

Animal Farm

Tyranny extracts



A Definition of Tyranny

- **Tyranny**

- 'noun

- cruel and oppressive government or rule.
- "refugees fleeing tyranny and oppression"
- synonyms: despotism, absolutism, absolute power, autocracy, dictatorship, undemocratic rule, reign of terror, totalitarianism, Fascism; More
- antonyms: democracy, liberality
- a state under cruel and oppressive government.
- cruel, unreasonable, or arbitrary use of power or control.
- "the tyranny of her stepmother"

- **Tyrant**

- 'noun

- a cruel and oppressive ruler.
- "the tyrant was deposed by popular demonstrations"
- synonyms: dictator, despot, autocrat, absolute ruler, authoritarian, oppressor
- "an evil tyrant who has imprisoned all who oppose his regime"

Key Question

- What examples of tyranny are there in the novel, who are the “tyrants” and how do they get their power?

Man as Tyrant

Old Major defines man as tyrant:

P17: 'Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings.'

Jones will:

1. *Sell you to the knacker*
2. *Sell your eggs at market to make money for himself*
3. *Sell your milk*
4. *Take your foals and sell them at market*
5. *Give you barely enough food to survive*
6. *Keep you in a stall*
7. *Whip you*
8. *Work you until you collapse*



Pig as Tyrant



P118: 'The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which one was which.'

Napoleon mirrors all of Jones' actions:

1. Sells Boxer to the knackers and spends the money on alcohol
2. Takes the eggs to sell when he trades with man
3. Drinks the milk claiming pigs are 'brain-workers' and so it is for 'your' sake that they keep the milk for the pigs!
4. Takes the puppies and trains them as vicious guards so that he can rule through terror
5. 'Once again all rations were reduced, except those of the pigs and dogs'. The animals face starvation.
6. The animals face executions if they question Napoleon
7. Boxer literally works until he collapses. He is known for his mantra: 'I will work harder'
8. The animals continue to live like animals whilst the pigs move in to the farmhouse and enjoy the trappings of man.

Old Major's principles are exploited by the pigs for their own ends- tyranny results

Four legs good two legs bad

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.

—do business w/
Fredreich &
Pilkington

2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.

3. No animal shall wear clothes.

4. No animal shall sleep in a bed. *with sheets*

5. No animal shall drink alcohol. *to excess*

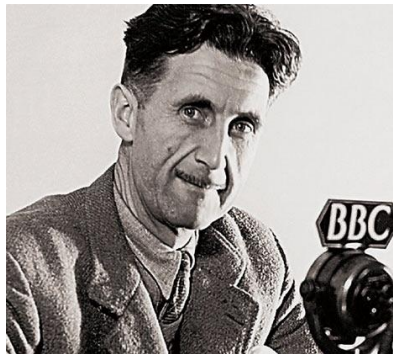
6. No animal shall kill any other animal. *without cause*

7. All animals are equal.

What does Orwell say?

Orwell believed that 'political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable'.

How does he represent these two ideas in 'Animal Farm'? See next slide and complete...



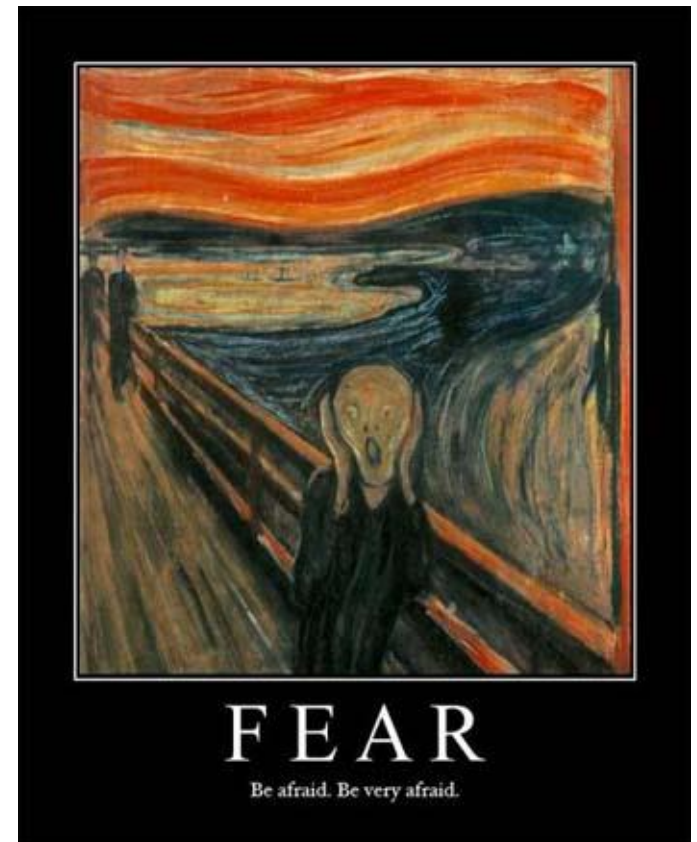
As power increases, so does tyranny!

But how?

Propaganda



Fear



Are Clover's words a comment by the author?

A world without tyranny had been Old major's dream. It is shown to be unachievable. Clover reflects the reality of this on P79/80:

'If she herself had any picture of the future, it had been of a society of animals free from hunger and the whip, all equal, each working according to his capacity, the strong protecting the weak...Instead- she did not know why- 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 hocking crimes'



