

***Animal Farm* by George Orwell**

Key Themes Activity

In *Animal Farm*, Orwell often uses the characters to represent the different themes of the narrative.

Below you can find some of the actors from the Rep company in the National Youth Theatre, discuss the story, its themes and their characters role within the performance. This might help you better understand the characters and their function within the narrative. Just be aware that it is an adaptation of the novel you may have read, rather than a full retelling, so some characters have been adapted:

<https://youtu.be/Qt3chwN-DcQ>

Complete the table below with the characters who best represent key themes or symbolism. You could also explain and analyse how the themes are presented through the characters. You can also add some of the extra characters.

Character and animal	Themes and symbolism	Quotation to evidence this	Description and analysis of how the theme is shown here
Napoleon - pig	Ambition and greed Symbolises Stalin and his corruption		
Boxer - carthorse			
Mollie - horse	Selfishness and materialistic nature of the middle class		
Snowball - pig			

Benjamin - donkey			
Squealer - pig			
	The female working class and peasants of the Soviet Union		
Old Major			
	The Russian Tsar in the early 20 th Century		
'The dogs'			
'The sheep'			

Possible GCSE examination questions: *Explore the significance of greed in Animal Farm. You **must** refer to the context of the novel within your answer.*

How does Orwell use Squealer to explore ideas of power and control in the novel?

Photography by Ali Wright – Animal Farm Rehearsals 2021