

English - Animal Farm

Lesson 6: Old Major's speech

Old Major's speech

Downloadable Resource

Miss Eden



Why is 'Animal Farm' an allegory?

A

'Animal Farm' is an allegory because the events and characters represent the events and characters from the 1917 Russian Revolution.

B

'Animal Farm' is an allegory because the events represent inequality and abuse of power.

C

'Animal Farm' is an allegory because we get to see everything from more than one character's point of view.



Which of the following are correct definitions of rhetoric? (more than one answer).

Option 1

The abuse of language.

Option 2

Using language for maximum impact.

Option 3

The art of speaking or writing effectively.

Option 4

Using language to persuade.



Rhetoric and Aristotle

A Greek philosopher, Aristotle, said _____ should have _____ main components:

1. **Ethos** - speaker has to prove why they can be _____
2. _____ - logic and _____
3. **Pathos** - appealing to the _____ of the audience



"Comrades, you have heard already about the strange dream that I had last night. But I will come to the dream later. I have something else to say first. I do not think, comrades, that I shall be with you for many months longer, and before I die, I feel it my duty to pass on to you such wisdom as I have acquired. I have had a long life, I have had much time for thought as I lay alone in my stall, and I think I may say that I understand the nature of life on this earth as well as any animal now living. It is about this that I wish to speak to you.

"



Old Major uses his old age as a reason for why the animals should trust his judgement.

True

False



Old Major repeats 'comrades' because he is a Communist.

True

False



"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.



‘Forced to work to the last atom of our strength’ is emotive language.

True

False



But is this simply part of the order of nature? Is it because this land of ours is so poor that it cannot afford a decent life to those who dwell upon it? No, comrades, a thousand times no! The soil of England is fertile, its climate is good, it is capable of affording food in abundance to an enormously greater number of animals than now inhabit it. This single farm of ours would support a dozen horses, twenty cows, hundreds of sheep--and all of them living in a comfort and a dignity that are now almost beyond our imagining. Why then do we continue in this miserable condition? Because nearly the whole of the produce of our labour is stolen from us by human beings. There, comrades, is the answer to all our problems. It is summed up in a single word--Man. Man is the only real enemy we have. Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever.



**Old Major thinks the animals go hungry
because the land in England cannot make
enough food.**

True

False



**Old Major says that 'Man' is the problem:
'Man' is the reason animals do not leave
comfortable lives.**

True

False

