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Mr. Teacher

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The Rise and Fall of Fictional Communism

It has been said that, “The road to hell is paved with good intentions.” Many think of Communism as one of the evils of the world, but it carries with it some of the best intentions ever conceived. In the novel *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell, the animals overthrow Mr. Jones and set up a communist state. Unfortunately, due to the greed of the pigs, their good intentions for a perfect society are transformed into a totalitarian state. The greed of the pigs develops into a lust for power, and the pigs exploit the stupidity of the animals in order to gain complete control.

Although the farm under animal control prospers initially, the first sign of trouble arises when the pigs try to grab for more than their share of food and power. After the cows are milked and some windfall apples are gathered, the pigs decide that they deserve the food more than the rest of the animals. After the pigs are confronted, Squealer explains, “Our sole object in taking these things is to preserve our health.... We pigs are brainworkers.... It is for *your* sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples” (31). The pigs justify their greed by thinking of themselves as more important than the rest. Later, the pigs sell the eggs of the chickens to other farms in order to satisfy their desire for alcohol and other luxuries (). This type of selfish behavior by the pigs completely contradicts Old Major’s teachings about equality and begins the process of the destruction of Animalism.

Money for Boxer

Sleeping in beds

Wearing clothes

After establishing inequality of possessions on the farm, the next logical step is inequality of power. Napoleon ...

Desire for power (Napoleon) maintained through fear

Kicks out Snowball (dogs)

Won't allow animals to dispute any changes (bans "Beasts of England")

Fear of Jones and Snowball (windmill)

Animals killed

Ignorance (stupidity) keeps them from questioning Napoleon's practices

Boxer can't get past "D"

Boxer's loyalty: "Napoleon is always right."

Sheep: "Four legs good, two legs bad."

Rewriting of 7 Commandments

Believe lies from Squealer (facts and figures; lies about Boxer's death)

The noble ideas of freedom and equality for all animals on *Animal Farm* die when the more intelligent animals choose to use their own knowledge for personal gain. Orwell's message is that human beings have a natural tendency to grab power and exploit others in order to satisfy their hunger for more. The only way to ensure equality and freedom is to fight against ignorance and to question the motives of our leaders.