🧑‍💼 About the Author: George Orwell (1903–1950)

George Orwell was the pen name of **Eric Arthur Blair**, a British writer, journalist, and critic. He was born in India (then part of the British Empire) and educated in England. Orwell worked as a colonial officer in Burma before deciding to become a writer, living among the poor in London and Paris to understand social inequality.

He became famous for his clear style and sharp criticism of **injustice, totalitarianism, and political hypocrisy**. His most important works include *Animal Farm* (1945) and *1984* (1949).

🕰️ Historical Context

- **Time period:** *Animal Farm* was published in **1945**, just after **World War II**.
- **Historical background:** Orwell wrote it as an **allegory of the Russian Revolution (1917)** and the rise of **Joseph Stalin's dictatorship** in the Soviet Union.
- The novel uses a group of farm animals to symbolise historical figures and events. For example:
    - *Old Major* represents Karl Marx / Lenin.
    - *Napoleon* represents Stalin.
    - *Snowball* represents Trotsky.
    - *The pigs and dogs* represent the ruling elite and the secret police.
- Themes of **power, corruption, propaganda, and inequality** reflect Orwell's fear that revolutions can become as oppressive as the regimes they replace.

💡 Central Themes

1. **Power and Corruption:** "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."
2. **Class and Inequality:** The exploitation of the working class by those in control.
3. **Manipulation of Language:** Propaganda used to control thought and justify injustice.
4. **Idealism vs. Reality:** The betrayal of revolutionary ideals.
5. **Freedom and Oppression:** The tension between equality and authority.

📘 Reading-Comprehension and Discussion Questions

General Understanding

1. What happens at the beginning of *Animal Farm*? What motivates the animals to rebel?

2. Who are Old Major, Snowball, and Napoleon? What ideas do they represent?
3. How do the animals' lives change after the revolution?
4. What commandments do the animals write, and how do they change later in the story?
5. What does the phrase **"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others"** mean?

Themes and Analysis

6. How does Orwell show that **power leads to corruption**?
7. In what ways do the pigs **manipulate language** to control the other animals?
8. Why do the other animals accept the pigs' leadership, even when they suffer?
9. How does the novel criticise **totalitarian regimes**?
10. What role does **fear** play in maintaining control on the farm?

Characters and Symbolism

11. Who does Boxer represent, and why is his story tragic?
12. What does Napoleon represent? How does he resemble historical leaders?
13. What is the importance of Squealer's speeches? What techniques of **propaganda** does he use?
14. How do the sheep and dogs contribute to the system of oppression?
15. Why do the humans at the end of the novel look just like the pigs?

Context and Interpretation

16. How does *Animal Farm* reflect the **Russian Revolution and Stalin's dictatorship**?
17. Why do you think Orwell chose to use **animals instead of people** to tell this story?
18. How does Orwell's experience as a **journalist and political observer** influence his writing?
19. How does the novel connect with today's world — can we still see similar patterns of manipulation and control?
20. What do you think Orwell wanted readers to learn from this story?