

Objective

By the end of this lesson, Connor will gain an understanding of the key events and themes of the Russian Revolution, as well as how these concepts are reflected in the first two chapters of George Orwell's "Animal Farm." He will be able to make connections between historical events and literary themes, enhancing his critical thinking skills.

Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen for taking notes
- Printed copies of "Animal Farm" Chapters 1 and 2
- Access to a timeline of the Russian Revolution (can be created or found online)
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, paper) for creative activities
- Knowledge of basic historical context surrounding the Russian Revolution (Tsar Nicholas II, Bolsheviks, etc.)

Activities

- **Timeline Creation:** Connor will create a timeline of the major events leading up to the Russian Revolution. This will help him visualize the sequence of events and understand their significance.
- **Character Mapping:** After reading Chapters 1 and 2 of "Animal Farm," Connor will create a character map that connects the animals in the story to key figures from the Russian Revolution, such as the Tsar, Lenin, and Trotsky.
- **Group Discussion:** Connor will engage in a discussion about the themes of power and rebellion in both the Russian Revolution and "Animal Farm." He will share his thoughts and listen to different perspectives.
- **Creative Expression:** Connor will illustrate a scene from the chapters that he finds particularly impactful, using art supplies to express his understanding of the themes and emotions presented.

Talking Points

- "The Russian Revolution was a pivotal moment in history that changed the course of a nation. Can you think of any other revolutions that had a similar impact?"
- "In 'Animal Farm,' the animals represent different groups in society. Who do you think the pigs represent, and why is that significant?"
- "How does the idea of power and corruption show up in both the Russian Revolution and the first chapters of 'Animal Farm'? Can you find any similarities?"
- "Think about how Orwell uses animals to tell a story about humans. What do you think he wants us to learn from this?"
- "The phrase 'All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others' is central to understanding the themes in 'Animal Farm.' What do you think this means?"
- "Why do you think Orwell chose a farm setting for such a serious topic? How does it change the way we view the story?"

- "What role do you think the character of Old Major plays in the story? How does he relate to historical figures in the Russian Revolution?"
- "How do you feel about the rebellion of the animals against Mr. Jones? Does it remind you of any real-life protests or movements?"
- "In Chapter 2, the animals start to organize themselves. How important is organization in a revolution?"
- "As you read, think about the motives of the characters. What drives them to act the way they do?"
- "Consider the idea of 'utopia' in both the Russian Revolution and 'Animal Farm.' What does a perfect society look like, and is it achievable?"
- "How does fear play a role in both the Russian Revolution and the events in 'Animal Farm'? Can you identify moments where fear influences decisions?"
- "What do you think Orwell's message is about leadership? How do the leaders in 'Animal Farm' compare to historical leaders?"
- "As you reflect on the chapters, think about how the animals' initial hopes for a better life start to change. What does this tell us about human nature?"
- "Finally, why do you think it's important to study events like the Russian Revolution and stories like 'Animal Farm'? What lessons can we learn?"