3. What's in a Name?



Student Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the following chart, and then answer the questions.

Historical Figure	Character	Describe Parallel
Karl Marx	Old Major	Old Major is the originator of the idea that becomes the basis of the animal rebellion- however, like Marx, the ideals behind it are soon forgotten.
Czar Nicolas II	Mr. Jones	Old Major describes Mr. Jones, and humans he represents as the only animals who consumes without producing. The Czar who fell to the communists and the aristocracy he represents collected rent from the peasants who tilled their fields without actually laboring themselves.
Josef Stalin	Napoleon	Exemplary of the tyranny that overtakes all humans when they accumulate too much power. His greed for more power and wealth overtakes any ideals he may have initially had- much as it did with Stalin, who ultimately can be connected to the deaths of millions of his own fellow citizens.
		Note Orwell's choice of names. In pre-WWII Europe, Napoleon was considered the arch-villain.
Leon Trotsky	Snowball	Leon Trotsky escaped from the Soviet Union after losing a power struggle with Stalin. Trotsky went into exile in Mexico, where he was later murdered by Stalin's agents.
The "Proletariat" (the laboring or working class)	Boxer	Boxer is symbolic of the working class who does not have enough information or education to understand the ramifications and implications of decisions made by their bosses or leaders. Boxer believes Napoleon, and his refusal to question what doesn't seem right ultimately costs him his life. Orwell saw this as parallel to the fate of much of the working class.
		Note that the use of a 'workhorse' to parallel the Soviet Union's workers, and the name which references the Boxer Rebellion of China- which marked the beginning of the process that eventually led to China's turn to communism.
Pravda- the newspaper that worked as the propaganda organ of the Party	Squealer	Pravda was the propaganda arm of the Communist Party prior to the entrance of radio and television. Information was both highly controlled and highly managed, or 'spun'. It was also the public face of Party policy.
The KGB, or secret police	Dogs	The KGB was the enforcer of the Communist Party, and was deeply feared for their ability to carry out orders, no matter how odious.