

Reviewer: Savannah Gomes

Quarter: 3

School Year: 2012-2013

Title: *Animal Farm*

Genre: Fiction

Author: George Orwell

of Pages: 176

In *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, Manor Farm and Mr. Jones who owns it are overrun by the animals in it. They rename it Animal Farm. The animals all enjoy life, working hard and doing their share without humans to tell them what to do or make their lives otherwise miserable. The animals try to learn to read, even! There is a power struggle happening, however, between Napoleon and Snowball. When Snowball is chased away, Napoleon is the only one left in charge and assumes complete control over the farm. Things from there change. The commandments they had written for themselves suddenly change overnight, allowing for things that were forbidden, like drinking alcohol. Things deteriorate and the other animals become frail and sick with not enough to eat and too much work to do when Napoleon is mysteriously eating his fill and not working in the fields at all. Eventually, Napoleon walks and acts like a human and treats the other animals on Animal Farm like Mr. Jones did. He even renames the farm Manor Farm.

A passage that intrigues me is when the sheep start chanting “Four legs good, two legs better!” The sheep’s minds were malleable and when Napoleon taught them the new version of “Four legs good, two legs bad,” they accepted it and spread it to the other animals on the farm. They did exactly what Napoleon told them to without question, even when it was so different from what they had been told the first time. They would force this new ideal onto the other animals without letting up. Their word was law because they knew nothing else. It’s scary because some people are like that. They just blindly follow someone because they can’t think for themselves.

I enjoyed this book immensely. It stood out to me as slightly creepy yet totally true. The use of animals was perfect because the traits associated with the animals can be translated into human traits. It’s what some societies come to be after a new and corrupt leader takes charge.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys Orwell or has read 1984. Its tone is different, I feel, because it’s not about being overrun and rebelling. It’s about being controlled without realizing it until it’s too late.