

Character Sketch of Snowball

Snowball is one of the lead characters in George Orwell's Animal Farm. At first, a friend and companion of Napoleon & together, Snowball and Napoleon develop the theory of Animalism from the ideas of Old Major & the speech; and later they distill these ideas down into the Seven Commandments. Snowball is responsible for generating the maxim "four legs good, two legs bad", which he teaches to the sheep and other less intelligent animals in order to give them some vision of the Seven Commandments to repeat. Despite being the generator of this maxim, in the months later, the pigs often gets mad against Snowball during Sunday meetings, as the sheep often start bleating the maxim out of the blue during Snowball's speeches. It's implied that these interruptions are Napoleon's work, as the two pigs develop an intense rivalry in the months after rebellion. Snowball is somewhat of an idealistic individual. He proposed that the farm animals build a windmill in order to generate electricity, which he suggests will ultimately lead to a three day workweek. He also comes up with a variety of other schemes and groups aimed at improving the animal's lives and education standards.

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He also promotes spreading news of rebellion far and wide. Despite his idealism, however Snowball still shows himself to be willing to exploit the other animals for his own gain, as when he says nothing about taking milk and apples for the pigs only. On the day that the animals vote to build the windmill, Napoleon exiles Snowball by setting his attack dogs on him. After this, Snowball disappears as a character, but Napoleon continues to invoke Snowball as a nefarious figure who conspired against Animal Farm is in league with humans, and its intent on muddling everything up on the farm.

Through this Napoleon discredits Snowball's bravery and actions in the Battle of the Cowshed and makes it so no animal can feel any affinity for Snowball. Snowball symbolized Trotsky, a rival of Stalin exiled from Russia and assassinated on Stalin's Orders in Mexico in 1940.