

Discover What You Know About Systems of Government

How will the animals in *Animal Farm* govern themselves after they overthrow Farmer Jones? Very possibly, they will adopt one of the systems of government that humans use. See how much you know about governments. Complete the chart below by adding the correct name for each system of government described below. Pick from among the following choices.

democracy socialism totalitarianism dictatorship monarchy

Name	A system of government in which
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the state or the community as a whole, <i>not private individuals</i>, owns and operates the farms, factories, and other means of production. • all members of the community share in the work and also share in the products.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a king, a queen, or an emperor is the hereditary head of state. • the ruler may have absolute, or unlimited, authority or the ruler's authority may be limited by a constitution.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all power is in the hands of a single individual who has absolute authority. • the orders given by the individual in charge must be obeyed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all power is in the hands of one political group that suppresses all opposition, often with force, and controls many aspects of its citizens' lives.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the people rule either directly or through their elected representatives. • the rights of the individual citizen are guaranteed and protected by law.

Discover What You Know About Satire

A *satire* is a story in which the writer uses ridicule or scorn to expose or attack human vices or follies. Satires can be lighthearted and humorous, but they can also be biting and bitter. Most satirists are *idealists*. They have a strong sense of how they think things should be. One of the ways George Orwell employs satire in *Animal Farm* is his use of animals to represent different types of human characteristics. When you encounter a new animal in the book, stop and think about the way we use comparisons to animals in everyday speech; for example, "loyal as a dog" or "greedy as a pig."

If you were writing a satire about school elections, what attitudes and actions of the voters and candidates would you satirize? Why?

Vocabulary Focus: A Harvest of Words

Below are words that you will encounter in *Animal Farm* or could use to discuss the book. Pay attention to the definitions and the example sentences. Then do the activities on page 13.

Group 1: Words of an Opposing Nature

cynical scornful of the motives of others. *The cynical listener doubted the speaker's sincerity.*

gullible easily deceived; overly trusting. *A gullible person is often duped.*

obstinate stubborn; headstrong. *The obstinate animal refused to pull the plough.*

tractable easily controlled; docile. *Sheep are tractable and easy to herd.*

visionary having foresight; seen in a vision. *The speaker's visionary message encourages the animals to rise up against Mr. Jones.*

pragmatic realistic; practical. *A pragmatic leader tries to solve problems in a practical, realistic way.*

Group 3: Words for Moods

apathetic uninterested; unconcerned. *Apathetic people rarely speak out against injustice.*

disheartened disappointed; discouraged. *The farmer was disheartened by the poor harvest.*

restive uneasy; restless. *The coming storm made the animals feel restive.*

wistful full of sad thoughts or longing. *After the executions, many citizens had wistful thoughts about the past.*

morose glum; depressed. *Morose people never look at the bright side of life.*

taciturn uncommunicative. *The farmer was taciturn when asked about the crop failure.*

Group 2: Words for Behaviors

exemplary commendable; deserving imitation. *Their exemplary actions for the benefit of others inspired everyone.*

ignominious dishonorable; shameful. *He was condemned for his ignominious disregard for the rights of others.*

cunning skill in deception; slyness. *The leader used cunning in avoiding criticism by questioning his critics' honesty.*

stupefy to astonish; to make insensible. *The shocking election results stupefied the citizens.*

cower to crouch in fear. *Terrorized by the senseless slaughter, the animals cowered in the corner.*

tyranny government by a single, unjust ruler with absolute power. *Under tyranny, there can be no real freedom.*

subversive traitorous; undermining. *Urging people to overthrow the government is a subversive act.*

Group 4: Words About Words

oration speech; discourse. *The old pig's oration uttered truths that no one had dared to voice before.*

accord agreement in word and action; unity. *The animals acted in accord to seek freedom.*

cryptic mysterious; deliberately obscure. *No one understood the cryptic message except the person who had written it.*

tidings pieces of news or information. *The good tidings of victory cheered everyone.*

slogan rallying cry; motto. *The animals chanted their revolutionary slogan throughout the farm and the nearby countryside.*

maxim statement expressing a general truth. *A good speech contains maxims that everyone can accept.*

propaganda deliberate spreading of ideas or rumors to support or damage a cause. *The leader used propaganda to turn the people against his opponents.*