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**- Symbolism in Orwell's *Animal Farm***

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## **The significance of symbolism in George Orwell's novel "*Animal Farm*"**

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is a political allegory about revolution and power. Through the tale of a group of farm animals who overthrow the owner of the farm, *Animal Farm* explores themes of totalitarianism, the corruption of ideals, and the power of language. Symbols in "*Animal Farm*" help readers understand the complex themes and critique of the Russian Revolution and the subsequent totalitarian regime. They provide a deeper layer of meaning and allow readers to analyze the story from a broader perspective.

Thus, Symbols play a crucial role in George Orwell's novel "*Animal Farm*" as they help convey deeper meanings and themes beyond the surface level of the story. Here are some of the key symbols in "*Animal Farm*" and their significance:

### 1. Political Allegory:

Orwell frames his story as a political allegory; every character represents a figure from the Russian Revolution. Mr. Jones, the original human owner of the farm, represents the ineffective and incompetent Czar Nicholas II. The pigs represent key members of Bolshevik leadership: Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin, Snowball represents Leon Trotsky, and Squealer represents Vyacheslav Molotov. Other animals represent the working classes of Russia: initially passionate about revolution eventually manipulated into supporting a regime that was just as incompetent and arguably more brutal than the previous one.

2. The Farm:

The farm itself symbolizes the Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union. It represents a microcosm of the society and political system under the rule of the pigs, who parallel the leaders of the Soviet Union.

3. Old Major's Skull:

Old Major, the wise old boar, represents Karl Marx and his teachings of communism. After his death, his skull is preserved and displayed as a symbol of the revolution's ideals. It serves as a reminder of the original vision and principles that were eventually corrupted.

4. The Seven Commandments:

The Seven Commandments, initially formulated as a set of principles for the animals to follow, The Commandments

The Seven Commandments of Animalism, written on the barn wall for all to see, represent the power of propaganda and the malleable nature of history and information when the people are ignorant of the facts. They symbolize the ideals of animal equality and a classless society. The commandments are altered throughout the novel; each time they are changed indicates that the animals have moved even further away from their original principles. Over time, the pigs manipulate and change the commandments to consolidate their power, symbolizing the erosion of the revolution's ideals.

5. The Pigs:

The pigs, led by Napoleon and Snowball, symbolize the ruling class and political elite. Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin, while Snowball represents Leon Trotsky. Their struggle for power reflects the power struggle between Stalin and Trotsky in the Soviet Union.

6. Boxer:

Boxer, the loyal and hardworking horse, symbolizes the exploited working class. His motto "I will work harder" reflects the dedication and self-sacrifice of the working class, who are manipulated and ultimately betrayed by the ruling class.

7. Squealer:

Squealer, the persuasive and propaganda-spreading pig, symbolizes the propaganda machine used by totalitarian regimes to manipulate and control the masses. His ability to twist words and manipulate the truth represents the propaganda tactics employed by the Soviet Union.

8. The Windmill:

The windmill symbolizes industrialization and technological progress. Initially, it represents the collective effort of the animals to improve their lives. However, it later becomes a symbol of the pigs' corruption as they use it to serve their own interests, rather than benefiting the entire community.