

ANIMAL FARM CONNECTIONS:

You may assume the hardest part of a revolution is getting started. However, as the animals of Manor Farm soon learn, and as Alexis de Tocqueville, a French historian, states, *"In a revolution, as in a novel, the most difficult part to invent is the end."* *Animal Farm* is a 1945 political satire written by George Orwell, which follows the lives of the animals of Manor Farm, and their fight for freedom and equality. However, their ideals are soon diminished by one of their own, and their lives return to be "just as bad as they were before." These animals follow a cycle of revolution, just as described in the examinations of a historian named Crane Brinton. The story of *Animal Farm*, which is an allegory to the Russian Revolution, follows the four stages of Crane Brinton's theory and the anatomy of a revolution.

As most upbringings before it, including the Russian revolution, *Animal Farm* follows the stages of a revolution; incubation, moderate crisis, and recovery. The first stage of a revolution is the incubation. These are conditions are formed and seen before the initial revolt of *Animal Farm*. The animals lead terrible, short lives of service and labour. There is a feeling of injustice from their farmer, and they begin to hope for a better life. The main instigator and intellectual in the story, Old Major, admits the laborious lifestyle the animals are forced to endure, which sparks the ideas of a revolution. *"The very instant that our usefulness has come to an end, we are slaughtered with hideous cruelty,"* he exclaims to his fellow comrades, *"the life of an animal is misery and slavery."*

Old Major's words grant the animals a new way of thinking which carries on even after he passes away. This leads us to the next stage; moderate. Even though they did not foresee this revolution coming in their generation, once Jones began to neglect them further and left them underfed, the animals started a revolt. In the end, they were successful, and new moderates came into power. As written in the text, *"And so, almost before they knew what was happening, the Rebellion had been successfully carried through; Jones was expelled, and the Manor Farm was theirs."* Two of the pigs, Snowball and Napoleon, became moderate lead powers, and the farm thrives with teamwork (despite the pigs starting to have some advantage over other species.) However, trouble begins to stir when these two moderates begin to argue, one having brilliant speech's of passion, and the other gaining loyal support. As shown in the text, *"These two disagreed at every point where disagreement was possible."*

These disagreements lead us to the next stage of revolution; crisis. Like Stalin in the Russian Revolution, Napoleon soon gains power over the opposition. He chases Snowball away using the dogs he had raised to become his own personal army, giving an example of his dangerous influence. Later in the story, he is seen using Snowball as political propaganda. These events make him a radical leader. Even after he gains power, Napoleon continuously uses threats and doubt through Squealer to justify his actions. With this newfound radicalism, violence also rapidly escalates. Napoleon uses his power to eradicate his opposers and critics. When his authority is questioned, he is quick to respond, *"He ordered the hen's rations to be stopped, and decreed that any animal giving so much as a grain of corn to a hen should be punished by death",* and *"they were all slain on the spot."*

In the last and final stage of *Animal Farm's* revolution, the animals confront the recovery. The reign of terror somewhat diminishes, and living in service of the "more equal animals" is a normality. The old regime returns, now dictated by Napoleon and the other pigs instead of Mr. Jones. The pigs have become more human-like, as explained in the story, *"but already it was impossible to say which was which."* However, this is expected among the rest, according to their current commandment, *"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."* I believe, since there is injustice, the cycle is bound to repeat itself. This leads readers to wonder; will the animals revolt again?

In conclusion, this evidence supports the idea that, although it may be fictional, *Animal Farm's* revolution still follows the same cycles as revolutions in the past. However, I am left with the question; what comes next? Like seen in *Animal Farm*, sometimes even after a revolution, the people are left stuck in the same regime as before. Is the cycle set to repeat itself? How long will it take for revolution to occur again? In the end, I wonder; is it possible to have a revolution that breaks this pattern?