

ANIMAL FARM, CH. 5-7



Discussion



- What happened in Ch. 5?
 - Reactions?
 - Questions?

Historical Background



- One of Orwell's concerns about the Soviet state was that it used language to distort historical events.
 - ▣ In Chapters 5 through 7, the battle for power between Snowball and Napoleon comes to its climax.
 - ▣ In Soviet history, a similar battle raged between two leaders: Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin.

Historical Background, continued

- **Stalin** exercised power through regulations and rules. As its leader, he controlled the Communist Party bureaucracy.
 - bureaucracy: a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives.
- **Trotsky** had proven himself a masterful military strategist and inspirational leader during the Russian Civil War. He wanted to limit government power.
 - Do you think Stalin would have appreciate the limitation of government power?
- Stalin & Trotsky also disagreed about how to industrialize and whether to focus on Soviet or worldwide socialism.
 - What does it mean to industrialize?
- Stalin took control in 1925—control he kept largely through tactics of terror.
 - Banishment to Gulags (labor camps)
 - Execution of opposition

Power Struggle

- After Stalin bullied Leon Trotsky out of the country, he systematically removed any trace of Trotsky from Soviet history:
 - Took Trotsky out of photographs
 - Censored papers Trotsky had written
 - Stalin used *Pravda*, his news agency, to control the information people received
 - In the book, which character is most like *Pravda*?
- In Chapters 5 through 7, Orwell repeatedly calls readers' attention to both Napoleon's manipulation of information (like Stalin's) and the animals' willingness to believe him.

Use of Language to Distort History

- Take out a sheet of paper and title it “Active Reading.”
- Next, create two columns on the page. Title the left column “The Words,” and title the right column “What the Words Really Mean.”

Suzie Student
Per. 6
4/12/2013

Active Reading

The Words

What the Words Really Mean

Use of Language to Distort History, continued

- Orwell's characters and narrator use language to communicate hidden agendas.
 - ▣ Sometimes Orwell hints that language should be carefully questioned, other times it's up to the reader to notice.
- **Instructions:** As you read Chapters 5 through 7, complete the chart you created by filling in some examples of manipulative communication. Then state what you think the language really means. **You should have at least five examples.** Remember to list page numbers.
 - ▣ You have already read Ch. 5, so you should already be able to fill in a few examples.

Active Reading Chart: Example

Suzie Student
Per. 6
4/12/2013

Active Reading

The Words

- "In future all questions relating to the working of the farm would be settled by a special committee of pigs, presided over by himself [Napoleon]" (54).

What the Words Really Mean

- From now on, Napoleon will be making all of the decisions. None of the lower animals would have anything to do with decision-making.

Brackets around a word mean that it has been added in. It's not in the original quote, but it clarifies the meaning.

Page number

Homework



- Don't forget about your *Grammar Workbook* pages 41-42
- **Read *Animal Farm* Ch. 6**
- Fill out the **Active Reading chart** we created in class with a minimum of 3 examples of manipulative language.

If you would like feedback on your annotated bibliographies this week, please e-mail me.

- Once CSTs are over, we'll be doing peer review on our annotated bibliographies.