

GEORGE ORWELL
ANIMAL FARM



A) SETTING

Where? When? Historical background?

B) CHARACTERS

List all the characters and be able to write a character profile for each of them.

C) AUTHOR

Early 1920s

Eric Blair worked as an imperial policeman in Burma. These experiences intensified his sympathies for the exploited masses.

1932

He became a teacher in West London.

1936

Because of his beliefs he went to Catalonia to fight fascism in the Spanish Civil War. Later he thought that the communists were betraying socialism and all the ideals he believed in.

1945

Animal Farm is published.

CHAPTER 1

1.1 What is Old Major's speech about? What does he want? Why?

1.2 Why is man the enemy according to Old Major?

1.3 Why is the scene with the rats and the dogs relevant?

1.4 What do you make of the content / melody of the song that the animals sing?

CHAPTER 2

2.1 Which animals fill the power vacuum on the farm? Why them and not others?

2.2 Explain the symbolism behind Sugarcandy Mountain and the raven.

2.3 Which are the core ideas behind Animalism?

2.4 Why is the scene with biscuits and milk relevant?

ANALYSIS / ACTIVITIES

2.5 Is a classless society really possible on the farm? Find examples in chapter 2 that support your claims.

2.6 Write another three commandments that you think should have been part of Animalism.

MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST / CHAPTERS 1-2

1. What is the worst that could happen after the revolution of the animals according to Old Major?

- Jones could come back.*
- Other farms could also start a rebellion.*
- The animals could gradually behave like humans.*
- The food could run out.*

2. "Foreshadowing" is a common literary device by which...

- ...the author misleads his readers on purpose.*
- ...the author gives a hint of what might happen later in the story.*
- ...the author kills off one of the main characters to create confusion.*

3. The animals seem to be united, but something already shows us that this unity is almost impossible. What is it?

- Boxer steps on the ducks.*
- The raven kills a duckling.*
- The dogs chase the rats.*

4. The name of the song that the animals sing is...

- Animalism*
- Animals Unite*
- Beasts of England*

5. Old Major is killed in his sleep.

- True*
- False*

6. The pigs come up with their own ten commandments.

True

False

7. The story is told from the...

...*first-person perspective.*

...*third-person perspective.*

8. Which of the following pigs takes on the role as the leader?

Snowball

Squealer

Napoleon

NOTES

CHAPTER 3

3.1 Describe the first harvest without humans.

3.2 What exactly happens on a Sunday? Why is this relevant?

3.3 Discuss the role of the sheep.

3.4 Comment on the education of the animals.

3.5 Why is Napoleon particularly interested in the young animals?

3.6 Why does Napoleon want to teach the puppies himself?

3.7 Analyse Squealer's speech and identify the different techniques of manipulation that he uses.

CHAPTER 4

4.1 How do the people who live next to the farm feel about the revolution? Why?

4.2 Analyse Boxer's and Snowball's feelings after the battle and draw conclusions.

ANALYSIS

Choose 2 characters and describe them in detail.

MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST / CHAPTERS 3-4

1. Snowball's committees are a big success?

True

False

2. Which slogan is invented for the more stupid animals?

All animals are equal

Animalism is good

Four legs good, two legs bad

Beasts of England

3. "Napoleon and Snowball are a good team and get on well with each other.

True

False

4. Boxer is very proud of his actions during the battle with the humans.

True

False

5. The people who live next to Animal Farm are frightened because...

...Mr Jones is trying to get the farm back.

...they think Animalism might spread to their own farms.

...Napoleon plans to take over their farms with force.

6. Snowball believes that killing humans is necessary in times of war.

True

False

7. Mr Jones takes back his farm.

True

False

NOTES

CHAPTER 5

5.1 Why does Molly leave the farm?

5.2 List the disagreements between Napoleon and Snowball. How do the arguments between them end?

5.3 Discuss the role of the dogs.

5.4 What happens to the weekly Sunday meeting? Why?

5.5 "History is written by its victors." Explain the quote in the light of Squealer's actions.

CHAPTER 6

6.1 Explain Boxer's attitude! What does it symbolize?

6.2 Make a list with evidence that shows how the pigs abuse their power and how they break their own rules.

6.3 In what ways are the pigs beginning to behave like humans?

6.4 The animals seem to remember the past better than the pigs would like them to. How does Squealer take care of this problem? How does Napoleon discredit his foes?

MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST / CHAPTERS 5-6

1. Napoleon absolutely wants to build a windmill.

True

False

2. The sheep always interrupt Snowball's speeches.

True

False

3. Snowball dies.

True

False

4. Boxer starts to question the whole system.

True

False

5. The pigs start sleeping in beds.

True

False

6. The windmill is destroyed by Snowball.

True

False

7. The Commandments become stricter under the reign of the pigs.

True

False

CHAPTER 7

7.1 Discuss the rebellion of the hens.

7.2 What is Snowball blamed for?

7.3 Discuss Boxer's reaction to these accusations.

7.4 Discuss "the trial" in the yard of the farm.

7.5 How do the animals feel after "the trial"?

7.6 What happens to the anthem "Beasts of England"? Why?

CHAPTERS 8-10

Choose 2 relevant events in the story.

Prepare an oral presentation on the 2 events.

Minimum 5 minutes per presentation.

You may use one sheet of paper for each presentation with 8 pieces of vocabulary on them.

Your presentation needs to start by briefly describing what exactly happened.

The bigger part of your presentation has to be an analysis of the event.

Describe = what happened? - to who? - when? - how?

Analyse = why is this relevant? - what does it mean?

MANIPULATIVE COMMUNICATION

Animal Farm Chapters 5-7

Read the statements in the boxes, then state what you think the words really means. Uncover the hidden agenda! Read between the lines!

Example:

"In future all questions relating to the working of the farm would be settled by a special committee of pigs presided over by himself."

Basically, Napoleon wants to take all the decisions himself. He has found a way to get around the democratic process.

1. "Sunday-morning Meetings are unnecessary and a waste of time."
2. "The sheep interrupt and bleat: "Four legs good, two legs bad."
3. "I trust that every animal here appreciates the sacrifice that Napoleon has made in taking this extra labour on."

4. "Surely, comrades you do not want Jones back?"
5. "The creation of the windmill was Napoleon's idea. Snowball stole it."
6. "Snowball's role in the Battle of the Cowshed is exaggerated."
7. "You work on Sunday afternoons. It is voluntary work, but if you don't work, your ration will be reduced by half."
8. "Animal Farm will engage in trade with neighbouring farms, not for commercial purpose but simply in order to obtain certain materials which were urgently necessary."

NOTES

ESSAY TOPICS / DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Orwell is interested in how language is perverted to manipulate and control a population. Discuss.
2. Tyrants will sometimes use the following techniques to manipulate their citizens: scapegoating, the big lie, rewriting history. Discuss these techniques in the light of the novel.
3. Fables usually end with a moral or a lesson to be learned. Write the moral for this story.
4. The cult of personality is essential for the success of any dictator. Point out how Napoleon manages to foster his cult.
5. Why do you suppose so many people fall under the spell of a dictator? How can people protect themselves from history repeating itself again?

HISTORICAL CONTEXT - Match the parallel events

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

a) Marxism

Marx said the upper classes took advantage of the lower classes by paying them low wages, while the rich kept most of the money

b) 1917

Lenin, leader of the Bolsheviks, seizes power and overthrows the Provisional Government. Lenin and Trotsky set up a Communist society. They want Russia to be fairer.

c) 1918-1921

There's a civil war in Russia between the Bolsheviks and people loyal to the Tsar Nicholas II. The Bolsheviks, led by Trotsky, win the war.

d) 1924-1927

Lenin's death causes a leadership battle between Trotsky and Stalin. Stalin wins and forces Trotsky out of Russia.

e) 1932

Starvation of millions due to failure of collective farms, where all are supposed to hand over their produce to the government. Peasants fight these changes.

f) 1933

Stalin invents a conspiracy against him and uses it as an excuse to torture and execute his enemies.

g) 1934

Stalin's secret police is formed.

h) 1943

Russia, Britain and the US become allies. They form a short alliance before the Cold War begins.

ANIMAL FARM

1) Rebellion of the hens

Napoleon tells the hens to sell their eggs for the collective good. The hens smash their eggs in protest.

2) Four legs good, two legs better

The relationship between the pigs and the farmers becomes friendly. The friendship is short-lived when each side cheats at cards.

3) One leader

Napoleon and Snowball fight over the way the farm should be run, then Napoleon drives Snowball from the farm.

4) Old Major's speech

Old Major tells the animals that Man takes advantage of the animals. They do all the work for no reward.

5) Rebellion

The animals rise up against Jones and chase him from the farm. The pigs try to create an equal society.

6) Snowball

Napoleon and Snowball fight over the way the farm should be run, then Napoleon drives Snowball from the farm.

7) Dog Days

Napoleon teaches the puppies and uses them later as his enforcers.

8) Windmill

Napoleon uses the windmill's destruction as an excuse to execute disobedient animals

HISTORICAL CONTEXT - WHO IS WHO?

Identify who or what group of people the animals are meant to represent. Support each answer.

a) The pigs

b) The dogs

c) The sheep

d) Boxer

e) The raven

f) Old Major

g) Napoleon

h) Benjamin

i) Frederick

j) Pilkington

k) Snowball
