



First Rate Tutors

Animal Farm

Model Answers



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Model Answers

**‘Orwell creates a shocking and unexpected ending to “Animal Farm.”’
How far do you agree with this statement?**

Write about:

- **what happens towards the end of the novel**
- **how Orwell presents the ending.**

[30 marks] AO4 [4 marks]

The novella “Animal Farm” is used as a haunting allegory of the Russian Revolution – and more broadly it serves as a critical reminder of the importance of ensuring that revolutionary leaders are constantly checked and monitored rather than revered and feared, in order to protect the emergence of any new society that undergoes dramatic change. The ending in “Animal Farm” is unexpected and shocking for us as readers and we get a sad feeling that the revolution has devolved into yet another oppressive regime, led by the selfish interests of the elite. This essay will examine how successfully Orwell creates this unexpected twist at the ending of the novella.

The final chapter of “Animal Farm,” Chapter 10, is extremely haunting as it shows how control and power has become extremely concentrated in Napoleon and his power is so great that he no longer needs to rely on using scapegoats or inspiring fear amongst the animals that follow him. This is because many of the animals that supported the uprising of the revolution against Farmer Jones have died and the younger generation of animals have come to accept the brutal, totalitarian conditions that they live in as just a normal facet of life. The novella states: “A time came when there was no one who remembered the old days before the Rebellion.” The new reality that has been created under the totalitarian dictatorship of Napoleon has completely manipulated history and re-written it and the animals on the farm has been indoctrinated to accept what they are told as fact, without any critical thought of why they should doubt their reality. This is shocking and unexpected as we as readers sense the revolutionary spirit of Old Major which drove the animals at the beginning of the novella has now been forgotten about. Contextually, this represents the developments that occurred under Stalin’s rule. While Russia underwent a Revolution in 1917 to implement Karl Marx’s Communist ideals of equality and the fair redistribution of wealth to all in society, once the country transformed into the USSR under Joseph Stalin’s leadership – the Revolutionary ideals the Communists fought for were gradually eroded. Stalin initially began by killing and purging those who spoke out against his rule, hence eliminating any form of dissent and gradually he amassed power which both enriched him and also ensured that life in the USSR under his Communist

Animalism. We learn that Squealer is a “small fat pig” who was a “brilliant talker... [that] could turn black into white.” He is extremely charismatic and he is able to manipulate the ignorance that the majority of animals on the farm have as a way to tighten Napoleon’s grip on power. He uses language as a way to empower himself, protect the pigs as well as justify Napoleon’s actions as they gradually corrupt the principles of Animalism. As life gradually grows worse on the farm and conditions become ever more brutal, Squealer plays a more powerful role in manipulating the animals through using clever statistics, lies and ultimately re-writing history – to convince the animals that life under Napoleon’s guidance is better than under Farmer Jones’ leadership. Contextually, Squealer is used to represent the Stalin’s heavy reliance on propaganda as a way to control and confuse poorly informed and uneducated workers and peasants in the USSR. While life in the USSR gradually deteriorated and living standards became just as appalling as life under the previous Tsarist regime, Stalin used propaganda to convey himself as a benevolent leader who sacrificed heavily to build the USSR, reinforcing the view that life under Communist rule was far better than under the country’s previously Capitalist monarchy.

Finally, Boxer and Clover are important and powerful characters in the farm and Orwell uses them as tragic representatives of the uneducated, oppressed masses who are betrayed by their leaders. Boxer and Clover are the farm’s two cart-horses who are extremely loyal and hard-working. Orwell characterises them as the pigs’ “most faithful disciples” who had “great difficulty in thinking anything out for themselves.” On the one hand, Boxer is extremely powerful and he plays an important role in ensuring the farm is productive as he tills the land and his strength is “equal to that of all the... animals put together.” The farm is extremely reliant on him – firstly to win the Battle of the Cowshed against the humans and later, as life grows more and more difficult on the farm, he takes on more and more work to ensure the construction of the windmill is a success. On the other hand, Clover – who is not as strong as Boxer – is the farm’s maternal figure because when the farm’s animals were afraid, they “huddled about Clover.” She offers love, support and help to all the animals and even as the pigs’ betrayal of the animals and their disloyalty to the principles of Animalism become glaringly obvious – she remains fiercely loyal to them. Both Boxer and Clover are used as tragic figures to represent the vast working class in the USSR who worked extremely hard to overthrow the Tsarist monarchy, as well as ensure that Stalin’s plans of industrialisation became a success. Even as Stalin’s leadership became corrupted and his betrayal of Communist principles was even more egregious, the working classes – who were uneducated and hence lacked the critical thinking skills to question and rebel against their leaders – simply worked harder and suffered far more as a result of the country’s mismanagement. Orwell uses both Boxer’s and Clover’s characters to show what happens when a leader goes unchecked and he also uses them to illustrate the importance of education, free speech as well as rebelling constantly – in order to stay on guard against manipulative leaders.