RAISING ACHIEVEMENT · ANIMAL FARM · DRILL 1

Old Major’s dream

Old Major and the Rebellion

Today: how Orwell presents old Major’s ideas in his speech

30 minutes

Do Now

Know

1. In which year was Animal Farm published?
2. What does “comrade” mean in Major’s speech?
3. What is the name of the farm before the Rebellion?
4. Who owns the farm at the start of the novella?
5. What is the name of the song Major teaches the animals?

Do Now: answers

Know

1. In which year was Animal Farm published?
   1945

2. What does “comrade” mean in Major’s speech?
   A companion who shares the same cause

3. What is the name of the farm before the Rebellion?
   The Manor Farm

4. Who owns the farm at the start of the novella?
   Mr Jones

5. What is the name of the song Major teaches the animals?
   Beasts of England

Focus reminder

Know

What the Animal Farm question asks you to do

There is no extract in the exam, so the moment printed here is a reminder. Plan from what you remember of the whole novella.

Write “Orwell presents…”. Major, Napoleon and the others are animals Orwell invented, so write about his choices.

Move through the novella in order: a point from Chapter 1, a point from the middle and a point from the end.

Say why: what did Orwell want his readers in 1945 to think about revolutions?

Major’s speech in the barn

Read

George Orwell · 1945 · Chapter 1

Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short. We are born, we are given just so much food as will keep the breath in our bodies, and those of us who are capable of it are forced to work to the last atom of our strength; and the very instant that our usefulness has come to an end we are slaughtered with hideous cruelty. No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth.