

Animal Farm Reading Guide 1

Read Chapter 1 of Animal Farm. Then answer the following questions for discussion in class.

1. Make a list of characters. Who do you think will be the most important characters? Why?
 2. What does Major say about the relationship between animals and humans?
 3. What is the importance of Major's dream? Why do you think the song is significant?
 4. What's the name of the farm?
 5. Who had a strange dream?
 6. Identify the following: 3 dogs, 2 cart-horses, goat, donkey, mare, and raven.
 7. Describe the animals lives according to Old major (3 things)
 8. Who do the animals see as the enemy?
 9. In one word, what is Old Major's message to the animals?
 10. Who were voted in as comrades?
 11. What song did the animals sing?
 12. .What did the singing do?
 13. Who was the farmer?
 14. What is significant about how the animals arrange themselves as they gather to hear Major? What might this arrangement say about future meetings or events?
 15. According to Major, what is the cause of all the animals' problems?
 16. What motto does Major give the animals?
 17. What are the commandments Major gives the animals? Can you think of ways each of them could be considered a vice?
 18. Examine the song "Beasts of England" as poetry. What imagery is present? What is the message? Why do the animals like it so much that they memorize it on the spot? To what emotions and needs does it appeal?
 19. Analyze various rallying hymns/songs and compare them to the song "Beasts of England." Consider questions to those in the item above.
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Animal Farm Reading Guide 2

Read Chapter 2 of Animal Farm. Then answer the following questions for discussion in class.

1. Describe Snowball, Napoleon, and Squealer. Why are they important?
 2. How and why does the revolution happen? What do the animals do after they take over the farm?
 3. What is your opinion of the Seven Commandments?
 4. What time of year did old major die?
 5. Who was the cleverest of the animals?
 6. What two pigs were emerging as leaders? Describe each of them.
 7. What name did they give to old major's teachings?
 8. What mysterious place did Moses talk of?
 9. What was Mr. Jones' favorite "watering hole"?
 10. What animal committed the first rebellious act? What did they do?
 11. What had the pigs taught themselves to do?
 12. What was the name of the farm?
 13. After Major's death what happens to the idea of rebelling against man?
 14. Why don't the pigs like the pet raven Moses' stories about Sugar candy Mountain?
 15. What causes the animals to finally rebel against Mr. Jones and his four farmhands?
 16. When the humans have been chased from the farm, what do the animals do?
 17. What do the animals do about the farmhouse?
 - 18.** How does the behavior of the pigs foreshadow their eventual leadership positions?
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Animal Farm Reading Guide 3-5

Read Chapters 3-5 of Animal Farm. Then answer the following questions for discussion in class.

1. Why is the animals' harvest better than previous harvests with the humans?
2. Describe the life of the animals on Animal Farm. What do they do? How do they feel?
3. What jobs does each of the animals have?
4. What do you think will happen in the future? Will everyone remain equal?
5. Did the pigs actually work? Discuss.
6. How long did it take the animals to do the harvest?
7. What was Boxer's personal motto?
8. Describe Animal Farm's flag. What did it represent?
9. Describe the ceremonies that took place on Sundays.
10. What did the pigs use as their headquarters?
11. To what extent did Boxer learn the alphabet?
12. What single sentence did Snowball reduce the 7 Commandments to?
13. Who repeatedly talked to the animals on behalf of the pigs?
14. What were the animals completely certain of?
15. From what you know so far about the pigs and the other animals on the farm, speculate on what the future will be like for the animals.
16. As you continue reading, compare your predictions to what actually happens in the novel.
17. What further examples of the difference between the pigs and the other animals occur in these two chapters?
18. What are Napoleon's ideas about education?
19. How is Squealer able to convince the other animals to accept whatever Napoleon decides?
20. Describe the Battle of the Cowshed.
21. What was Snowball's part in this battle?
22. Where is Napoleon during the battle?
23. What is the significance of the gun's placement at the foot of the flagpole?
24. What do the other humans think about Animal Farm? What rumors do they spread about it?
25. Why does Mollie leave Animal Farm?
26. Summarize the different views and plans of Snowball and Napoleon.
27. What is your opinion of the changes Napoleon makes on the farm?
28. What kinds of propaganda can you see in these chapters?
29. Who was sent out to tell the story of the rebellion?
30. What two farms were beside Animal Farm?
31. What time of year did the first battle take place?
32. What book did Snowball study in preparing the farm's defenses?
33. Who was killed?
34. What animal was wounded?
35. Which one of the humans was injured?
36. What two military decorations were created?
37. What did the battle become known as?
38. What was set up at the foot of the flagstaff?
39. What happened at crucial moments in Snowball's speech?
40. What did Snowball want to build?
41. What did Napoleon do to Snowball's plans?
42. Under what two slogans did the animals form themselves?
43. What happened to Jessie and Bluebell's puppies?
44. What happened to Snowball?
45. What did Napoleon announce would come to an end?
46. What was set up on a stump at the foot of the flagstaff?
47. Who had a remarkable gift for composing songs and poems?

48. Make a list of all the changes that occur in these chapters. From this list they will find vivid evidence of the pigs' increasing power.
49. Why does Mollie run away from the farm?
50. What changes have been made in the weekly meetings over the last year?
51. Explain the windmill controversy from Snowball's point of view.
52. Explain the windmill controversy from Napoleon's point of view.
53. What changes does Napoleon make after his dogs chase Snowball off the farm?
54. Why don't the other animals protest Napoleon's decisions?
55. Note how the animals now arrange themselves when they enter the barn to receive their orders as compared to the description in Chapter I.
56. What is the importance of the dogs accompanying Squealer when he comes to talk to the animals?

Animal Farm Reading Guide 6 -7

Read Chapters 6 and 7 of Animal Farm. Then answer the following questions for discussion in class.

1. What reasons do the pigs give for beginning trade with other farms? Do you think this will be a good idea?
2. What is the significance of the pigs moving into the farmhouse? What reasons do the pigs tell the other animals?
3. Why do you think they really wanted to live there?
4. Why does Napoleon blame the destruction of the windmill on Snowball?
5. What did Napoleon announce? What was the penalty for not volunteering?
6. How did the animals deal with the huge boulders?
7. What were Boxer's two slogans?
8. What new policy did Napoleon decide upon?
9. Who was hired to handle the affairs of Animal Farm?
10. What sight brought a certain pride to the animals?
11. What commandment did the pigs break? How did they cover it up?
12. Which animal refused to grow enthusiastic about the windmill?
13. What happened to the windmill?
14. What did Napoleon offer for the capture of Snowball?
15. Imagine how Snowball might have run things if he had gotten rid of Napoleon. Would things have been any different?
16. Are there indications that Snowball's ideas for running the farm would have proved more beneficial to the animals? Or would things have turned out the same? Why?
17. How much work are the animals now doing? (The animals still believe they are working for themselves.)
18. Why does Napoleon decide to engage in trade with neighboring farms?
19. How do the animals react?
20. How is the windmill destroyed? Why does Napoleon blame Snowball?
21. Why does Napoleon begin to blame every bad thing on Snowball? What effect does this have on the other animals?
22. Why does Napoleon insist the windmill must be rebuilt immediately?
23. Why does Napoleon order that the hens' eggs be sold?
24. How does Napoleon react when the hens rebel against his orders?
25. Why does Napoleon revive the threat of the farm being sabotaged by Snowball?
26. Explain why the animals confessed to being traitors. Or is there any explanation?
27. Why does Napoleon order the animals to stop singing "Beasts of England?"
28. Even though the resolution against animals killing animals has not been broken before, there have been threats of death to wrong-doers. Nine of the hens were starved to death-not murdered, but close enough. Discuss how the animals react to the murders and how they gain some comfort by gathering together and singing "Beasts of England."

29. What will comfort them now that the song has been banned?
 30. Why do you think Beasts of England is really forbidden?
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Animal Farm Reading Guide 8-9

Read Chapters 8 & 9 of Animal Farm. Then answer the following questions for discussion in class.

1. Describe the new ways Napoleon sets himself apart from the other animals. What does this remind you of?
2. What happens when Napoleon tries to sell the woodpile?
3. How do the pigs feel about the Battle of the Windmill? How do the other animals feel?
4. What do you think is the significance of the last "human behavior" commandment being changed?
5. How was the sixth Commandment changed?
6. What titles did the pigs invent for Napoleon?
7. What poem did Minimus write in honor of Napoleon?
8. What terrible stories concerning Mr. Frederick were circulating around the farm?
9. What name was given to the windmill?
10. Why was Napoleon upset with Mr. Frederick?
11. What battle took place in this chapter?
12. Did the animals win the battle? Why or Why not?
13. What new decoration did Napoleon create?
14. How was the fifth Commandment changed?
 1. What purpose is served by the production figures Squealer reads to the animals? (
 2. How is Napoleon becoming more and more like a typical dictator?
 3. Compare/contrast the poem "Comrade Napoleon" to "Beast of England."
 4. Describe the sale of the stack of lumber. How does Napoleon outwit himself?
 5. What makes the battle against Frederick's men different from the Battle of the Cowshed?
 6. Why do the men blow up the windmill?
 7. The animals celebrate a victory, but at what cost?
 8. Describe the whisky incident. Why would Orwell make this scene somewhat humorous?
 9. Why are the animals so easily fooled, even when they find Squealer with a ladder and white paint beside the barn at night?
 10. What is happening to Boxer?
 11. What are living conditions like for all of the animals except the pigs and dogs?
 12. Why does Napoleon allow Moses to return and to tell his stories about Sugar candy Mountain?
 13. What happens to Boxer? How do the animals accept it?
 14. Of what kind of person does Benjamin remind you? Give some examples. What is your opinion of such people? What makes people behave this way?
 15. Why does Napoleon begin holding many celebrations and Spontaneous Demonstrations?
 16. What does Moses the raven represent? Why does he return now?
 17. Why does Napoleon send Boxer to the knacker instead of the hospital?
 18. What was Boxer's one real ambition?
 19. How old was Boxer?
 20. What was going to be built in the farmhouse garden?
 21. How much beer were the pigs receiving daily? What about Napoleon?
 22. What happened in April?
 23. According to Moses, what was Sugar Candy Mountain like?
 24. How did Boxer get hurt?
 25. What was Boxer's fate?
 26. What did Squealer announce to the animals concerning Boxer's death?
 27. What did the pigs purchase at the end of the chapter? Where do you think they got the money?

Animal Farm Reading Guide 10

Read Chapter 10 of Animal Farm. Then answer the following questions for discussion in class.

1. At the beginning of the chapter, how do the animals feel about Animalism?
2. What is life like on the farm?
3. What does it mean that the pigs have now learned to walk on two legs?
4. What is the new commandment? What does it mean?
5. What do you think the moral of this fable is?
6. Who were the only animals to remember the old days with Mr. Jones?
7. What was the windmill used for?
8. What do the pigs learn to do?
9. What do the pigs now carry in their trotters?
10. What do the Sheep now say?
11. What remains of the seven Commandments?
12. Who made a toast to the Animal Farm?
13. What did Napoleon announce would be the new name of Animal Farm? Is this surprising? Why or Why not?
14. What was the source of the violent quarrel between Mr. Pilkington and Napoleon?
15. What are the differences between man and pig at the end of Chapter 10?
16. What changes have the years brought to the farm?
17. How does Orwell make fun of bureaucracy?
18. How do the animals now feel about their social order, their farm?
19. What drastic actions do the pigs use to shatter the animals' complacency?
20. All seven commandments are erased. What is the new commandment and how has it been true from the beginning?
21. At the conference with neighboring farmers, what new changes does Napoleon point out?
22. What happens to the pigs' appearance?