

# ***Animal Farm* by George Orwell (Published by McDougal Littell)**

Approved for use in Communication Arts II, Honors Communication Arts II

## **Summary**

*Animal Farm* is an allegory that chronicles the Russian Revolution of 1917-1918. The story chronicles the rise and fall of a political, social, and economic system that proved to be inadequate after taking into consideration man's humanity. Simply put, a group of animals plan to take over a farm with grand expectations but realize quickly that such a take-over, while inspiring, could not meet the needs of every animal on the farm and results in ultimate failure.

## **Connection to the Curriculum**

This text demonstrates the elements of satire as it recognizes the human foibles that plague society. Greed, abuse of power, jumping on the bandwagon, and the act of blindly following those in power is critically examined. *Animal Farm* satisfies the skill requirement of the careful reader and college-bound student who needs to recognize and evaluate sophisticated forms of satire.

## **Standards**

### **Course Objectives (Benchmarks)**

**Reading:** 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

**Literature:** 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

### **Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)**

#### **Reading:**

1.3.2- The student determines meaning of words or phrases using context clues from sentences or paragraphs.

1.3.5- The student identifies, interprets, and analyzes the use of figurative language including similes, metaphors, analogies, hyperbole, and symbolism.

1.4.7- The student identifies characteristics of narrative and satirical texts.

1.4.10- The student generates and responds logically to inferential, evaluative, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.11- The student uses information from the text to make inferences and draw conclusions.

1.4.12- The student analyzes and evaluates how authors use text structures to help achieve their purposes.

1.4.13- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects such as characters' traits and motives, ideas, themes, problem-solution, cause-effect relationships, persuasive techniques, etc.

1.4.17- The student analyzes themes, tones, and the author's point of view using textual evidence and considering audience and purpose.

1.4.21- The student distinguishes between fact and opinion and recognizes propaganda.

#### **Literature:**

2.1.2- The student analyzes the historical, social, and cultural contextual aspects of the setting and its influence on characters and events in the story.

2.1.4- The student analyzes themes, tone, and the author's point of view across a variety of literary works and genres using textual evidence and considering audience and purpose.

2.1.5- The student identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the use of literary devices in a text.

#### **Writing:**

The student will write about satire and its contributions to literature.

The student will mirror the type of style (allegory) used to accomplish satire.

**A Note on the Text:** (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.) *Animal Farm*, due to its allegorical nature symbolizing the Russian Revolution, contains some mild violence including the public killing of animals as a warning to the other animals. Knowledge of the events of the Russian Revolution will give students a greater understanding of the events of the novel. On a literal level, it is the story of animals who take over a farm. On a higher level, it is Orwell's sharp criticism of Stalin and his tactics.

## **Additional Unit Design Connections**

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities