

①

Animal Farm: Snowball - A character sketch.

Snowball is one of the symbolic characters of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, the most popular novel. Orwell is known as a social critic, a political satirist and a great humorist who presents the bitter facts of human life. He has created a number of memorable characters. Snowball is one of them. Let us see his character in a brief.

M.A. HAQUE

Snowball is an important character in the novel. His active roles are symbolic to those of Trotsky in the Russia's political upheavals. He possesses all the good qualities of a dashing leader. He is a true follower of Old Major (Karl Marx). He elaborates his teachings and formulates his thoughts into a system that is known as Animalism. He earnestly teaches the principles of Animalism to the animals and gives them new slogans. He asks the animals to sing the song of the 'Beasts of England' and promulgates seven commandments. He spreads the philosophy of labour and makes every animal working hard. In the true spirit of the Old Major's teachings he tries to create political awareness among the animals. For this he establishes Egg Production Committee for the hens, Clean

②
Tail League for the cows, wild comrades
Re-education Committee. The whiter wool
Movement and so on. He advocates for
the establishment of the Wind-mill just
for the prosperity of the Farm. Of course,
he is compelled to leave the Farm but
he never retaliates.

Snowball is also a good organiser.
When the Revolution takes place and Jones
is expelled out of the Farm he dexter-
ously reorganises the Revolutionary Farm.
He changes the name of the Manor Farm
into Animal Farm and streamlines animal
force for its development. He gives the ani-
mals ideals for a prosperous future. He gives
them new slogans and new flag that mark
their deliverance from bondage to cruelty of
the Man (Capitalism). He puts all animals
on equal footing by arranging for their
education. He is all for the betterment of
the animals. He is selfless and thinks of
self interests.

M.A. HAQUE

Snowball is also a great warrior as well
as a good speaker. He knows the tactics of war
and displays his unrivalled courage in
the Battle of the Cowshed. He preaches that
war is an art that requires more of inte-
ligence than that of strength. As a good
orator, he makes his viewpoints acceptable
to all. But, he becomes a poor victim to the

Vaulting ambition of ^③ Napoleon (Stalin).

M.A. HAQUE He driven out of the Farm, but his presence is felt till the end of the novel. This shows the importance of his character.

M.A. HAQUE In short, Snowball is a true disciple of old Major. He demonstrates all the traits of a selfless leader. But he fails to counter the inhuman and selfish ambition of Napoleon for he knows that the conflict with Napoleon will destroy the very ideals of the Revolution. Really, he is antithesis of Napoleon.