Introductory Notes for Animal Farm

George Orwell - British Political Novelist

* Born as Eric Blair in 1903 in Bengal, India
* Private school educated
* Socialist
* Sharp critic of capitalism and communism
* Advocate of Freedom
* Wrote 2 anti-totalitarian novels – Animal Farm and 1984
* Died in 1950

Animal Farm

* Fable
* Uses the animals on an English farm to tell the history of Soviet Communism (1917-1945)
* Animals based on Soviet leaders
* Example – Pigs Napoleon and Snowball represent Soviet leaders Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky
* Theme attacks oppression, injustice, suffering
* Powerful attack on any rhetorical or military power seeking to control humans unjustly