

Rationale

My first English coursework is based on George Orwell's novel "Animal Farm". It is a speech by the pig Snowball and takes place after the animals have taken over the farm.

I decided to write a speech for George Orwell's Animal Farm, because I wanted to emphasize the use of rhetoric used to manipulate the target group. With the growing importance of the mass media, speeches became more and more effective. In political discussions, the way an argument is presented is actually more valued than the argument itself. This is perfectly illustrated by a speech.

The political background is important for the novel, as it was Orwell's main intention to criticise the developments after the Russian revolution. Therefore I wanted to intensify the historical parallels, also from a modern point of view. Snowball pleads like his role model Trotsky to actively spread the revolution. He uses makes use of propaganda, too, and shows an obsession with plans.

I chose to place the speech at the first day of the revolution, as it is in my opinion a key scene: All animals have gathered for the first time after the overthrowing of Jones. In fact it, it would make more sense if the Snowball's speech would come *directly* after the revolution, however at this place Orwell decided to send all animals to sleep instead. Hence the next paragraph where the speech can take place is "The pigs now revealed that during the past three months they had taught themselves to read and write..." This however limits my creative opportunities, as I did not want to change the storyline of the novel itself. Therefore I had to stick closely to Orwell's story line and could only be creative to a limited extent. I included the Seven Commandments to contextualise the speech. I also wanted to look forward to the events of the novel, suggesting a long term plan by the pigs. This includes the emergence of the pigs as "superior" animals, already directly after the revolution, the distribution of food, the Battle of the Cowshed, etc.

Snowball uses a great deal of ideologically influenced language, much of it relates to the future or glorifies the revolution. He creates a feeling of unity and equality among the animals by addressing them "comrades". For similar reasons he refers to Old Major several times. Old Major plays an important part in the life of the animals and they feel personally attached to him. Besides this he appeals also on the emotional side of the animals by talking about children. As most animals are not very clever, Snowball uses repetitions and rather short sentences to help them memorize the content more easily.

Speech of Snowball the day after the revolution

Comrades, Yesterday was a great day! A day that will change our lives! A day that will make our children proud of us! For ages we had to suffer under human rule. It were humans that forced us to work, it were humans that did not give us the fruits of our work, it were humans who took away our children. It were humans that slaughtered our parents, friends and children. They used us as tools, as food. But Yesterday we have reached what we have been longing for so long: Freedom. We are on our own feet now, with no one to exploit us. With no one superior or inferior. We all are *equal*.

Comrades, for us it is just a small step, compared to what it means to the animal world. We were the first ones who fought their way to freedom, but many other will follow. Now it is in our responsibility to guide their revolutions and help them freeing themselves. The future is in our hands, Comrades! And I tell you: One day old Major's dream will come true and every beast on this world will be free. It is simply a matter of time. The future is bright, Comrades, but only for those who are willing to fight for it!

What we gained yesterday was our freedom. We must watch it like the apple of our eye. We must protect it like our children. We must fight for it as we fight for our own life. We shall have no victory until the enemy is not completely defeated. For otherwise he will defeat us. The revolution must be protected, whatever the price might be. But not only from the evil of the human, but also from our own temptations. We must work hard, Comrades! For only then we will be able to hold up the principles of animalism and fight the evil of the humans.

The enemy will surely strike back. Jones will regather strength and surely wants to attack us We must build up defence mechanisms, Comrades! He shall have no chance to take this farm back! It is our farm, it is *Animal Farm*! The war has just begun. Right now millions of animals in England continue to suffer! Millions! We must not stand by and let this happen, this is no time to relax. The work will be hard, the reward little. But it will be worth it. And it is solely for us, every single bit. The future world will be the place of our dreams, comrades! Our children will be thankful for what we have done.

During the past three months we have been preparing ourselves for this day. Secretly we pigs met and worked out plans for the future of the farm. Everything already set up, Comrades, you don't need to worry any more! For example did we distribute the work according to the abilities of each animal, for the advancement of the farm. Everyone must contribute what they can, and will be rewarded according to his need. That is why we have worked out detailed plans how to distribute the food for everyone.

- In general it will be allowed to feed on the meadows, except those designated for hey production and during drought.
- All the chickens will feed on grain. They are small and their work is light. One one small bowl per day should be sufficient.
- The horses will feed on hey and grass. I consider their previous portion as sufficient. However, Boxer should get an extra reward because of his size and because we need his muscles. Benjamin will get slightly less, because a donkey will not need to eat as much as a horse.
- The sheep will feed on the same, however they will get less, because of their size.
- The dogs and the cat are a difficult. Right now we have some food left from Jones'. However, right now there should be enough dog and cats food left until we found a solution to the problem.
- We pigs will get apples, other fruits and the best of the crops.

You might wonder why we get different food than most others. But see, comrades, when every animal would have the same amount of food of the same kind, that wouldn't be right. Imagine a horse having as much to eat as hen and a hen having as much to eat as a horse! There would be something wrong there, comrades! And we pigs are brain workers, we need a wide variety of healthy food, otherwise we can't think as good. But this does not mean that the mouse is worth less than a cart horse! And remember, comrades, Old Major was a pig and without him, the revolution could not have taken place!

But this is not the only thing we've done, comrades! We have found some children's books from Jones' Children and taught ourselves how to read and write. Now is the time to teach all others how to read and write as well, for the advancement of our society. Once we are educated we will easily overtake the humans and a new period of equality and brotherhood will arise.

If Old Major was still alive he would be proud of us! May he rest in peace. Without his wisdom the revolution could not have taken place. We studied and analysed his words. They express the existential principles of Animalism, that we must uphold and every one of us must learn these by heart. That is why we reduced them to Seven Commandments.

1. Whatever goes on two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend
3. No animal shall wear clothes
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed
5. No animal shall drink alcohol
6. No animal shall kill another animal
7. All animals are equal

Comrades, these are the rules we must live by. They cannot be changed and there are no exceptions! Anyone who contravenes them must be punished. Now, before we go to the harvest, let us get back to the farm to find a suitable place to write these laws down. It must be widely visible so that everybody will remember them.

Now, let us go ahead and fight for ourselves! Let us build a future! Our future!