

14th May, 2020

Essay

Snowball is one of the key characters in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Snowball is used to achieve multiple political agendas throughout the story.

Snowball is used to create a clear point on what a leader should and shouldn't be. This is done with "I feel it my duty to pass on to you such wisdom". At the beginning of the book, Orwell sets a clear image of what a perfect leader is by using Old Major. By using the word duty, Orwell demonstrates the obligatory feeling that Old Major has when it comes to helping the farm. Snowball is seen to later take up the mantle of the farm's leader along with a rival pig called Napoleon, and it is made obvious that Snowball tries to live up to the legacy set by Old Major, following his ideology of Animalism. This is shown in "Snowball also busied himself". The word also proves that there are other jobs and tasks that Snowball must undertake, and the word himself shows that he has voluntarily taken on these extra assignments for the betterment of *Animal Farm*. By showing how Snowball has led, following the footsteps of Old Major, the reader begins to feel that he is the better choice to lead the farm. Orwell intentionally compares both of the new candidates for leadership with Old Major to highlight their strengths and weaknesses.

Equality is a key theme in the novella, or rather the lack thereof. Snowball helps demonstrate the inequality of the farm when he and Snowball are introduced when Orwell writes "more vivacious pig". By using a comparative word like more, Orwell already forces the reader to compare Snowball to the other pigs, especially Napoleon who aids in this stance. By writing "the only Berkshire boar" when in reference to Napoleon, Orwell demonstrates that the animals are very different. By forcing Napoleon and Snowball to disrupt the equality on the farm, that which is a key point in Animalism, the reader begins to question the reliability of the two candidates. Orwell purposefully does this to highlight the flaws in Animalism, which is the book's allegory for Communism. "Some are more equal than others" which appears later on in the book also disrupts the equality amongst the animals on the farm. By writing this, Orwell intends to spotlight Communism in Russian society, showing its flaws, but not as a concept, as an execution. Throughout the

book, many of the Seven Commandments, that which stood as pillars to Animalism, are disregarded and innovated, something that goes against Snowball's initial stand point when he states they are "unalterable laws". The structure of the book and how at regulated intervals each pillar is broken highlights not that Communism is a bad idea, but that the execution and implementation of it is. Snowball is never one of the pigs to break any of the laws, it is always Napoleon. This solidifies that Snowball is better suited to lead the farm. This presentation of Snowball and his execution of Animalism speaks wonders for Trotsky, who is allegorically replicated in Animal Farm as Snowball. Orwell uses these traitorous acts to villainise Napoleon and therefore Stalin as well, suggesting that if the people of Russia do wish to be lead by Communism, they should choose a leader who would implement it correctly - they should choose Trotsky.

The contrast between Snowball and Napoleon accentuates the positive and negative features of them both. Orwell shows that they are the antithesis of one another in "these two were never in agreement". The word never emphasizes the unconditional need they both felt to oppose each other, stressing the fact that they are polar opposites. The foil between these two characters is more likely used to draw to attention Napoleon's weaknesses and Snowball's strengths. In comparison to Napoleon, Snowball is made out to be a great character, presenting a likeness for him that the readers quickly adopt. Orwell tries to highlight that Snowball is a better leader when describing Napoleon's corruption, and does this to achieve a political goal. Napoleon is the book's representation of Stalin, and Snowball is the allegory for Trotsky. The book mirrors many events the two of them have been through, their behaviour and their interactions with each other. The foil between these two characters is present to force the reader to question Stalin's leadership and Russia's eventual decision to empower him instead of Trotsky. Orwell does not only wish to rise Trotsky to power, but to achieve the core goal of removing Stalin from it. This is done by continuously, repetitively and unendingly describing Napoleon's corruption and heinous acts, all of which mirror Stalin and his treatment of Russia.

Orwell characterises Snowball as a strong leader. By writing "the only good human is a dead one" Orwell shows that although Snowball is harsh, he has clear and unwavering morals. The word only shows not only Snowball's rather

deontological way of thinking but also his unconditional bias towards the humans. Although the reader can see his reasons as to why Snowball harbours this inability to accept that there may be a good human, it is still a harsh thing for him to say. Throughout most of the novella, Snowball is portrayed as a good leader, and although he still is, many readers will find this heartlessness to be a new colour on him, and this was Orwell's intention. By casting Snowball into a new light, Orwell shows the duality of the character and that he is not one dimensional. Orwell does this to prove that there is dichotomy in everything and that no one choice will be perfect, there are always pros and cons. "No sentimentality, Comrade!" solidifies Orwell's demonstration of Snowball's bias and therefore his duality. Not only does this quote show that Snowball believes that his fellow animals should shed no remorse in killing humans, but it also shows another of his beliefs. That he is their equal. By using the word Comrade, Orwell shows that Snowball sees himself as equal to the other animals, that he does not view himself as greater or above them. This short glimpse at equality is sacred in this book that so often disgraces this key principle of Animalism, proving once again that although Snowball has negative parts, he also has many positives.

In conclusion, George Orwell uses Snowball as a lynchpin for multiple agendas; Snowball is used to highlight the corruption of the Russian government; the poor execution of Communism; Trotsky's capability to lead Russia; while also fueling the plot of the story and; contrasting characters such as Napoleon to bring a greater depth to the characters.

10m 31s left on the timer.

I know you said that you were only going to do WWWs and EBIs, Mrs, but I was wondering if you would mind marking it for me anyway.

Take care.

WWW: Wow Rudi, this really is an accolade to your hard work. This is exploratory and analyses the effects of methods in depth. You explore links to context and themes to evaluate Orwell's intentions wonderfully.

Keep this up and you will do tremendously at GCSE.