

# Animal Farm

Content Area: **English Language Arts**  
Course(s): **English Literacy 4**  
Time Period: **4 weeks**  
Length: **4 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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Student will read and analyze *Animal Farm* for literary devices and elements and historical context. Student will evaluate the historical effects that power and government have had on both individuals and societies and critique uses and abuses of power in today's world.

## Transfer

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Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Evaluate the historical context of the novel and relate to other texts and current events
- Investigate the effects of totalitarian societies both in history and text
- Identify the elements of a dystopia in literature
- Critique uses and abuses of power in today's society
- Draw conclusions about uses of propaganda and persuasion in today's world

## Meaning

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## Understandings

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Students will understand...

- Events in history influence literary works
- Themes in fiction relate to current events
- Power can be used and abused by individuals and societies
- Propaganda is influential in creating public opinion.

## **Essential Questions**

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Students will keep considering...

- How are themes in literature relevant to today's society?
- What happens when someone does or does not stand up for what they feel is right?
- What kinds of governments exist around the world and how do these governments affect human rights?
- What happens when power is abused by leaders?
- What are different types of propaganda and how are they used to influence public opinion?

## **Application of Knowledge and Skill**

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### **Students will know...**

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Students will know...

- Historical context of novel
- Plot details
- Character development
- Themes

### **Students will be skilled at...**

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Students will be skilled at...

- Reading with fluency and comprehension
- Identifying and examining literary elements

## **Academic Vocabulary**

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- Dystopia
- Totalitarianism
- Theme
- Characterization

- Anthropomorphism
- Symbolism
- Allegory
- Historical context
- Propaganda
- Anticipate
- Distortion
- Insight
- Perspective
- Analyze
- Evaluate
- Deduce
- Specify

## **Learning Goal #1**

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Student will be able to analyze the development of a theme or central idea over the course of *Animal Farm*, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details.

## **Objective 1-- Level 4**

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SWBAT:

- Analyze and discuss historical background to the novel.
- Complete pre-reading activities such as an anticipation guide discussing themes of power, government, and propaganda.

LA.RL.11-12.2	Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.11-12.3	Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
LA.RL.11-12.10b	By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at grade level or above.
LA.RI.11-12.10b	By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above.

## **Objective 2-- Levels 2 and 3**

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## SWBAT:

- Draw conclusions and respond to themes in text relating text/text, text/self, and text/world through a variety of organized and coherent writing pieces, journal writing, research based projects and writing tasks, etc.

LA.W.11-12.1.A	Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
LA.W.11-12.1.D	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
LA.W.11-12.2.E	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
LA.W.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.11-12.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.11-12.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

## Objective 3-- Levels 3 and 4

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### SWBAT:

- Determine theme of text and how it is developed throughout the course of the text.
- Compare and contrast themes from this novel to other works of literature.
- Participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher- led) based on the text and/or current event issues related to the text.

LA.RL.11-12.2	Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.11-12.3	Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
LA.RL.11-12.10b	By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at grade level or above.
LA.SL.11-12.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned exchange of ideas.

LA.SL.11-12.1.B	Collaborate with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and assessments (e.g., student developed rubrics), and establish individual roles as needed.
LA.SL.11-12.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.
LA.SL.11-12.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.
LA.SL.11-12.3	Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.
LA.11-12.SL.11-12.2	Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.

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## Objective 4-- Levels 3 and 4

### SWBAT:

- Identify literary elements, especially uses of allegory and anthropomorphism, in plot
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language and word relationships in word meanings as used in the text.
- Analyze how literary elements contribute to theme and author's purpose.

LA.RL.11-12.2	Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.11-12.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (e.g., Shakespeare as well as other authors.)
LA.RL.11-12.5	Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
LA.RL.11-12.6	Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).

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## Summative Assessment

- Reading comprehension quizzes
- End of play test
- Project
- Essay
- Journal entries/free writes

## **Career Ready Practice and Awareness Standards**

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CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP5.1	Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organization, and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials, and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and the profitability of the organization.
CRP.K-12.CRP6.1	Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices, and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization.
CRP.K-12.CRP11.1	Career-ready individuals find and maximize the productive value of existing and new technology to accomplish workplace tasks and solve workplace problems. They are flexible and adaptive in acquiring new technology. They are proficient with ubiquitous technology applications. They understand the inherent risks-personal and organizational-of technology applications, and they take actions to prevent or mitigate these risks.
CRP.K-12.CRP12.1	Career-ready individuals positively contribute to every team, whether formal or informal. They apply an awareness of cultural difference to avoid barriers to productive and positive interaction. They find ways to increase the engagement and contribution of all team members. They plan and facilitate effective team meetings.

## **Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities**

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- Class discussion
- Comprehension questions
- Journal entries/free writes
- Reading quizzes
- Teacher observation
- Vocabulary quizzes

## Interdisciplinary Connections

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- Communism, Socialism and Capitalism
- George Orwell Biography
- History of Joseph Stalin
- History of the Russian Revolution
- Karl Marx
- Propaganda
- The Cold War
- Tsar Nicholas II

SOC.6.1.12	U.S. History: America in the World: All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.
SOC.6.1.12.A.12.a	Analyze ideological differences and other factors that contributed to the Cold War and to United States involvement in conflicts intended to contain communism, including the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam War.
SOC.6.1.12.D.7.c	Analyze the factors contributing to a rise in authoritarian forms of government and ideologies (i.e., fascism, communism, and socialism) after World War I.
SOC.6.1.12.D.12.b	Analyze efforts to eliminate communism, such as McCarthyism, and their impact on individual civil liberties.
SOC.6.1.12.CS12	Postwar United States: Cold War: Cold War tensions between the United States and communist countries resulted in conflict that influenced domestic and foreign policy for over forty years.
SOC.6.2.12.A.5.a	Explain how and why differences in ideologies and policies between the United States and the USSR resulted in a cold war, the formation of new alliances (e.g., NATO, SEATO, Warsaw Pact), and periodic military clashes (e.g., Korean War, conflicts in the Middle East).
SOC.6.2.12.A.5.d	Analyze the causes and consequences of mass killings (e.g., Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Sudan), and evaluate the responsibilities of the world community in response to such events.
SOC.6.2.12.A.6.c	Analyze why terrorist movements have proliferated, and evaluate their impact on governments, individuals, and societies.
SOC.6.2.12.B.5.a	Determine the impact of geography on decisions made by the Soviet Union and the United States to expand and protect their spheres of influence.
SOC.6.2.12.B.5.b	Analyze the reasons for the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, and evaluate the impact of these events on changing national boundaries in Eastern Europe and Asia.

SOC.6.2.12.B.5.e	Assess the role of boundary disputes and limited natural resources as sources of conflict.
SOC.6.2.12.D.4.g	Analyze the role of racial bias, nationalism, and propaganda in mobilizing civilian populations in support of “total war”.
SOC.6.3.12.CS4	Critically analyze information, make ethical judgments, and responsibly address controversial issues.
SOC.6.3.12.CS6	Make informed and reasoned decisions and accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions and/or inactions.

## **Accommodations/Modifications**

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- Adapted version of novel
- Audio Version of novel
- Modify length of written work
- Study Guides
- Supplemental Notes
- visual/graphic organizers

## **Unit Resources**

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- 1984 movie
- Big Brother current articles
- George Orwell history/time period articles
- Novels
- Teaching units