

# Chapter 7

The animals face starvation. In fact “*starvation seemed to stare them in the face.*” Squealer makes up more lies to make Snowball seem like an all-powerful, invisible enemy – “*whenever anything went wrong it became usual to attribute it to Snowball.*” Napoleon uses Snowball as an excuse for \_\_\_\_\_ . Snowball returns each night – the cows are so paranoid by this claim, they believe Snowball milks them in their sleep. Squealer claims that Snowball was “in league with Jones.”

Snowball is just an imaginary threat. This unites the farm against Snowball and makes the animals question their memory of him. Napoleon takes advantage of their fear to make himself more \_\_\_\_\_ .

Squealer rewrites history by saying Napoleon was behind the Cowshed victory and it’s described so graphically that the animals start to remember it. Napoleon now controls the animal’s memories. This is even worse than controlling their actions. Orwell shows how terrifying Stalin’s regime was in Russia – and uses such episodes and events in *Animal Farm* to warn people never to let it happen again.

In what way did Stalin rewrite history in his favour?

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## Dramatic Irony

Dramatic irony is when the author let’s the audience or reader know something **before** the characters. The characters know that the animals are being manipulated and history is being rewritten to suit Napoleon and his greed for power. However the other don’t know this. They gullibly fall into Napoleon’s trap.

Napoleon takes Mr. Whymper his solicitor around the farm and tricks him into thinking that the rumours of famine are untrue.

By letting Mr. Whymper back on the farm, how does Napoleon break Old Major’s rule?

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Napoleon says that his collaboration with Whymper is not for commercial reasons. What is his real motive?

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### The Hens

Up until now the hens have not had a The hens, angry that their eggs are being sold to Whymper rebel. The hens' refusal to hand over their eggs for sale forms the first serious internal challenge to Napoleon's power. The hens rebel by \_\_\_\_\_. This is one of the few times the animals stand up to Napoleon. Napoleon is ruthless and cuts off \_\_\_\_\_. Nine hens die before the others give in.

### **Allegory**

Under Stalin the peasants were forced to collectivise – everything had to be shared with the state. They resisted, especially the kulaks (richer peasants). Stalin sent troops to attack them. Many burned their own crops and killed livestock in protest. This led to a famine in the 1930s. The hens' rebellion mirrors this event.

### The executions

Napoleon orders executions and the animals are stunned beyond belief. Napoleon has now reached new levels of violence and complete control. After the executions, Orwell carefully changes from \_\_\_\_\_ narrative to \_\_\_\_\_ narrative from \_\_\_\_\_ point of view. Clover can't think or voice her objections to what has just happened. She still trusts the pigs showing the ready how successfully the pigs have brainwashed the animals. She doesn't understand how they've got to his terrible situation but she says nothing – "*there was no thought of rebellion or disobedience in her mind.*" This makes the executions even worse because Clover stays blindly loyal to Napoleon. She "*lacked the words*" to protest. All she could do was sing Beasts of England. The song becomes a substitute for language. Since the animals cannot find the words to express themselves they sing Beasts of England to \_\_\_\_\_.

How does Orwell describe the executions and what effect does this have?

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Why don't the animals protest at this point? (Give more than one reason)

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### Terror and Complete Control

Napoleon and Squealer are successful. Their plan has worked. On the farm *"they had come to a time when no one dared speak his mind, when fierce growling dogs roamed everywhere, and when you had to watch your comrades torn to pieces after confessing to shocking crimes."* Napoleon sets his dogs on anyone who threatens him. Boxer is attacked for \_\_\_\_\_. Boxer defeats the dogs but this leads to other animals confessing to non-existent crimes. The other animals believe that these animals were traitors.

How is this another example of dramatic irony?

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### Napoleon and Squealer: The Dream Team

Napoleon is now rarely seen on the farm. He is referred to as "our leader" emphasising his authority over everyone else. Through clever use of propaganda, Squealer creates an image of Napoleon as a wise, heroic leader. He is said to be brave and successful. He awards himself \_\_\_\_\_. Squealer becomes more important as the only means of communication between \_\_\_\_\_.

**Homework:** Make notes on the differences between Squealer's account of the Battle of the Cowshed and that given earlier in the book. Refer to the book and the notes. Use quotes to support your answer.

Your information can be organised in a table or written in a paragraph (you can choose what you prefer)