

Sixth Lecture

- ♣ We studied the relationship between the novel and the real history of Russia before and after the 1917 in Russia.
- ♣ Almost all characters in the novel match real figures of the history of Russia in the first half of the century.
- ♣ We agreed that the novel attacks the failure of the revolution due to the return back to injustice and inequality and to lack of freedom.

Questions

1* What does Old Major represent in real life?

- _ Karl Marx
- _ Vladimir Lenin
- _ Napoleon
- _ Squealer

2* What does the character of Mr Jones reflect in reality?

- _ Karl Marx
- _ Vladimir Lenin
- _ Napoleon
- _ The dictatorial Czar of Russia before 1917

3* When did the Russian Revolution take place?

1917- 1945- 1967- 1952

4* When was *Animal Farm* published?

1917- 1945- 1967- 1952

5* *What do animals need in order to start a revolution?*

- _ *A leader to lead them into action.*
- _ *More food*
- _ *More leisure time*
- _ *More drinks*

The moral leader of the revolution in the novel is Old Major.

The real practical leaders are

- ♣ We read parts of the first chapter of the novel which sets the theme, plot and setting of the whole work.
- ♣ What is the setting of the novel?
- ♣ What are some of the major themes?
- ♣ What can you say about the plot?

Plan of our Lecture Today

- ♣ To focus on Old Major's speech as it is a pivotal stage in the development of the novel

- ♣ To see in detail how he wins the hearts of animals and pushes them forward towards the revolution.
- ♣ To grasp the gradual development of the plot along the parallel lines drawn by the writer from the start of the novel.
- ♣ Now Old Major is about to deliver a speech.
- ♣ He represents Karl Marx who played a great (theoretical) role in the build-up to the revolution.
- ♣ Old major reflects the ability and skills of orators who do their best to touch the hearts of the audience, especially before the revolution.
- ♣ What are the techniques that he uses to affect animals?

♣ How Old Major Touches the Hearts of Animals

- _ Endearing himself to them by calling them comrades every other time.
- _ Repetition of certain emotional phrases as when he refers to man as he, he, he alone.
- _ Being direct and specific as in the above example.
- _ Asking questions.
- _ Changing the tone of his voice.
- _ Appealing to all classes of animals in front of him and mentioning them in name one by one.
- _ Using negation

"Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short. We are born, we are given just so much food as will keep the breath in our bodies, and those of us who are capable of it are forced to work to the last atom of our strength; and the very instant that our usefulness has come to an end we are slaughtered with hideous cruelty. No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth".

Questions, negation, emotionality

"Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals. He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving, and the rest he keeps for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilises it, and yet there is not one of us that owns more than his bare skin.

Being specific, stating his goal clearly and directly

You cows that I see before me, how many thousands of gallons of milk have you given during this last year? And what has happened to that milk which should have been breeding up sturdy calves? Every drop of it has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid in this last year, and how many of those eggs ever hatched into chickens? The rest have all gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men.

Addressing each animal in person to show interest and affection and to raise anger against man
Being so specific: Knowing Exactly What to Say to Them

"Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings? Only get rid of Man, and the produce of our labour would be our own. Almost overnight we could become rich and free. What then must we do? Why, work night and day, body and soul, for the overthrow of the human race! That is my message to you, comrades: Rebellion! I do not know when that Rebellion will come, it might be in a week or in a hundred years, but I know, as surely as I see this straw beneath my feet, that sooner or later justice will be done.