

The Novel as Allegory: Historical Parallels in Animal Farm

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English 3/4 Accelerated

Allegory vs. Fable

- What is an allegory?
 - An allegory is a story in which there is a one-to-one correspondence between characters and events on a deeper level of meaning.
- What is a fable?
 - A fable is a humorous story removed from reality which gives human qualities and speech to animals. It's purpose is to teach a lesson.

Animal Farm is:

- an allegory in which characters and events correspond directly to people and events of the Russian Revolution.
- an allegory which the author, George Orwell, uses as a vehicle to speak out against global fascism and dictatorship.

The Characters of Animal Farm and their Historical Parallels

Old Major

- Representative of Marxism
- Parallel with Vladimir Lenin, leader of the November 1917 Revolution



Farmer Jones



- Representative of the "old order"
- Parallel with Czar Nicholas II

Moses, the Raven

- Representative of organized religion (i.e. “Sugar Candy Mountain”)
- Parallel with the Patriarch (leader) of the Russian Orthodox Church

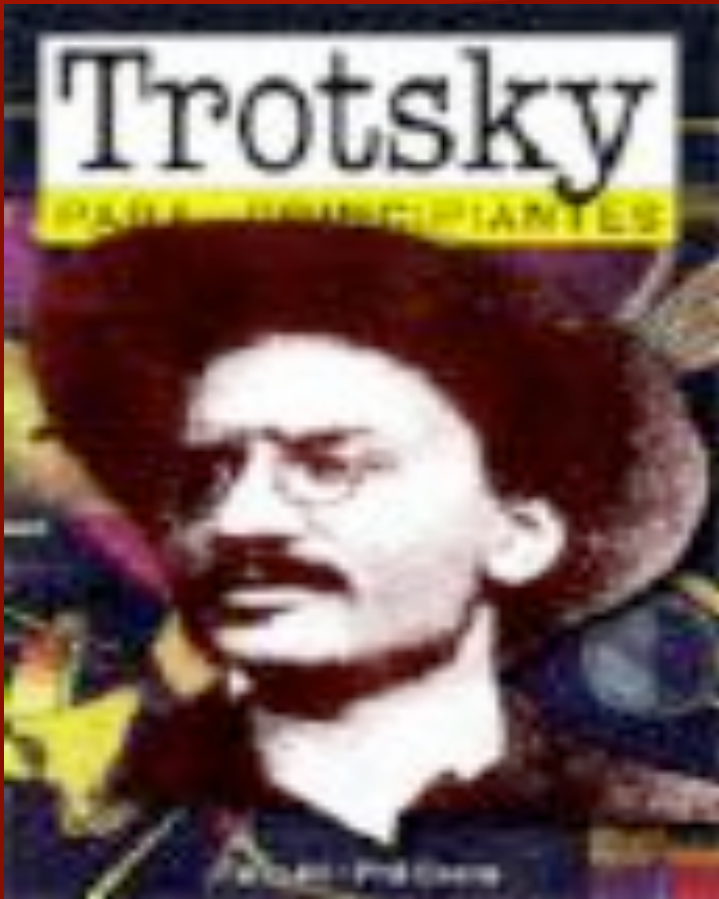


Napoleon

- Represents the new revolutionary order
- Parallel with Joseph Stalin



Snowball



- Represents defending and spreading the revolution
- Parallels Leon Trotsky, leader of the Red Army

Squealer

- Spreads all of Napoleon's propaganda, including using demonstrations (sheep)
- Parallel with *Pravda*, the official newspaper of the Soviet government



Napoleon's dogs



- Protect Napoleon, carry out executions, enforce his decrees
- Parallel with the Cheka and KGB (Soviet secret police)

Pilkington and Foxwood Farm

- Becomes friend and ally of Napoleon and Animal Farm
- Parallel with Churchill (prime minister) and England



Frederick and Pinchfield Farm

- Represents competition with Animal Farm
- Parallel with Hitler (Fuhrer) and Nazi Germany



Animals (other than pigs and dogs)



- Represented by Boxer
- Workforce on the farm
- Parallel the Russian proletariat (working class)

Mollie, the cart horse

- Represents the luxury of the “old order”
- Parallels the Russian bourgeoisie (middle class)



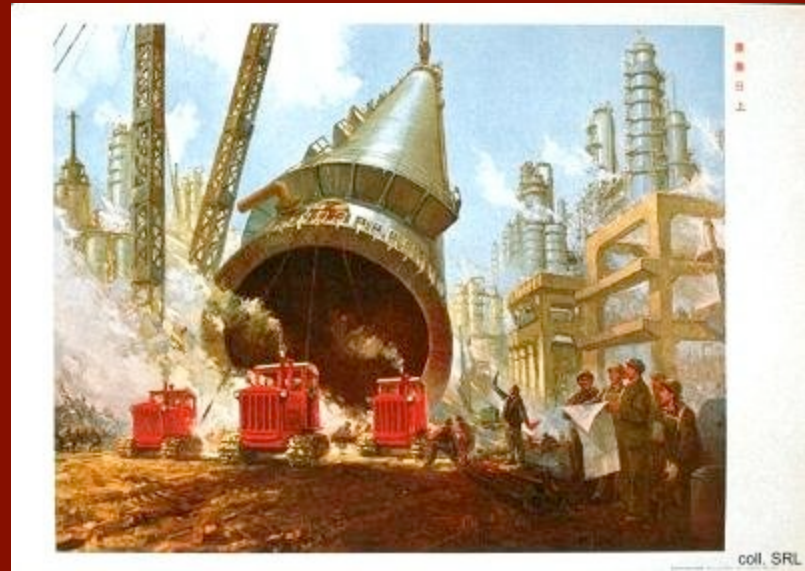
Mr. Whymper, the broker



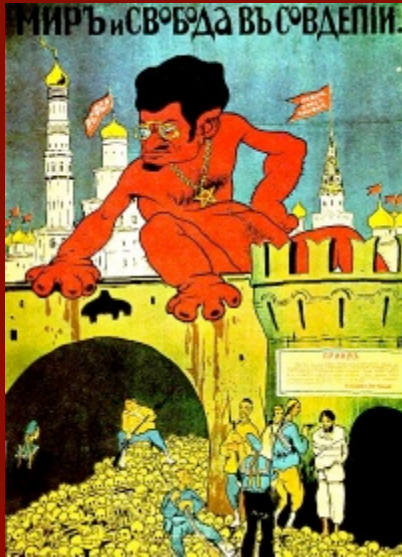
- Represents “outsiders” who support the rebellion at Animal Farm
- Parallels foreign agents of the Comintern, an acronym for the Communist Internationale, created to spread the revolution

Pigeons

- Were sent to other farms to spread the rebellion from Animal Farm
- Parallel with the Communist Internationale, also called the Comintern



4 young pigs



- Reject Napoleon's ideas and are executed
- Parallel with the White Russian Army

The Events of Animal Farm and their Historical Parallels

Battle of the Cowshed

- Attempt by humans to reclaim Animal Farm and crush the animals' rebellion
- Parallels the British invasion of Russia at Arcangel aimed at removing Lenin and the revolutionary government



Chasing away Farmer Jones



- Ridding the farm of all human control
- Represents the end of the "old order"
- Parallels the removal and execution of Nicholas II and his family

Napoleon takes over the farm

- Napoleon succeeds Old Major, the pig who had inspired the animals to revolt
- Parallels Stalin becoming Soviet dictator in 1926



Building the windmill

- Creating economic self-sufficiency for the farm
- Parallels with Stalin's 5-Year Plan (NEP)



Selling the wood

- Wood from Animal Farm was sold to Frederick who paid in counterfeit money
- Parallels Nazi-Soviet pact



Battle of the Windmill



- Attack led by humans to destroy the windmill built by the animals
- Parallel with the Battle of Stalingrad (German invasion of Russia during WWII)

Old Major's Skull



- Was dug up and placed in a prominent place in the farmyard
- Parallels Lenin's embalmed body placed on display in Red Square (Lenin's Tomb)

Hoof and horn on the flag



- Animal Farm flies a green flag with a hoof and horn
- Parallels the Soviet flag with the hammer and sickle

Confessions/Executions

- Confessions of animals (chickens, pigs) to crimes against Animal Farm
- Executions of those animals carried out by Napoleon's dogs
- Parallels Stalin's purges of 1936-38



Final Scene of Animal Farm



- Meeting of pigs and men
- Animals watching can't tell the difference between them
- Parallels the Tehran Conference of 1943 between Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin
- This conference made concessions to the Soviet Union, as well as supporting the independence of Iran

Animal Farm = Russia/Soviet Union

