



evropský
sociální
fond v ČR



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost



GYMNÁZIUM
PRACHATICE

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

III/2-AJ4/1.1/De

SOME OUTSTANDING BRITISH WRITERS

George Orwell (1903 – 1950) – *Animal Farm* (1945)

Animal Farm (1945)

Orwell wrote the political fairy tale *Animal Farm* in the early 1940s, after his negative experience with the Soviet influence on the Spanish socialists during the Spanish Civil War (1936).

Read the extract:

Animal Farm (1945)

None of the other animals on the farm could get further than the letter A. It was also found that the stupider animals, such as the sheep, hens, and ducks, were unable to learn the Seven Commandments by heart. After much thought, Snowball declared that the Seven
5 Commandments could be reduced to a single maxim, namely: “Four legs good, two legs bad.” This, he said, contained the essential principle of Animalism. Whoever had thoroughly grasped it would be safe from human influences. The birds at first objected, since it seemed to them that they also had two legs, but Snowball proved to them that this was not so.

10 “A bird’s wing, comrades,” he said, “is an organ of propulsion and not of manipulation. It should therefore be regarded as a leg. The distinguishing mark of man is the *hand*, the instrument with which he does all his mischief.”

The birds did not understand Snowball’s long words, but they accepted his explanation, and all the humbler animals set to work to learn the new maxim by heart. FOUR LEGS GOOD, TWO LEGS BAD was inscribed on the end wall of the barn, above the Seven
15 Commandments and in bigger letters. When they had once got it by heart, the sheep developed a great liking for this maxim, and often as they lay in the field they would all start bleating “Four legs good, two legs bad! Four legs good, two legs bad!” and keep it up for hours on end, never growing tired of it.

20 Napoleon took no interest in Snowball’s committees. He said that the education of the young was more important than anything that could be done for those who were already grown up. It happened that Jessie and Bluebell had both whelped soon after the hay harvest, giving birth between them to nine sturdy puppies. As soon as they were weaned,

Napoleon took them away from their mothers, saying that he would make himself responsible for their education. He took them up into a loft which could only be reached by a ladder from the harness-room, and there kept in such seclusion that the rest of the farm soon forgot their existence.

The mystery of where the milk went to was soon cleared up. It was mixed every day into the pigs' mash. The early apples were now ripening, and the grass of the orchard was littered with windfalls. The animals had assumed as a matter of course that these would be shared out equally; one day, however, the order went forth that all the windfalls were to be collected and brought to the harness-room for the use of the pigs. At this some of the other animals murmured, but it was no use. All the pigs were in full agreement on this point, even Snowball and Napoleon. Squealer was sent to make the necessary explanation to the others.

"Comrades!" he cried. "You do not imagine, I hope, that we pigs are doing this in a spirit of selfishness and privilege? Many of us actually dislike milk and apples. I dislike them myself. Our sole object in taking these things is to preserve our health. Milk and apples (this has been proven by Science, comrades) contain substances absolutely necessary to the well-being of a pig. We pigs are brainworkers. The whole management and organization of this farm depend on us. Day and night we are watching over your welfare. It is for *your* sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back! Yes, Jones would come back! Surely, comrades," cried Squealer almost pleadingly, skipping from side to side and whisking his tail, "surely there is no one among you who wants to see Jones come back?"

Vocabulary:

maxim – maxima, průpověď

commandment - příkázání

grasp - pochopit

propulsion - pohon

mischief - uličnictví

humble - pokorný

whelp – porodit štěňata

seclusion - odloučení

windfall - padané ovoce

for your sake – kvůli vám

Now work out Task One, Two, Three on the following pages.

Task One:

Work in groups. Read the extract again and answer the questions below.

- 1) Where does the extract take place? Show in the text.
- 2) Who are the characters, mentioned or present? Say:
 - a) who they are
 - b) what their role is in the story
- 3) What are the Seven Commandments? (Line 3)
- 4) What does the maxim "Four legs good, two legs bad" mean? (Line 5)

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- 5) Which animals are superior to the others? Demonstrate in the text.
- 6) Which character do you think is:
 - a) the leader
 - b) the mastermind (dobrý organizátor)
 - c) the one who is in control?
 Justify your answer.
- 7) How do the animals feel about humans? Show in the text.
- 8) What name has Squealer always used when addressing other animals and also that the animals call each other? What does this name reveal?
- 9) What happened to the puppies that Napoleon took away from their mothers? (Lines 20-28)
- 10) Where did the milk and apples go? (Lines 29-36)
- 11) Why was Squealer sent to have a speech? (L37-end)
- 12) Who is Mr Jones? Where is he? (L45)
- 13) Do you think the Squealer's speech was successful or not? Justify your answer.
- 14) Which adjectives describe both Snowball and Squealer's speeches best? Quote from the text:

clever / quiet / worried / confident / persuasive / ignorant
- 15) Try to summarize what the novella is about.

Task Two:

Work in pairs. Match the characters to the real people or things they symbolize.

Mr Jones	V. I. Lenin
Old Major	Tsar Nicholas II
Boxer	Vain, selfish people in Russia and world
Animalism	Dedicated, but tricked communist supporters
Moses the Raven	Sceptical people in Russia and outside Russia
Napoleon	Religion
Benjamin	Joseph Stalin
Squealer	Overall details of Russian Revolution
The Dogs	Leon Trotsky
Mollie	Propaganda department of Lenin's government
Snowball	KGB - Secret Police
Overall details about revolution	Communism

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Task Three:**Work in groups. Match the characteristics to the pairs from Task Two.****A** _____

- a private army that used fear to force animals to work
- killed any Napoleon's opponent
- one of the parts of Napoleon's strategy how to control animals
- not real police, but armed support for Stalin
- used force, often killed entire families for disobedience
- totally loyal, even more powerful, than army

B _____

- big mouth, talks a lot
- convinces animals to believe and follow Napoleon
- can "change white in black"
- changes the commandments
- used any lie to convince the people to follow Stalin and his ideology
- used the advantage of the fact that education was controlled

C _____

- was vain - loved her beauty and self
- egoistic
- followed anyone who gave her what she longed for
- some people only thought about themselves and didn't care about revolution
- left to other countries that offered more for them

D _____

- farm without owners, without rich, but also without poor
- working animals get a better life
- all animals are equal
- the farm is owned by everyone
- state without owners, without rich, but also without poor
- all people are equal
- everything is owned by government owns, government is owned by people

E _____

- invented Animalism
- workers work, but rich keep the money, animals must revolt
- dies before revolution

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- invented Communism
- "workers of the world unite" and take over government
- dies before Russian Revolution

F

- strong, hard-working horse, believes in Animalism
- "I must work harder" and "Napoleon is always right"
- gives all to the farm, Napoleon sells him
- believed Stalin because he was "Communist"
- in spite of the fact that it was obvious Stalin is a tyrant, many of them stayed loyal
- were betrayed by Stalin who even killed some of them

G

- supposed to make life better and easier for all animals but life was worse at the end
- the leaders-pigs became the same as the farmer they revolted against
- it was supposed to solve problems caused by Tsar
- long after revolution life was even worse
- Stalin made Tsar was seen at last as a nice fellow

H

- tells about SugarCandy mountain where animals can go if they work hard
- pig leaders were against him; according to their opinion Heaven was a lie that was supposed to make animals work
- could stay because he taught animals to work and not to complain
- Marx said "Opiate of the people"
- a lie used to make people not complain and work
- was tolerated because made people work

I

- wise donkey, old, suspicious of revolution
- thinks "nothing changes", is right
- his suspicions about Boxer turn out to be true
- thought revolution would not change anything
- knew that communism wouldn't work

J

- not a good speaker, less clever than Snowball
- brutal, cruel, selfish, corrupt
- killed opponents
- used dogs, Moses, and Squealer to manipulate and rule animals
- weak speaker, less educated than Trotsky
- didn't follow Marx's ideas, cared most for power,
- killed those that opposed him
- used KGB, church, and propaganda

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K

- lets the animals starve, irresponsible
- beats animals with whip, sometimes cruel
- mixes milk in animal mash, sometimes kind
- a poor leader
- sometimes brutal with opponents, sometimes kind to his people

L

- good speaker, young, idealistic, smart
- really wants to make life better for all
- throw out into exile by Napoleon's dogs
- pure communist, followed Marx' ideas
- wanted to improve life for people
- thrown out by KGB (secret police)

Evaluation:

How many correct answers have you had in the previous exercises?

100 – 80%	Excellent	👍
80 – 70%	Very good	😊
70 – 50%	Good	😐
50 – 30%	Average	😞
less than 30%	Poor	💩

How much do you remember about Orwell's Animal Farm? Tick :

I remember a lot

I need some revision