

Character Summary of Napoleon and Snowball in Animal Farm (Chapters 1-3)

Background:

Napoleon and Snowball are two central characters in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, and from the first three chapters, they emerge as leaders of the rebellion after Old Major's death. Both pigs play key roles in organizing and running the farm after the overthrow of Mr. Jones, but their personalities, motivations, and leadership styles differ greatly.

Napoleon:

Personality and Leadership Style:

Napoleon is portrayed as a cunning, manipulative, and power-hungry leader. From the outset, his leadership style is quiet but strategic, focusing on consolidating power behind the scenes rather than engaging in open debate. Unlike Snowball, Napoleon is not interested in idealism or collective progress but rather in controlling the farm for his own benefit.

Quotations & Analysis:

1. "Napoleon was not much of a talker, but had a reputation for getting his own way" (Chapter 1).

This quote suggests that Napoleon is less concerned with public appearances and speeches but focuses on manipulating events in his favor. His leadership style is more authoritarian and secretive, showing early signs of his desire for total control.

2. “He took them away from their mothers, saying that he would make himself responsible for their education” (Chapter 2).

This refers to Napoleon secretly taking the puppies to train them. It foreshadows his plan to use force (the dogs as his private enforcers) to maintain power. This manipulation of the young reflects his long-term strategy to control the farm.

3. “Never mind the milk, comrade, follow comrade snowball, I shall follow in a few minutes...The milk had disappeared” (Chapter 2).

Here, Napoleon quietly takes resources for the pigs, indicating his selfishness and willingness to prioritize his own power over the collective good. This act of taking the milk symbolizes his early betrayal of the farm’s ideals of equality.

Symbolism:

Napoleon symbolizes the rise of authoritarianism and dictatorship, particularly Stalin in the context of the Russian Revolution. His actions reflect how leaders can manipulate revolutionary ideals to serve their own interests and betray the very principles they once claimed to support.



Snowball:

Personality and Leadership Style:

In contrast to Napoleon, Snowball is depicted as an idealistic, charismatic, and democratic leader. He is committed to the principles of Animalism and works to improve the lives of all the animals on the farm. Snowball is more engaged with the animals, promoting education, organization, and innovation.

Quotations & Analysis:

1. “Quicker in speech and more inventive” (Chapter 2).

This shows that Snowball is articulate and full of ideas, contrasting Napoleon’s quiet and manipulative style. Snowball’s focus on innovation makes him a natural leader, one who aims to inspire and lead through collective progress.

2. “Snowball also busied himself with organising the other animals into what he called Animal Committees” (Chapter 3).

This highlights Snowball’s dedication to educating and empowering the animals. His efforts to organize the farm into committees reflect his belief in collaboration and shared governance, demonstrating a more democratic and inclusive approach than Napoleon.

3. “The reading and writing classes, however, were a great success. By the autumn almost every animal on the farm was literate to some degree” (Chapter 3).

Snowball’s commitment to education is clear here. His efforts to teach the animals to read and write show that he values empowerment through knowledge. This leadership style contrasts with Napoleon, who does not seem interested in educating the animals. Snowball

believes that education will help the animals better understand Animalism and contribute more effectively to the farm's future.

Symbolism:

Snowball symbolizes the idealistic, intellectual side of the revolution. In the context of the Russian Revolution, Snowball can be compared to Leon Trotsky, who was a key figure in promoting the vision of a socialist utopia before being ousted by Stalin. Snowball's focus on education and innovation contrasts with Napoleon's authoritarianism, reflecting the divide between those who believe in revolutionary ideals and those who corrupt them for personal gain.

Comparison and Real-Life Parallels:

Napoleon and Snowball's dynamic mirrors the real-life conflict between Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky. Napoleon, like Stalin, is a figure of authoritarianism who manipulates the revolution for his own power, eventually betraying its ideals. Snowball, like Trotsky, is a visionary who genuinely believes in the principles of equality and justice but is eventually outmaneuvered by a more ruthless rival.

In Chapters 1-3, the groundwork for this power struggle is laid. Napoleon's secrecy, as seen in his actions with the milk and puppies, reflects a growing ambition that will soon overshadow Snowball's idealism. Snowball's efforts to educate and improve the farm show his

commitment to a better future, but his focus on debate and innovation will ultimately be no match for Napoleon's cunning.

Conclusion:

In the first three chapters of *Animal Farm*, Napoleon and Snowball represent two very different leadership styles and approaches to revolution. Napoleon is secretive, manipulative, and power-driven, while Snowball is charismatic, visionary, and dedicated to collective progress. These differences not only define their characters but also foreshadow the ideological battle that will drive the narrative of the novel. Their conflict reflects the historical reality of the Russian Revolution, with Napoleon as a symbol of Stalin's authoritarianism and Snowball as a symbol of Trotsky's idealism.