

Year 9 – Animal Farm

Big question – how do writers use fiction to explore and challenge aspects of the world around us?

Key details

Link to NC: Reading (challenging) contemporary fiction

Nature of assessment: Analytical essay

Assessment task: How does Orwell present the animals' feelings in key extracts

Wider reading:

- *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* – C S Lewis
- *Harry Potter series* – J K Rowling
- *Divergent trilogy* – Veronica Roth
- *The Hunger Games trilogy* – Suzanne Collins
- *The Maze Runner trilogy* – James Dashner
- 1984 – George Orwell

Stretch and Challenge:

Produce own piece of satirical writing (or cartoon) using animals to criticise an aspect of political/ social life.

Key terms:

- **Political allegory** – a story or painting that has a hidden political meaning
- **Satire** – the use of humour/ exaggeration to ridicule or criticise an individual/ group/ idea
- **Communism** – a political system in which all property and wealth is communally owned rather than individuals
- **Dictator** – a ruler who has total power over a country, often achieved by force
- **Propaganda** – use of biased/ misleading information to promote a political cause or point of view

Key skills:

You will be able to:	Not yet confident	Quite confident	Really confident
Read with understanding and identify implicit/ explicit information			
Select relevant textual details in support of views/ judgements			
Identify the writer's viewpoint and how it is conveyed in a text			
Analyse the writer's use of language in thoughtful detail			
Identify and comment on the structure of texts			
Understand the context of a text and why it is important			

Assessment Task	Assessed by
Analysis of Old Major's speech identifying rhetorical devices and commenting on their effect	Peers
Practice Assessment - Analytical paragraphs on the presentation of Napoleon in Chapter 5	Teacher
Final Assessment - Analysis of key extracts such as The Battle of the Cowshed in preparation for main assessment, based on extracts from Chapters 2 and 7	Teacher

Success criteria

- Effective use of PEE to ensure points are well-developed
- Use of key words from title to maintain focus on question
- Clear topic sentence to introduce point
- Range of well-chosen supporting quotation
- Close analysis achieved by 'zooming in' on words/ phrases
- Accurate use of terminology for precision
- Comments on writer's viewpoint/ reader response

In the extract from Chapter 7, Orwell clearly conveys the fear and distress of the animals after the violence they have just witnessed. We can see this from the way the animals are standing "huddled about Clover, not speaking." The verb "huddled" suggests that they are seeking comfort and protection from Clover, a mother figure to the animals in the novel. It makes us feel sympathy for the animals who are shocked and bewildered by the brutality they have just seen. The adverbial phrase "not speaking" makes the reader feel even more sorry for the animals because they aren't really able to voice what they are feeling, which makes them seem more vulnerable and helpless.