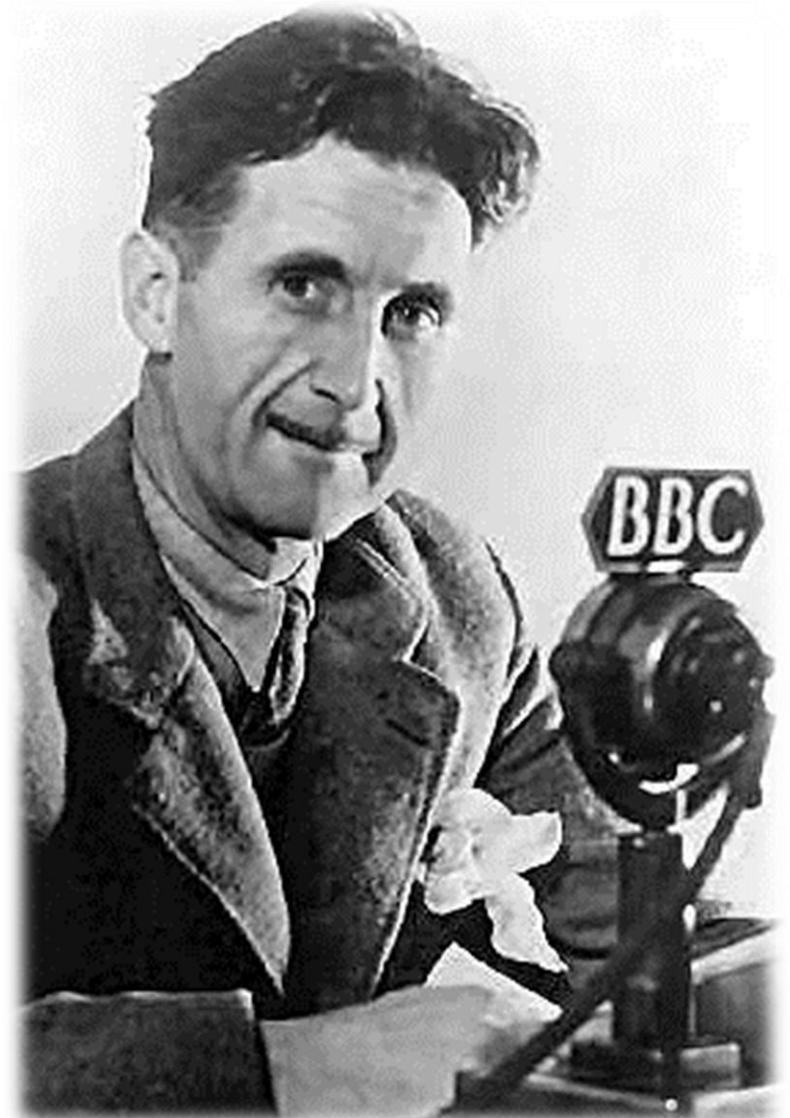
- He started to write in Paris and supported himself by working as a dishwasher.



- He started to get noticed as a writer in 1933. This is when he began to use a pen name. Orwell is the name of a river.

About the Author ...

- He married and shortly thereafter left to fight in the Spanish Civil War (1936-39).
- He was wounded and sent home. When he spoke of the horrors of war, he felt no one listened to him.
- After the war, he joined the BBC in London.



About the Author ...

- Politically, he was a **socialist**.
- That is, he believed that capitalism unfairly concentrates power and wealth among a small segment of society that controls the money. He believed that this creates an unequal society since the rich mainly prosper by exploiting the poor without providing equal opportunities for everyone.

About the Author ...

- Animal Farm was published in 1945.
- He also wrote the novel 1984. It is a darkly satirical novel about life in a future totalitarian society ... “Big Brother”

About the Author ...

- He wrote Animal Farm between November 1943 and Feb. 1944.
- He died at age 46 on Jan. 23, 1950.



ABOUT THE NOVEL ...

- ✘ Animal Farm is an **allegory**.
- ✘ It is a story that can be read on two distinct levels. Characters and events in an allegory represent something else, and they are used by the writer to convey a moral or philosophical message. Many of the characters in Animal Farm represent political leaders of the Russian Revolution.

About the Novel ...

- ✘ Animal Farm is also a **satire**.
- ✘ A satire uses ridicule to make certain people, events, or institutions appear foolish. Orwell makes extensive use of dramatic, verbal and situational irony.

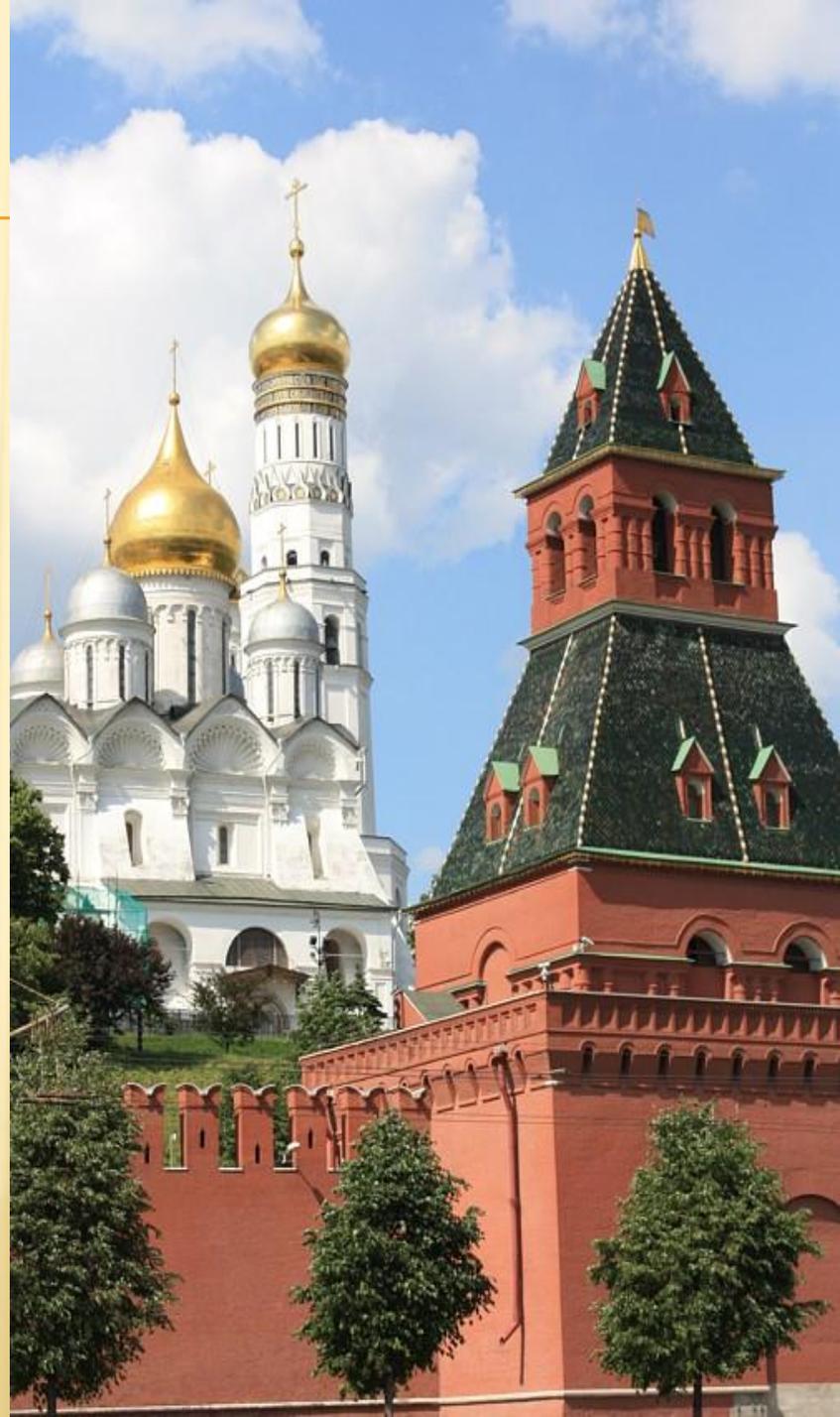
About the Novel ...

- ✘ It is also a **fable**.
- ✘ A fable is a brief, often humorous, tale that presents a moral or message.

ABOUT THE NOVEL ...

Since the story is an allegory, most locations, events, and characters can be translated into this historical context.

- ✘ Animal Farm represents Russia.
- ✘ Napoleon the pig represents Joseph Stalin, the revolutionary who becomes a dictator.
- ✘ The farmhouse represents the Kremlin, originally a palace of the czars, which becomes the center of Soviet government.



MAJOR THEMES IN ANIMAL FARM

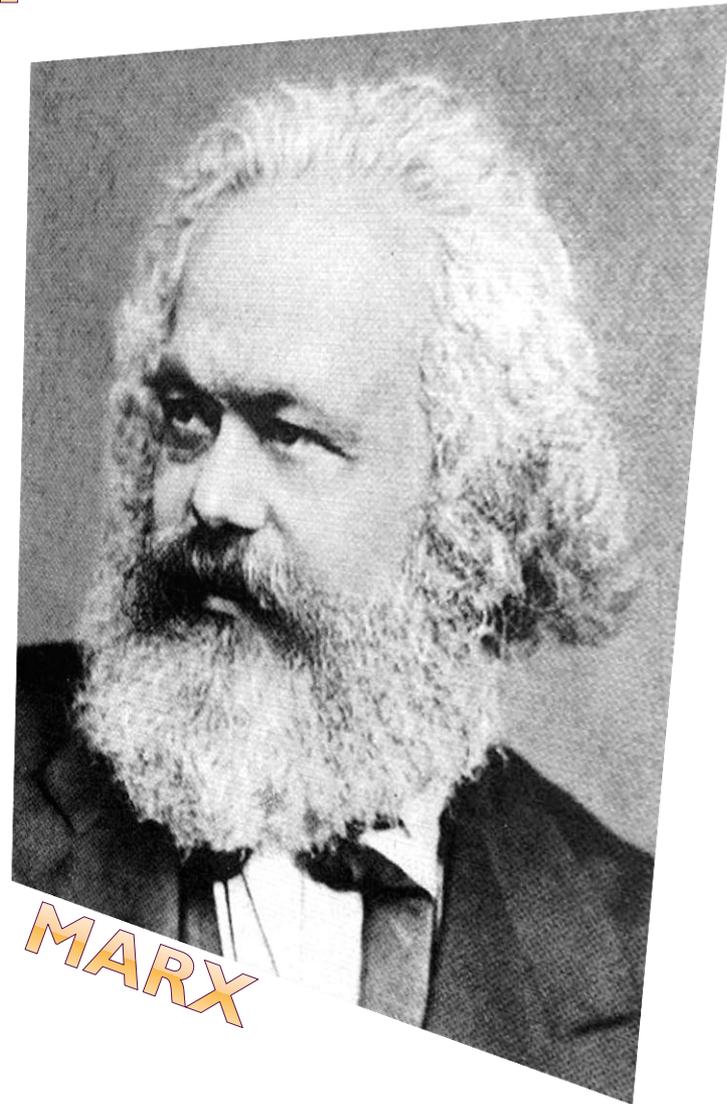
- × **Absolute power** corrupts absolutely
- × Ways **language** can be used to manipulate
- × **Powerless people** give away power to others

SOVIET HISTORY

- ⦿ He believed that the main problem in history was the struggle between the classes.
- ⦿ In the early 1900s, the writings of Karl Marx, the economy, and the injustices of the czars led to widespread revolt.

SOVIET HISTORY

- Karl Marx was born in Prussia (Germany) in 1818. He helped write the Communist Manifesto. “From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs.”



SOVIET HISTORY

- On March 15, 1917 – Czar Nicholas II was overthrown.



SOVIET HISTORY

- ◉ Vladimir Lenin took over as the leader of the Bolsheviks – renamed themselves the Russian Communist Party and became known as the Reds.
- ◉ Lenin believed strongly in collective farming.



SOVIET HISTORY

- ◉ When Lenin died, a power struggle came about between Leon Trotsky (Snowball) and Joseph Stalin (Napoleon).
- ◉ Trotsky was exiled in 1928 and later assassinated by Stalin agents.
- ◉ By 1938, it was apparent that the Soviet Union had become a totalitarian dictatorship under Stalin.



SOVIET HISTORY

- ⦿ His ideas didn't work so well and he was violent against people who were disloyal.
- ⦿ Nearly eight million people who were thought to be disloyal were arrested, tried and sent off to labor camps, deported or executed.
- ⦿ Animal Farm was published in 1945.
- ⦿ Stalin died in 1953.

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