

## **Animal Farm**

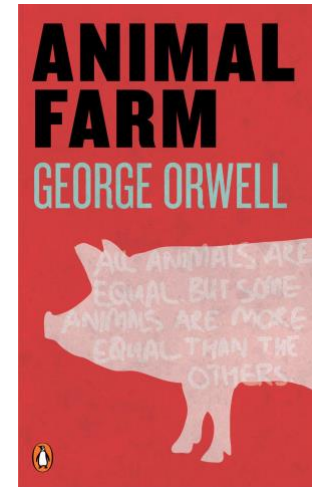
**By George Orwell**

**Reviewed by: Varin. H, 16**

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**On a simple English farm, the animals rebel against their neglectful farmer and promise to create a bright future for their farm. They started off by renaming their farm to “Animal Farm”, creating Seven commandments on a wall, and putting the smart pigs in charge. The story starts off on a hopeful note, the farm is thriving and their hope is flourishing. But when the pigs, Napoleon and Snowball argue over a project, Napoleon decides to rule by himself. Napoleon decides to start using Slogans, changing rules, and using fear created by the dogs, to take control of the entire farm. When the humans return to the farmhouse, the animals can’t tell pigs from humans, or tell if the revolution actually did anything in the end.**



**I loved how George Orwell used simple animals and environment to bring deep messages and meaning in each text he wrote. The farm feels alive with characters, Boxer with his motto “I will work harder”, Squealer whose speeches move people, and the wise Benjamin. Changing rules and the commandments are a brilliant way to convey how history and rules can be written, then rewritten. The writing is ordinary, but the storytelling sticks with you, the pigs becoming corrupt with power, the original dreams of the animals, and the final scene in the farmhouse window.**

**A few things I didn’t like, is how the characters are just archetypes, rather than more realistic people, and how the book feels mostly bleak. Time jumps would happen so quickly, that it was hard to tell how the animals thought about what they were watching unveil. The hyperfocus still serves Orwell’s message well, showing how dreams can slowly erode because of greed and corruption. Content notes for any young readers: there are scary scenes of violence, alcohol use, and the book may be too sad to read.**

**I would recommend *Animal Farm* for readers from 13 and up. It’s short, impactful, and carries images that stick with you, long after you finish the book. This book is perfect for readers interested in history, propaganda, and realistic storytelling. This book is suitable for re-reading at different ages, you would notice more and more little details, and there are many different editions of this book that contain author notes. It’s overall a great read, and sparks critical thinking on leadership, responsibility, courage, and human history.**

**Recommended Titles:**

**1984, by George Orwell**

**Lord of the Flies, by William Golding**

**The Giver, by Lois Lowry**

**Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury**

**To Kill a Mockingbird, By Harper Lee**