

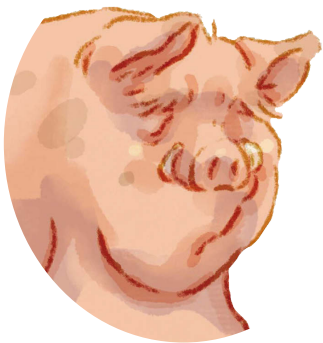
Language, structure and form

Language

Orwell makes choices in the language he uses to convey his meanings. This includes words (vocabulary), phrases and techniques. When we analyse language, we are identifying Orwell's methods and considering their impact.

Descriptions of the animals

Orwell creates clear visual impressions of his characters by using **adjectives** to describe their appearance. However, it is through the ways in which the animals move and speak (as well as what they say and don't say) that Orwell often presents their true nature and symbolic significance.



The voices of the animals

Each significant animal is given a distinctive voice. Squealer always uses rhetorical questions and direct address: 'Surely, comrades, you do not want Jones back?' Boxer uses repetition: 'I will work harder.' Clover uses gentle persuasion and says cautiously: 'I am *almost* certain I saw this.' Orwell does this to show what type of character they are: for example, Squealer is manipulative, Boxer is blindly devoted and Clover is kind and timid.

Let us examine Orwell's presentation of old Major.

Appearance

Orwell presents old Major as old and therefore wise.

"Twelve years old", "grown rather stout",
a "majestic-looking pig"

Orwell portrays old Major as weighty and therefore important.

By presenting old Major as a pig of prestige, Orwell presents him as important, superior in intellect and powerful. The proper noun 'Major' also implies this and is similar phonetically to 'Majesty'.

How does he move?

Old Major is positioned above the others. This implies he is respected and god-like.

"On a sort of raised platform, Major was already ensconced on his bed of straw"

Old Major is settled in a comfortable position. This implies he is an experienced speaker and secure in his position of authority.

Old Major rests comfortably on straw, which implies he is happy being an animal, like the others. The noun 'bed' implies he is resting and foreshadows his imminent death.