

STEP 1 **文の大意をつかむ**

単語レベル

Animal Farm by George Orwell

作品の解説を読み、作品のバックグラウンドの知識を得ます。

ある日、とある農場 MANOR FARM で、動物たちによる革命が起こり、Jones 一家が農場から追い出されます。指導者はブタの Snowball と Napoleon。彼らは7つの訓戒をたて、理想的な動物王国を設立しようとします。しかし、やがて Napoleon は独裁色を強めていき・・・。

社会主義への批判を目的として書かれたと言われるこの作品では、独裁政治の恐ろしさが上手に風刺されています。指導者のブタや登場してくる動物たち(馬、犬、ニワトリなど)を人間になぞらえて読んでいくと、さらに面白く読める小説です。次の英文は、革命後、動物たちが農場の看板を書き換え7つの訓戒をたてようとする場面です。

The pigs now revealed that during the past three months they had taught themselves to read and write from an old spelling book which had belonged to Mr. Jones's children and which had been thrown on the rubbish heap. Napoleon sent for pots of black and white paint and led the way down to the five-barred gate that gave on to the main road. Then Snowball (for it was Snowball who was best at writing) took a brush between the two knuckles of his trotter, painted out MANOR FARM from the top bar of the gate and in its place painted ANIMAL FARM. This was to be the name of the farm from now onwards. 5

After this they went back to the farm buildings, where Snowball and Napoleon sent for a ladder which they caused to be set against the end wall of the big barn. They explained that by their studies of the past three months the pigs had succeeded in reducing the principles of Animalism to Seven Commandments. These Seven Commandments would now be inscribed on the wall; they would form an unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live for ever after. With some difficulty (for it is not easy for a pig to balance himself on a ladder) Snowball climbed up and set to work, with Squealer a few rungs below him holding the paint-pot. The Commandments were written on the tarred wall in great white letters that could be read thirty yards away. They ran thus: 10

THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

1. *Whatever goes upon 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 any other animal.*
7. *All animals are equal.*

It was very neatly written, and except that "friend" was written "freind" and one of the "S's" was the wrong way round, the spelling was correct all the way through. 25

英文全体を、わからない単語の意味を推測しながら読み進みます。

NOTES

- 3 rubbish (n) things or material of no use = garbage, trash くず、ばかげたもの
heap (n) a disorderly pile or mass 積み重ねたもの、堆積
- 4 give on to ~に面した
- 6 knuckle (n) a finger joint 指関節、げんこつ
trotter (n) 馬のように速足で駆ける人、羊や豚の食用の足
< (v) trot = to move fairly quickly 小走りする
- 7 onward(s) (adv) forward in space or time 前へ、先へ
- 9 barn (n) a farm building for storing crops or keeping animals 納屋、家畜小屋
- 12 inscribe (v) to write, esp. as a lasting record 記す、彫る > (n) inscription 碑文
unalterable (adj) un + alter + able
< (v) alter = to become different, but without changing into something else
変更する、変化する
- 14 Squealer (n) squeal する人(本文中では登場する豚の名前)
< (v) squeal = to make a long very high sound or cry
キーキー鳴く、悲鳴を上げる、密告する
- 15 rung (n) any of the cross-bars that form the steps of a ladder (はしごの)段
tar (v) ~にタールを塗る
- 16 thus (adv) このように、だから = hence
- 26 the wrong way round 逆に

英語で説明されている語句は、まず英語だけを読み、単語の意味をとらえます。

文章全体を読んで大意がつかめた人は、COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS に挑戦。大意をつかみきれない人は、NOTESを利用して単語の意味を理解しながら、もう一度例文を読んだ後で挑戦します。

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

大意がつかめたか下記の質問で確認してみましょう。

1. How did the pigs learn to read and write?
2. Where did they paint “ANIMAL FARM” ?
3. Was “*All animals shall sleep in a bed*” one of their commandments?

文章全体の大意が把握できているか確認します。

- 1. They used an old spelling book which had belonged to Mr. Jones's children and which had been thrown on the rubbish heap.
- 2. They painted it on the five-barred gate.
- 3. No. “*No animal shall sleep in a bed*” was the right commandment.

ANSWERS