

ANIMAL FARM: MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the book *Animal Farm* by George Orwell to the movie *Animal Farm* (1954). An animated British film by John Halas and Joy Batchlor. Voices by Gordon Heath and Maurice Denham.



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SAMPLE ANIMAL FARM: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *ANIMAL FARM* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by George Orwell

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *Animal Farm* (1954) An animated British film by John Halas and Joy Batchlor. Voices by Gordon Heath and Maurice Denham.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★★★★☆ Characters: ★★★★★☆ Setting: ★★★★★★

Structure: ★★★★★☆ Symbols: ★★★★★☆ Theme: ★★★★★★

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAT'S NOT IN THE MOVIE?

The flag, the gun, the lyrics to *Beasts of England*, the philosophy of Animalism, Sugarcandy Mountain, the storm that destroys the windmill, the sale of the woodpile, the pigs' remaining in power at the end of the novel and the characters of Mrs. Jones, Clover, Mollie, Muriel, Jessie, Bluebell, Minimus, Mr. Frederick and Mr. Pilkington.

WHAT'S IN THE MOVIE THAT'S NOT IN THE BOOK?

The underwear flag, Russian music, Whymper counting his money, Jones blowing up the windmill, the animals' taking the farm back from the pigs in the end, Benjamin acting as a hard worker and a hero.

WHAT'S THE SAME?

Old Major's speech, the revolution, Snowball being chased off by dogs, Napoleon's rise to power, the windmill, the revisions of the commandments, Boxer's death, the execution of some animals, the vicious dogs, the transformation of the pigs, the Red Lion, the whiskey, the battles with farmers.

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THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 1

OPENING SCENE: The voice of a narrator is heard. (**ERROR:** *In the book there is no first person narrator*) It is springtime. Manor Farm in England has fallen into disrepair. (**ACCURATE**) Mr. Jones, owner of Manor Farm, has neglected his property because he spends his time at the Red Lion tavern drinking. (**ACCURATE**) Mr. Jones arrives home drunk. (**ACCURATE**) As he makes his rounds to lock up the farm, he kicks a chicken coop and mumbles “Good for nothing beasts.” (**ERROR:** *Not in the book*) Jones throws a liquor bottle at his dog. (**ERROR:** *Not in the book*) Jones enters the farmhouse and goes to bed. (**ACCURATE**)

When the animals see the farmhouse lights go out, they head across the barnyard to a meeting called by Old Major, a respected prize boar. (**ACCURATE**) The animals have never met together before. (**ACCURATE**) Old Major says that he has been ill and wants to say things before it’s too late. (**ACCURATE**) The pigs, including Snowball and Napoleon, sit on the front row. (**ACCURATE**) Boxer the horse, Benjamin the donkey, sheep, ducks, chickens, cows, and other animals are present. (**ACCURATE**) The door squeaks and the cat walks in last. (**ACCURATE**)

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