

Fourth Lecture

♠ Quick Revision

One major feature of modernism is the dissatisfaction with the world of politics and the attempt to escape from it through invention of some forms like fables and journeys.

This process is a revival of some older forms. So we can say: history repeats itself. *Robinson Crusoe* is an 18th century novel that used the trope of the journey. It is used again William Golding (*Lord of the Flies*) and George Orwell (*Animal Farm*).

♠ Quick Revision *Animal Farm* is a Fable:

We talked about the fact that *Animal Farm* is a fable which is a short tale to teach a moral lesson, often with animals or inanimate objects as characters.

We also talked about the fable and the allegory, saying that the fable entirely uses animal characters while allegory uses both as in our novel.

To repeat, *Animal Farm* is an allegory that uses some of the features of the fable.

♠ The Wolf and the Lamb

- We also studied together a story (written in the form of a fable) called The Wolf and the Lamb so we can understand our novel.
- Notice: this fable (The Wolf and the Lamb) is part of our course.
- It is not just a tale that we read for entertainment only.
- It will help us a lot in understanding how *Animal Farm* operates on many levels.

♠ Some Thoughts on The Wolf and the Lamb

- How many accusations are there in The Wolf and the Lamb?
- How many replies are there in The Wolf and the Lamb?
- The wolf represents (tyrants- animals- people-policemen) in real life.
- The lamb represents (tyrants- animals- people-policemen) in real life.

♠ Some Thoughts on The Wolf and the Lamb

- The author of “The Wolf and the Lamb” is anonymous which means:

A/ He is from Russia

b/ His name is hard to pronounce

c/ He is unknown

d/ His name is known to the police

- The story of the Wolf and the Lamb helps us to know how tyrants deal with

A/ lambs

b/ Sheep

c/ Wolves

d/ Real people

- The story of the Wolf and the Lamb isas it does not have human beings as characters:

A/ a fable

B/ An allegory

C/ A novella

D/ A metaphor

•The story of the Wolf and the Lamb has strong connections with *Animal Farm* because:

A/both of them use animal characters for the criticism of governments

B/Both of them have sheep as characters

C/Both of them are written in English

D/Both of them belong to the genre of poetry

•Does the story of the Wolf and the Lamb and *Animal Farm* talk directly about governments?

A/ Yes

B/ No

C/ This is not clear from the texts

D/ They talk about different matters not about governments

♣ Connections between “The Wolf and the Lamb” and *Animal Farm*

1) Do writers of both works seem to be in harmony with the world around them? Of course not. They express their utter dissatisfaction with the world around them, and this is a feature of modernism.

2) Are writers of both works optimistic? They are quite pessimistic as they regard dictatorship as the main reason behind injustice and inequality in the modern world.

♣ Further Thoughts on the Connections between both works

1) Is the form of *Animal Farm* traditional like the novels of the 19th century? It is innovative. It makes use once again of forms that were used at the start of the novel in a new way.

2) Has the writer been able to fully express himself through this form or has he just chosen a new form only? The form has enabled him to fully express himself without colliding with political systems or regimes.

♣ What *Animal Farm* Talks About

Animal Farm by George Orwell was first published in 1945 as a political allegory of the Russian Revolution, particularly directed at Stalin's Russia.

There was a dictatorial regime in Russia before the 1917 revolution. Everybody hated the Czar of Russia (represented in the novel as Mr Jones) for his oppression of Russians and for the injustice, inequality, and prejudice with which he treated his countrymen. The revolution of 1917 overthrew him. But

But the revolution will fail to apply the same principles that it was originally meant to uphold. In other words, the people (in the novel: the animals) who took part in the revolution against injustice and inequality will not be able to maintain all these values.

Stalin's Russia which was in control of the country after the revolution could not achieve those noble values for a long time. This is what Orwell has been disappointed with.

Mr. Jones, of the Manor Farm, had locked the hen-houses for the night, but was too drunk to remember to shut the pop-holes. With the ring of light from his lantern dancing from side to side, he lurched across the yard, kicked off his boots at the back door, drew himself a last glass of beer from the barrel in the scullery, and made his way up to bed, where Mrs. Jones was already snoring.

Sum up the character of Mr Jones. What does he remind you of?

As soon as the light in the bedroom went out there was a stirring and a fluttering all through the farm buildings. Word had gone round during the day that old Major, the prize Middle

White boar, had had a strange dream on the previous night and wished to communicate it to the other animals. It had been agreed that they should all meet in the big barn as soon as Mr. Jones was safely out of the way. Old Major (so he was always called, though the name under which he had been exhibited was Willingdon Beauty) was so highly regarded on the farm that everyone was quite ready to lose an hour's sleep in order to hear what he had to say.