Analysis: Lit - Animal Farm Allegory

Style: Register

This paper scores a 6 for register. The author uses a consistent, formal tone with appropriate distance. There are no contractions or colloquialisms, but the 'he' in the final paragraph, referring to Boxer, is unclear. Additionally, the sentence, "All of their possessions were taken away and were shunned by the people," is unclear because of a missing antecedent. The scholar strongly attempts to use the appropriate verb tenses, present for the allegory and past for the historical texts. Although there are a few passive verbs ("were given the death sentence," "were taken away," and, "were shunned"), this actually works, representing the powerlessness of the hens in relation to their government. Because this is the one instance where this appears, it seems to be an intentional and effective choice by the author.

Essay: Lit - Animal Farm Allegory

Prompt: How does Orwell's allegory support his argument regarding the misuse of power in government?

An allegory is an extended symbol of fictional characters, events, and ideas that represent actual people, events and ideas. Throughout his life, Orwell has seen the horrors of an unjust system of government. Orwell uses an allegory to support his argument on corrupt government. In the allegory Animal Farm, Orwell argues that governments can be corrupt; mostly seen through the symbolism of the dogs, the hens, and Boxer.

Orwell uses the dogs to symbolize how governments use military force to intimidate society. Stalin used brutal military force to strike fear into his people. Stalin made the military kill people publicly. If he suspected subversive activity, "Anybody suspected of disloyalty was murdered...or put on public show trials at which they pleaded guilty to crimes they could never have done"(Stalin: Purges and Praises). Many citizens targeted by Stalin confessed to impossible crimes. Similarly, Napoleon uses the dogs for intimidation. He would have the dogs kill any untrustworthy animals. The dogs represent the KGB. Squealer uses the dogs to intimidate the animals into believing him. The animals congregate to discuss the construction of the windmill. Squealer was trying to teach the animals about tactics and, "The animals were not sure what the

word meant, but Squealer spoke so persuasively and the three dogs who happened to be with him growled so threateningly that they accepted his explanation without further questions" (58). Squealer explains to the animals how to use tactics. The animals, unsure of what the word meant, are not going to believe him; however, the menacing, growling dogs persuade them to. Similarly, Stalin used fear to get the people of Russia under his control and influence. The KGB would be at his right hand and ready to hurt anyone if necessary, depicting Orwell's argument of an abusive, dictatorial government.

Orwell uses the hens to symbolize how governments can mistreat their own people to maintain power and control. Kulaks were public enemies; Stalin made it clear that Kulaks should have no assistance from any citizen. Stalin said, "...the Kulaks were to be left homeless without a single possession...it was also forbidden for anyone to aid dispossessed Kulak families"(Stalin's Forced Famine). The Kulaks were dispossessed and left for death. Anyone that helped them was treated the same way. Similarly, Napoleon abuses the "disobedient" hens. No animal could assist the hens, or they would die. The hens represent the Kulaks. Under Napoleon's orders, all rations that the hens usually receive are to be ceased. One Sunday morning in the farmhouse, Napoleon, "Ordered the hens' rations to be stopped, and decreed that any animal giving so much as a grain of corn to a hen should be punished by death"(76). Napoleon abandons the hens. Any animal offering assistance is given the death sentence. Similarly, Stalin abandoned the Kulaks. All of their possessions were taken away and were shunned by the people. Governments were able to turn the people against certain groups of people, depicting Orwell's argument of a corrupt government.

Orwell uses Boxer to represent how governments can take advantage of even their most loyal people. Many innocent, hardworking Russians were killed during Stalin's rule. His goal was to remain leader of the Bolshevik Communist. To achieve this goal, "Millions of Russian people were slaughtered during his regime, and those that survived lived in virtual slavery under the dark shadow of the state"(Stalin Assumes Power). Stalin killed even the most trustworthy citizens, included in the millions of slaughtered Russians, as an attempt to keep the people under control. Similarly, Napoleon has Boxer murdered. Boxer is one of the most hardworking, loyal animals, yet he is killed. Boxer is a symbol of the loyal, hardworking Russian. Boxer was starting to become old and have no use on the Animal Farm. In the middle of one day, Napoleon sends for the knacker to come get Boxer. The animals are, at first, excited for him not understanding what was happening. Then Benjamin questions, "Do you not understand what this means? They are taking Boxer to the knackers!"(122). Boxer is shipped off to the horse slaughterer after being deemed no use to the Animal Farm. Napoleon wants to show the animals an example of what could happen to them if they became old or lazy; no matter how hard they had previously worked. Similarly, Stalin had many loyal Russians murdered. His

paranoia of losing control led him to act irrationally, depicting Orwell's argument of a corrupt government.

Orwell's allegory argues that governments can be corrupt; most seen through the symbolism of the dogs, the hens, and Boxer. Being that they were a source of intimidation, the dogs are a symbol of the KGB. They are used whenever a citizen needed redirection. An enemy to the public and shunned by all, the hens represent the Kulaks. No one helped the dispossessed people out of fear. He worked hard and was the most loyal of them all, thus Boxer symbolizes the hardworking, loyal yet exploited Russian. No matter how faithful they are, their ultimate consequence is death. Governments may appear as fair and just, but looks can be deceiving. Novels such as Animal Farm can make one question the government and its true motives.