George Orwell, whose real name was Eric Blair, was a middle-class boy who wound up in an upper-class school, Eton, on a scholarship. There, first-hand, he learned of rank, privilege and discrimination. 

Graduating from Eton, but unable to attend college, he went into the British civil service and became a policeman in India. There, his compassion for the underdog and hatred for the exploiter became more intense. Quitting his job, he went to Paris and London and eked out a meager living. Frequently he was homeless and got by as best he could. All of these experiences intensified his sympathies for the exploited masses and turned him towards socialism. 

Because of his beliefs, Orwell went to Spain in 1936 to fight for socialism; it was a bitter experience because he found that many of his socialist comrades were killed, not by the enemy but by the friends of socialism, the communists. As a result, Orwell, while no less a fighter for the exploited masses, became a strong anti-communist because he thought the communists were betraying socialism. It was from this perspective that Orwell wrote *Animal Farm*. 

His goal was, he tells us, “to expose the Soviet myth [that communism in the U.S.S.R. was the savior of the exploited masses] in a story that could be easily understood by almost anyone.”

**THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION**

1. It was inspired by the ideas of philosopher Karl Marx who believed:
   
   A. The great masses of people were poor and kept poor by the exploiters, the capitalists.
   
   B. The capitalists, while few in number, had the money and power; they took advantage of the masses of people, called the “working class” or “proletariat.”
   
   C. A revolution was necessary if the oppressed were to throw off the yoke of the oppressor (the rich owners).
   
   D. When the revolution was successful, there would be a classless society in which everyone would be equal because there would be no more owners (capitalists) and no more exploited masses. The workers themselves would own the factories in which they worked.

2. In 1917, the first revolution against the Czar in Russia took place. The new government was democratic but bourgeois (middle class).

3. Lenin, as leader of the communist party, seized control of the revolution and fought a four-year, bloody civil war against Russians loyal to the Czar and against anyone who opposed the communists.

4. When Lenin died in 1924, a struggle began between Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky for the leadership of the party and the country. Stalin won this fight.
5. In 1927, Stalin expelled Trotsky from the party and forced him to leave the country.

6. In 1940, Trotsky was assassinated in Mexico, presumably on Stalin's orders.

7. Stalin, a ruthless dictator, eliminated all his opposition by putting hundreds of thousands of his fellow countrymen on trial. As result of these “show trials,” all opposition was silenced by death.

Note: All page references come from the Signet Classic edition of *Animal Farm*, copyright 1996
Animal Farm
TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Satire - using humor to ridicule. Example: *Animal Farm*

Parody - a mocking imitation of a subject or person designed to ridicule the subject in an exaggerated, often sarcastic way.

Caricature - an exaggerated flat character. Certain features or mannerisms are exaggerated for satirical effect.

Irony - a subtle, sometimes humorous perception of inconsistency in which the significance of a statement or event is changed by its content. For example: the firehouse burned down.

- Dramatic irony - the audience knows more about a character's situation than the character does, foreseeing an outcome contrary from the character's expectations. The character's statements have one meaning for the character and a different meaning to the reader, who knows more than the character.
- Structural irony - a naive hero whose view of the world differs from the author's and reader's. Structural irony flatters the reader's intelligence at the expense of the hero.
- Verbal irony - a discrepancy between what is said and what is really meant; sarcasm. Example: calling a stupid man smart.

Microcosm - the use of a world in miniature to represent humanity in its entirety.

Fable - a story that presents a moral or practical lesson. Generally, there are talking animals in fables. Example: *Aesop's Fables*.

Allegory - a story that represents abstract ideas or moral qualities. As such, an allegory has both a literal level and a symbolic level of meaning. Example: *Gulliver's Travels*.

Omniscient - third-person narration which allows the author to relate the thoughts and feelings of all the characters in a godlike manner.

Point of View - the position or vantage point from which the events of a story seem to come and are presented to the reader. The author determines the point of view. The two most common are First-person and Third-person. Example: In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, the reader receives all the information from Huck's vantage point, which is an example of a first-person point of view; the only things that are known come through him.
Animal Farm

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the unit, the student will be able to:

1. identify the irony that arises from what the animals (and narrator) believe to be the truth and what the reader knows is the truth.

2. define satire, state what the objects of the satire are in the book, and discuss the ways in which the targets are ridiculed.

3. state how this story functions as a
   A. fable - a story that has a moral, with animals representing human qualities;
   B. satire - an attack on totalitarianism;
   C. allegory - a symbolic representation of The Russian Revolution of 1917.

4. discuss Orwell's style, particularly the way he tells a very sad story in a light manner.

5. discuss Orwell's belief that language is perverted in society to serve political ends and provide examples to support answers.

6. identify, define and give examples of the following:
   A. the big lie
   B. scapegoating
   C. rewriting history.

7. define three basic techniques of satire and give examples from the book for each.
   A. parody
   B. caricature
   C. irony

8. write an essay explaining Orwell's point of view of capitalism, communism, and totalitarianism.

9. explain the term “cult of personality” and describe how it applies to the events in this story.

10. consider all that happens in the book, including Benjamin’s comments, and discuss the points Orwell is making about the Russian revolution in particular and all revolutions in general.
Animal Farm

Questions For Essay and Discussion

1. Orwell is interested in how language is perverted to manipulate and control a population. Point out at least three examples of when this change in the meaning of words occurs in Animal Farm.

2. Tyrants will sometimes use one or more of the following techniques to manipulate their citizens: scapegoating, the big lie, rewriting history. State when or how these techniques were used by Napoleon and if possible relate them to other historical situations with which you are familiar.

3. Identify who or what group of people the animals are meant to represent. Support each answer:
   - The pigs
   - The dogs
   - The sheep
   - The horses, particularly Boxer
   - The raven
   - Old Major
   - Napoleon
   - Benjamin
   - Frederick
   - Pilkington
   - Snowball

4. Trace the political allegory in this book by listing the comment or events in the book and then relating each to a comment or incident in Russian history.

5. One of the biggest ironies in this book is the way in which Old Major's dream becomes prophetic. Reread that speech in Chapter One and identify which things come to pass.

6. Discuss the role of the narrator in this book and comment on how the narrator is the cause of the irony.

7. Fables usually end with a moral, a lesson to be learned. Write a moral for this story.

8. At times, this is a sad story because it is about dreams—dreams born and dreams dashed. Point out appropriate passages from the book that demonstrate how Animal Farm treats dreams.

9. Orwell uses three basic techniques of satire: parody, caricature, and irony. Define each and point out at least one example of each from the book. Be sure to identify the object of the ridicule.
10. Give Orwell’s point of view or feelings on the following:
   Totalitarianism
   Capitalism
   Communism
   Socialism
   England
   Germany
   Russia
   The working class
   Animals

11. Do you think that Orwell could have better made his point if he had used people instead of animals in this story?

12. What does the ending of this story suggest about the fate of revolutions?

13. The “cult of personality” is essential for the success of any dictator. Point out how Napoleon goes about fostering his cult. Why do you suppose so many people fall under the spell of a dictator. How can people protect themselves from the same end?

14. This has been an immensely popular book. What do you suppose makes it so popular?
Animal Farm

Test

Exercise I - Multiple Choice

1. At the end of the novel, the pigs
   A. give up their power voluntarily.
   B. are overthrown by the other animals.
   C. wind up looking just like the humans.
   D. are run off by the humans.
   E. both B and D.

2. In the novel, the masses (common people) are represented by the
   A. Rabbits.
   B. Pigs.
   C. Sheep.
   D. Chickens.
   E. Mules.

3. Squealer is
   A. a stool pigeon.
   B. an agent for the humans.
   C. a propagandist for the pigs.
   D. a hen.
   E. a farm hand for Pilkington.

4. Benjamin's best friend is
   A. Snowball.
   B. Boxer.
   C. Clover.
   D. Major.
   E. Napoleon.

5. The scapegoat for all the farm's trouble is
   A. Snowball.
   B. Farmer Jones.
   C. Boxer.
   D. Benjamin.
   E. Squealer.

6. The incident that initially gets the animals thinking about revolution is
   A. Farmer Jones' cruelty.
   B. The slaughter of the turkeys.
   C. Old Major's dream.
   D. Snowball's manual for revolt.
   E. Moses the raven.
7. Sugarcandy Mountain is meant to represent
   A. Germany.
   B. Western Nations.
   C. Heaven.
   D. Hell.
   E. Russia.

8. The name the animals give to their revolutionary philosophy is
   A. Democracy.
   B. Socialism.
   C. Capitalism.
   D. Communism.
   E. Animalism.

9. The first sign of the pigs’ corruption is
   A. the sale of the wood.
   B. the party with the humans.
   C. the drunken party.
   D. the missing milk.
   E. the plans for the windmill.

10. This story is written from the point of view of
    A. the pigs.
    B. the farmer.
    C. the farm animals.
    D. the English.
    E. the Russians.

11. Which of the following are techniques used to produce satire?
    A. Caricature
    B. Parody
    C. Irony
    D. Both B and C
    E. A, B, and C

12. In this novel, Orwell wanted to
    A. satirize the Russian revolution.
    B. attack Totalitarianism and its methods.
    C. show the sadness of a dream of freedom squashed.
    D. both B and C.
    E. A, B, and C.

13. Based on the differences between Snowball and Napoleon, you could assume that Stalin and Trotsky disagreed on
    A. the need for a revolution.
    B. the rapid industrialization of Russia.
    C. the need to spread the revolution to other countries.
    D. both B and C.
    E. A, B, and C.
14. Which of the statements that Old Major makes about life under Jones come to pass under the pigs?
   A. Boxer would be sent to the knacker's when he became too old to work.
   B. The eggs of the hens would be taken and sold.
   C. When the dogs grow old and toothless, they will be thrown in a pond with bricks around their necks.
   D. Both A and B.
   E. A, B, and C.

15. The windmill is destroyed by
   A. Snowball.
   B. a storm.
   C. Frederick and his men.
   D. Both A and B.
   E. Both B and C.

16. Boxer is a hard worker,
   A. but he does not feel appreciated.
   B. and he gets angry at the lazy animals.
   C. and he believes everything his leaders tell him.
   D. but he hates the pigs.
   E. but he knows nothing about farming.

17. The confessions and the killings in front of the farmhouse represent
   A. Hilter's mistreatment of minorities.
   B. Stalin's show of trials and executions.
   C. the persecution of religious minorities.
   D. both A and B.
   E. A, B, and C.

18. Orwell satirizes “the cult of personality” by having Napoleon
   A. have a personal trumpeter walk in front of him to announce the pig's presence.
   B. take credit for everything that happens to go right.
   C. take on a great many grand and glorious titles.
   D. both A and C.
   E. A, B, and C.

19. At one point Squealer comes out and says that Napoleon is dying. He says this because
   A. they wanted everyone to feel sorry for Napoleon.
   B. Napoleon had too much alcohol the night before and had a hangover.
   C. he was seriously injured by the dogs.
   D. they were trying to fool Frederick and his men.
   E. Both C and D.
20. He could read but rarely did so because he did not think there was anything worth reading.
   A. Napoleon
   B. Snowball
   C. Farmer Jones
   D. Boxer
   E. Benjamin

Exercise II - Matching
Identify who or what is represented:

21. Old Major  A. Trotsky
22. Snowball    B. The Germans
23. Farmer Jones C. Marx
24. Frederick   D. Englishmen
                E. The Czar

Exercise III – Essays (Answer any two.)

1. The aim of satire is to hold an object, person or institution up to ridicule. In this story, the target of Orwell's satire is Russian totalitarianism. By citing examples from the book, point out how Orwell mocks the totalitarian leader, his methods, and his gullible followers.

2. Orwell is interested in how language is perverted in democracies, as well as in dictatorships, to serve political ends. Point out examples of this from the book, and bring in examples of this perversion of language from contemporary culture.

3. Although this is a satire on totalitarianism, Orwell's view of capitalism and socialism is clear. State what Orwell's criticisms of capitalism are. Be sure to refer to Old Major's dream.
Animal Farm
Answer Key

Exercise I


Exercise II

21. C
22. A
23. E
24. B
Chapter I

Vocabulary

- tush – tusk
- cud – partly digested food
- foal – colt
- knacker – horse slaughterer
- mangel-wurzel – beet

1. The animals act as animals do (e.g., cows chewing their cuds); because they think and speak, they also seem to represent types of humans. What type of people do Boxer, Mollie, and the cat appear to represent?

   **Boxer** — strong, kind, and hardworking, but not too bright; represents the workers who supported the revolution.

   **Mollie** — vain, foolish, and too wrapped up in herself to take note of what is happening around her; represents the nobles, older soldiers, and people who profited from the Czar.

   **The cat** — only concerned about physical comforts and cannot be bothered to listen to the others; represents the unthinking, wealthy aristocrats, who put themselves above everything else.

2. Keeping in mind the Russian revolution, whom do the animals collectively represent? Again thinking of the allegory, what person does Old Major represent?

   They stand for the poor, exploited working people. Major represents Karl Marx, the philosopher, who described the virtues of communism.

3. Specifically, whom might Mr. Jones represent? More generally, whom might he represent?

   Following the allegory of the Russian revolution, Jones represents the Russian Czar. More generally, he represents any owners or bosses who exploit their workers.
4. Beginning on page 27, when Old Major addresses the animals, what emotions is Orwell trying to arouse in the reader?

*On one hand, you feel a little sad for the animals because of the fate Old Major lays out for them. At the same time, though, you can see the humor of animals mouthing revolutionary rhetoric.*

5. Why do you suppose Orwell has this microcosm set in England, rather than Russia? Why does he name the human farmer Jones?

*While it is an allegory about Russia, it is also a story about the exploited masses and exploiters everywhere. “Jones” is a common English name and emphasizes the universality of this situation.*

6. While Orwell makes fun of revolutionary rhetoric, about what truth does he seem to be speaking sincerely?

*The life of the poor everywhere is one of misery and poverty, but with all the land, it does not have to be that way.*

7. Early in the story what consideration do the animals, representing the exploited masses, show for one another?

*Clover protects the ducklings, and Boxer is careful where he walks so as not to step on any of the smaller creatures. Kindness and consideration are present.*

8. The revolutionary rhetoric has stirred them and united them. What is the first sign that might break their unity?

*The four rats show up, and the dogs chase them. This indicates differences in animal status.*

9. On pages 30-31, Old Major warns the animals that they must always be hostile to man and his ways. Specifically, what are man's evil ways?

*Walking on two feet seems to be the important attribute that man possesses. However men also live in houses, sleep in beds, wear clothes, drink alcohol, smoke tobacco, touch money, and engage in trade, so all that behavior also must be avoided. Major emphasizes that above all, no animal must tyrannize over his own kind or kill other animals.*

10. How does this advice apply to the exploited masses vis-à-vis the exploiters?

*When the exploited masses come to power, they must be sure not to act as the exploiters did.*
11. As they sing the song, *Beasts of England*, what is the mood in the barn?

*They are happy and optimistic about the future. They feel united.*

12. Some critics see Old Major’s speech as a parody that makes fun of revolutionary, overblown rhetoric. How can a parody mock something while still being deadly serious?

*One may make fun of something that is said but still agree with the truth of the ideas. Orwell, the socialist, agrees with Major’s sentiments but also realizes that rhetoric and ambition do not always produce the desired results.*

13. The sentiments expressed in the song represent Orwell’s feelings, but how does he say the tune goes?

*The song is sung to a tune between “Clementine” and “La Cucaracha.” This would obviously give the supposedly glorious and inspiring tune a ludicrous sound.*

### Chapter II

**Vocabulary**

vivacious – lively
ecstasy – great joy
gambolled – frisked
scullery – kitchen
stove – kicked
unalterable – unchangeable

1. Old Major dies, but his dream has awakened all the animals. Whose job is it to lead and organize the animals? Why them?

*The pigs lead, because they are the “cleverest” of the animals.*

2. If there is a classless society which strives to treat everyone the same, why are the pigs taking the lead?

*Orwell is suggesting that there is, in nature, a natural hierarchy. Perhaps for this reason there can never be a truly classless society.*

3. Within the ranks of the pigs, which three are predominant? Why?

*Napoleon - a strong, determined boar who is able to dedicate himself to an objective. Snowball - a bright, creative creature who may not be quite as single minded as Napoleon. Squealer - a brilliant, persuasive talker who could convince one that black is white.*
4. When you read about Sugarcandy Mountain on page 37, what is suggested? What does the name of the raven suggest?

*Sugarcandy Mountain sounds like heaven. In this context, the name of the raven, Moses, brings to mind the biblical Moses.*

5. If Mr. Jones represents the state, who is the raven, Moses, meant to represent? What is implied about the relationship between the two?

*Moses appears to represent religion. The implication is that religion serves the state by keeping the exploited masses content by focusing on the rewards they will receive in the next life. Religion obtains its strength directly from the Czarist State: Jones was “feeding Moses on crusts of bread soaked in beer.” (Pg. 38)*

6. What is “Animalism,” and what does it represent?

*Animalism is a system of thought the pigs come up with, based on the dream of Old Major. It represents communism.*

7. How does the revolution come about?

*Farmer Jones’ neglect of the farm and animals causes a spontaneous revolt. There was no advance planning.*

8. After Jones runs off, what image of the animals does the reader get?

*They are running around exulting in their freedom.*

9. Napoleon leads the animals back to the storage shed and serves everyone a double ration of corn. How did he become the one to pass out the food? Why do you suppose he gives the dogs two additional biscuits?

*He has assumed the role of leader. The favored treatment given the dogs may be an effort on Napoleon’s part to keep the most dangerous of the animals happy.*

10. On what did the animals base the Seven Commandments?

*The dream Old Major had is simplified into seven, easy-to-remember rules.*

11. The reader is told at the end of Chapter II that when the animals came back, “the milk had disappeared.” What happens to the milk? What is this a sign of?

*The pigs deceived the animals and appropriated the milk for their own use. Remember that Napoleon had said not to worry about the milk because the harvest was more important. This is the first sign of personal gain or greed on the part of the pigs.*
12. From whose point of view is this story written?

The action unfolds as the animals would see it. Therefore, the reader is left to understand what the animals cannot. The story is told in third-person omniscient point-of-view.

Chapter III

Vocabulary
acute – sharp
chaff – wasted part
cockerel – rooster
cryptic – mysterious
paddock – small fenced in field
indefatigable – untiring

1. You are told “the pigs were so clever that they could think of a way round every difficulty.” (Pg. 45) Apparently it is because of their cleverness that they do not do physical work, but supervise others. Yet, in terms of the business of farming, who understands it better than anyone else does, even better than Jones?

The horses “understood the business of mowing and raking better than Jones and his men had ever done.” (Pg. 45)

2. Orwell suggests that the pigs are most clever in what area? What is the irony on page 46? What does it mean?

They use their brains in the political area of manipulating people, symbols, and language. The irony is that “not an animal on the farm had stolen as much as a mouthful.” It is ironic for two reasons. First, the statement neglects Napoleon's stealing the milk. Secondly, the statement should be unnecessary because in this seemingly utopian existence, no animal would need to steal food; it would be provided to him.

3. In the early days of the revolution, what is the mood? What is Boxer's attitude?

The mood is festive and optimistic. Boxer is such a believer that he cannot work hard enough for the success of the farm.

4. What happens on Sundays?

They meet, hoist their flag, and plan the work for the next week. Rest time comes in the afternoon.
5. Since all the animals can vote, why are the pigs always in charge of saying what is to be done and when?

_The other animals could come up with no resolutions of their own, so they follow the lead of the pigs._

6. What is the result of all the committees that Snowball starts?

_The projects are generally failures. They do sound, in name, to be perhaps a parody of most revolutionary committees._

7. For the more stupid animals, what slogan does Snowball come up with that contained the essential principles of Animalism?

_“Four legs good, two legs bad.”_

8. In this context, who do the sheep represent in their bleating of this slogan?

_The sheep stand for people who accept and repeat government slogans uncritically._

9. Napoleon is very interested in the education of the young. But of all the baby animals, why do you suppose he took the nine puppies to educate on his own?

_We cannot be sure at this point, but it may have something to do with the same reason he gave the other dogs extra biscuits._

10. How does Squealer justify the pigs’ appropriation for themselves of the milk and apples?

_He says they need it to help them think and that Farmer Jones would be able to come back and take power if they did not drink the milk and eat the apples._

11. We are told that Napoleon and Snowball disagree on just about everything. What, however, is the one thing on which they are in full agreement at the end of this chapter?

_They both feel that the pigs should have the milk and apples._

12. How does Snowball convince the animals to allow the pigs to have control over the milk and apples?

_Snowball uses a combination of fear, scientific nonsense, loyalty to the cause, and unity._
Chapter IV

Vocabulary
ignominious – dishonorable
impromptu – without preparation

1. How do the people who live next to Animal Farm feel about the revolution?

   Although they make fun of it, they are secretly frightened that the discontent of the animals might spread to their own farms. They also wonder secretly if they might somehow turn the situation to their own advantage.

2. In allegorical interpretations, the neighbor Frederick is said to represent Germany, and Pilkington is said to represent the allies, especially Britain. From your knowledge of Russian history, what allegorical interpretation would you give to the raid by Jones, Frederick, and Pilkington.

   After the revolution, there was a fear among Western countries that unrest among the masses might spread to their countries, particularly since communism preached about workers of the world uniting. For this reason these countries sent troops to Russia to try to stamp out communism. Like the raid in the story, this attempt failed.

3. The pigs generally do not come off too well in this story, yet Snowball is shown as being exceptionally brave. Why do you suppose Orwell did this?

   Historically, Trotsky had bravely led the revolutionary troops. This heroism also serves to dramatize Snowball’s later fate, assures his status as “animal hero, first class,” and also makes Napoleon’s branding of Snowball as a traitor even more despicable.

4. After the battle, why is Boxer upset? What does Snowball tell him?

   Boxer believes his hooves had killed an enemy. Snowball cries, “No sentimentality, comrade… War is war. The only good human being is a dead one.” (Pg. 59)

5. What implication may be drawn from these two points of view?

   While the followers of the revolution may have the decency to abhor killing and violence, the leaders see only the goal without regard to what must be done to achieve it. This is the typical reasoning of tyrants, who feel the ends justify the means.

6. What aspects of human militarism are mocked toward the end of this chapter?

   The tradition of giving out medals and honoring observations of battles is parodied.
Chapter V

Vocabulary

pretext – excuse
blithely – without concern
gaiters – a covering for shoes
publican – a tax collector
silage – food for animals
sordid – dirty, foul
maxim – a saying
disinterred – dug up

1. What happens to Mollie?

She deserts the farm for the pleasures of the old life.

2. Why have the pigs become a central committee that does all the planning? Explain the irony of this decision making.

Because they “were manifestly cleverer than the other animals, [they] decide all questions of farm policy.” (Pg. 62) It is ironic because the animals can vote on the pig’s decisions, but the votes are meaningless.

3. What use has Napoleon made of the sheep?

He uses them to interrupt Snowball’s speeches with the bleating of their slogan.

4. What is Snowball’s dream for the windmill? What is Napoleon’s thinking about the windmill?

Snowball wants to build a windmill that will supply electrical power to the farm. Napoleon discredits this plan at every opportunity.

5. A second major point of disagreement between the two is the defense of the farm. What point of view does each have?

Napoleon says the animals must get firearms and prepare to defend themselves from another attack from humans. Snowball believes they should concentrate on sending out the pigeons, who will spread revolution among the animals on other farms. In that way, the other farmers will be overthrown, and there will be no humans left to attack.
From your knowledge of Russian history, point out how these two points of view, on the windmill and on the defense of the farm, represent Stalin's and Trotsky's arguments.

Trotsky proposed immediate industrialization of Russia, which at the time was an agrarian society. Trotsky also argued for concentrating on exporting the revolution to the capitalistic countries. Stalin, however, initially opposed rapid industrialization. Rather than concentrate on exporting revolution, he wanted to build a strong defense force.

How does this argument between Napoleon and Snowball end?

Napoleon sets his nine trained dogs on Snowball, who has to flee the farm to save his life.

Where do the dogs come from, and how do they act around Napoleon?

The dogs were those puppies Napoleon had taken and trained in secret. These dogs “wagged their tails to him in the same way as the other dogs had been used to do to Mr. Jones.” (Pg. 68)

The dogs in this allegory are used to represent what?

They exemplify the absolute power of the state, the power of the secret police, and the power of the military, all under Stalin's complete control.

What does Napoleon do to put an end to any opposition?

He says the debates on Sundays just wasted time. In the future, a committee of pigs, presided over by Napoleon himself, will make all decisions without debate.

In the classic style of a tyrant, how does Napoleon, through Squealer, go about rewriting history?

Squealer first suggests that Snowball's bravery in the Battle of the Cowshed had been exaggerated. He goes on to say they all knew Snowball was a dangerous character and it was for this reason that Napoleon had pretended to oppose the idea of the windmill. In fact, Squealer claims the idea of the windmill had been initially Napoleon's idea, but Snowball had stolen it.

What two things convince the animals of the truth of Squealer's pronouncements?

His persuasive way of speaking and the threatening growls of the three dogs that accompany him cower the animals into agreeing with Squealer.
13. What offhand comment does Orwell make at the end of the chapter that conveys both innocence and craftiness?

_The dogs, used for their menacing effect, just “happened to be with him.”_ (Pg. 72)

**Chapter VI**

**Vocabulary**

- arable – farmable
- repose – rest
- solicitor – an agent

1. What is ironic and unstated about the opening paragraph?

_All the animals’ sacrifices are for the “pack of idle thieving” pigs, instead of the humans._

2. What two meanings could be given to the phrase in that paragraph, “the animals worked like slaves”?

_Figuratively it means that the animals worked very hard. As the chapter progresses, though, we see the other animals are becoming more and more the slaves of the pigs._

3. How is Boxer portrayed? What do his efforts and his statements, “I will work harder” and “Napoleon is always right,” represent?

_Boxer works harder, earlier, and more than the “rest of the animals put together.”_ (Pg. 74) His attitude and comments stand for the idealistic belief in the communist revolution and the workers who supported it with their unquestioning, untiring efforts.

4. In what ways are the pigs abusing their leadership offices?

_They are taking more and more privileges for themselves (sleeping in beds, getting up an hour later, moving into the farmhouse) while doing less and less of the hard, physical work._

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

_They move into the farmhouse, sleep in beds, enter into trade, and begin to deal with humans._

6. On pages 75-77, why are the animals becoming uneasy?

_They vaguely remember that, in the early days of the revolution, resolutions had been passed about not doing many of the things now being done._

T-10
7. What is Squealer’s task at this point?

*Squealer must convince them that what they thought or that what they thought they remembered was not actually so. It had not been written down, so they might have dreamed it or it, might have been suggested by Snowball.*

8. How do the pigs justify the fact that they are now sleeping in beds?

*They have rewritten the commandment that states that no animal will sleep in a bed by adding the words, “with sheets.” Squealer uses logic to convince the others that the pigs need the comfort for all the thinking that needs to be done and to keep Jones away from the farm.*

9. Why does the author never comment on the injustices and lies, but only presents them to the reader?

*He wishes to maintain the irony throughout. The reader is told everything dispassionately as seen through the eyes of the farm animals. Since their vision is limited, they do not recognize the truths behind the lies they hear.*

10. How does Napoleon use the propaganda technique of “the big lie”?

*He blames the destruction of the windmill on Snowball. Like many tyrants, Napoleon focuses the disappointments of his subjects on a scapegoat. If repeated often enough the subjects will accept it, no matter how ludicrous the idea is.*

Chapter VII

Vocabulary

clamps – brick enclosure
infanticide – baby killing
capitulated – gave up
pervading – filling
stupefied – astonished
countenance – facial expression
spinney – woods
gilded – colored golden

1. Napoleon (and at this point he seems to be living up to his namesake), is growing more distant and is not seen in public very often. How does he deal with the rebellion of the hens?

*He cuts off their food supply until they agree to obey.*
2. Why did the hens rebel?

*Napoleon had said they must surrender their eggs so they could be sold.*

3. What is ironic about this situation?

*Surrendering their eggs to be sold was the tremendous injustice that they had to suffer at the hand of Jones.*

4. What else is Snowball blamed for?

*He has become the scapegoat who is going to be blamed for everything that goes wrong. Snowball is the inspiration for new propaganda efforts, lies, suspicions, and completely baseless facts.*

5. Boxer at first objects to the characterization of Snowball's behavior at the Battle of the Cowshed as treachery. Confused, he says, “I do not believe that [Snowball was less than brave or loyal at the battle].” But Squealer breaks down his resistance to the propaganda when he says that Napoleon has declared categorically that it is so. What is Boxer's response?

“If Comrade Napoleon says it, it must be right.”

6. What comment on human nature might Orwell be making in this exchange between Comrade Napoleon and Boxer?

*Boxer tries to resist the propaganda, but in the end he accepts it because he believes in the honesty and wisdom of his leader. The masses under totalitarianism believe in their leaders’ infallibility.*

7. What is suggested by the “very ugly look” Squealer gives Boxer? (Pg. 91)

*Boxer may be in for trouble, especially if “some of Snowball’s secret agents” are around the farm.*

8. The bloody scene in front of the farmhouse comes next. How might the confessions or killings relate to Russia in the 1930’s?

*In the late 1930’s Stalin killed thousands of his countrymen. Most of those killed were party officials and army officers. There were public trials and the “guilty” confessed to all manner of crimes. It was viewed as Stalin’s method of eliminating any possible opposition.*
9. When the blood-letting ends, what do the animals do? What are their feelings?

They “crept away… shaken and miserable.” (Pg. 93)
They did not know which was worse, the treachery of the animals or the violence the pigs used to punish them.

10. As they look down on the farm, what are Clover’s thoughts?

Although she would work hard and accept Napoleon’s leadership, this society was not the one the animals had hoped and worked for.

11. Why does Squealer say the song, Beasts of England, is no longer appropriate? What is sung in its place?

Because it is a song of rebellion, and since their rebellion is now complete and the better society has been achieved, there is no longer a need for this type of song. The poet Minimus has composed a couplet in which the animals put the farm before themselves or their welfare. In essence, they exist only for the state.

Chapter VIII

Vocabulary
retinue – a group that serves and accompanies
skulking – concealing
beatifically – with complete happiness
wistful – wishful
unscathed – unharmed
lamentation – sorrow

1. How do the pigs “alter reality” to handle the food crisis?

Squealer reads figures and statistics to them to prove there is really more food than ever before. “All the same [the animals]… would sooner have had less figures and more food.” (Pg. 99)

2. By this point what trappings of a typical dictator has Napoleon assumed?

In addition to personal guards, he has his personal trumpeter. He becomes more and more aloof and assumes more personal privileges. In addition, he takes on many titles of aggrandizement and has poems written about his greatness. He has fostered “the cult of personality” which aims to make him a figure of adoration. Later the Russians accused Joseph Stalin of the same thing.
3. Napoleon's constantly shifting allegiances between Frederick and Pilkington represent Stalin's dealings with the Germany and the Allies in the late 1930's. For Russia, how did all those dealings end in 1939?

In 1939, Germany invaded Russia, and Stalin then formed an alliance with the Western Allies.

4. Hitler had signed a non-aggression pact with Russia, but he went back on it and invaded Russia. How is this represented in the book?

Frederick and Napoleon had a deal about wood, but Frederick took the wood and paid Napoleon with counterfeit money.

5. What enables the animals to defeat Frederick's armed forces?

The rage they felt when the windmill was destroyed inspires them.

6. How do the animals react after the battle? What does Napoleon do?

They are dejected. Napoleon has the gun fired off as a tribute to the great victory, which he takes credit for, but the animals do not understand it as a victory.

7. Why does Squealer report that Napoleon is dying?

Because Napoleon has such a hangover, he must have thought he was dying.

8. The narrator begins the next-to-last paragraph, “About this time there occurred a strange incident which hardly anyone was able to understand.” (Pg. 112) What was this incident?

Squealer was found lying on the ground with a paintbrush in his hand next to a broken ladder. He was lying by the wall on which the commandants were written.

9. A few days later the animals found another commandant they “had remembered wrong.” (Pg. 113) Which one was it?

The words “to excess” had been added to the commandment that had read, “No animal shall drink alcohol.” It appears that Napoleon enjoys alcohol, especially since he is planting a barley field and reading books on distilling.

10. What one animal makes the connection between Squealer’s acts and the commandments?

Benjamin the mule.
11. At the opening of this chapter, why did Benjamin refuse to read the Sixth Commandment when Clover asked him?

_He said he refused to meddle in pigs’ things._

12. Considering all his actions, what kind of person is Benjamin meant to represent?

_Benjamin knew what was going on, observed it all, but never commented on it privately or publicly. In Russia, certainly, there must have been people who did the same._

Chapter IX

**Vocabulary**

poultice – healing mixture
superannuated – advanced age
contemptuously – despisingly
stratagem – idea
demeanor – behavior

1. Boxer’s death does not have a counterpart in Russian history. In a general sense, though, what this death represent?

_Boxer’s death can be seen as the complete betrayal of the working class by the leaders of the revolution._

2. How does Squealer once again use language to mask reality?

_He never speaks of a reduction in food. It is always a “readjustment,” and again he recites statistics to prove how much better life is for the animals._

3. What are some other signs that life is becoming unequal?

_The pigs are getting more and more privileges; even what was to be the retirement field is now being used to grow barley, which is for the exclusive use of the pigs and their brewery._

4. While the farm prospers, life is harder and harder for the animals. The narrator says if life was hard it was “partly offset by the fact that life nowadays had a greater dignity than it had had before.” What was it that gave this “dignity”?

_There were more songs, speeches, demonstrations, and processions. Orwell’s irony and the pigs’ duplicity are fully revealed._
5. Although the pigs do not believe what Moses says, why do they allow him to return and even provide him with food?

_Thoughts of a better world after death serve to console the animals and help them forget their empty bellies._

6. Throughout the book, Benjamin has observed everything but neither approved nor disapproved of anything. What causes him to break into a gallop; then later to read? Remember, he said earlier that while he can read quite well, there is nothing worth reading.

_When Boxer becomes ill, Benjamin runs to his aid. Later, he is so agitated that he reads aloud the sign on the van._

7. Boxer’s removal and demise are both poignant and filled with ironies. Why is it impossible for him to kick his way out of the van? Instead of the promised retirement, what awaits him? How were Old Major’s comments to Boxer in Chapter One prophetic?

Boxer had exhausted all his strength working for the good of the farm. Instead of the retirement field, he is going to the slaughterhouse. Old Major had said that when Boxer got too old to work, Farmer Jones would send him to the slaughterhouse. Instead of Jones, though, the revolution Boxer worked so hard for is sending him there.

8. The final irony is that “somewhere or other” the pigs got money to buy themselves another case of whisky for the banquet to be held in Boxer’s honor. (Pg. 126) Where was the money from?

_It can be inferred that the pigs received their money from the slaughterhouse for the body of Boxer._

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**Chapter X**

**Vocabulary**
taciturn – reluctant to talk
filial – like a child
haughty – grand
eminent – important
incumbent – necessary
*bon mot* – a joke
dregs – sediment in wine
1. The farm has prospered, but who are the only creatures who have benefited?

   The pigs and the dogs (the politicians and the police) are the recipients of Animal Farm's success.

2. After their fashion, the pigs do work. What is their work and where does it end up?

   They do the paperwork of bureaucracy. It all ends up in the furnace.

3. The animals are cold and hungry, but what do they still have?

   They still have faith in the revolution. All animals are equal, and they have no master.

4. Throughout, there are suspicions about Benjamin's philosophy of life, but on page 130, he tells it to the reader. Locate the passage.

   Benjamin knew that “things never had been, nor ever could be much better or much worse—hunger, hardship, and disappointment being, so he said, the unalterable law of life.”

5. Do you think Benjamin's philosophy is Orwell's philosophy?

   Benjamin has been presented as a wise and admirable figure, so his comments may well represent Orwell's thinking.

6. If it does represent Orwell's thoughts, what comment is Orwell making about revolution?

   All revolutions come to nothing. In another context, Orwell had said: “All revolutions are failures, but they are not the same failure.” The suggestion is that some revolutions may be worth a little more than others or that all revolutions fail differently.

7. Throughout this chapter, the pigs become more like humans. List some of the ways.

   They begin walking on two legs.
   They carry whips.
   They wear clothes.
   They smoke pipes and subscribe to magazines.
   They invite human guests for dinner and card playing.

8. The animals are amazed and terrified to see the pigs walking upright, and once again the bleating of the sheep forestalls any protest. How has their slogan changed?

   Now they bleat, “Four legs good, two legs better!”
9. For once, Benjamin agrees to read the Seven Commandments for Clover, except now there is only one commandment. What is it? What does it have as its essence?

“All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others.” It essentially is paradoxical, self-serving to the pigs, and the complete antithesis of old Major’s beliefs.

10. Then they are visited by a group of touring humans, and the animals are pictured “hardly raising their faces…not knowing whether to be more frightened of the pigs or of the human visitors.” (Pg. 134) Later they sneak up to the farmhouse window. What do they observe?

_The humans and pigs are eating, drinking, and laughing together. The pigs are both the equal of humans and as good as humans in inspiring fear in the animals._

11. Pilkington then praises the pigs’ management of the farm by saying, in effect, that there was a good deal for them to learn from the pigs because “the lower animals on Animal Farm did more work and received less food than any animals in the county.” What is the joke with which Pilkington concludes?

_He says, “If you have your lower animals to contend with . . . we have our lower classes!” This is also in opposition to Major’s ideal classless society._

12. Napoleon tells them that Animal Farm is going back to its old name, Manor Farm. What is the final dramatic point Orwell makes regarding the old rulers and the new rulers?

_After hearing the noises raised over cheating at cards, the animals go back and look in the window. They cannot distinguish the pigs from the humans. Orwell is commenting that there is no difference left between the Czar’s rule and the communists’ rule._
Animal Farm

Study Guide

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Chapter I

Vocabulary

* tush – tusk
* cud – partly digested food
* foal – colt
* knacker – horse slaughterer
* mangel-wurzel – beet

1. The animals act as animals do (e.g., cows chewing their cuds); because they think and speak, they also seem to represent *types of humans*. What type of people do Boxer, Mollie, and the cat appear to represent?

   Boxer —

   Mollie —

   The cat —

2. Keeping in mind the Russian revolution, whom do the animals collectively represent? Again thinking of the allegory, what person does Old Major represent?

3. Specifically, whom might Mr. Jones represent? More generally, whom might he represent?

4. Beginning on page 27, when Old Major addresses the animals, what emotions is Orwell trying to arouse in the reader?

5. Why do you suppose Orwell has this microcosm set in England, rather than Russia? Why does he name the human farmer Jones?
6. While Orwell makes fun of revolutionary rhetoric, about what truth does he seem to be speaking sincerely?

7. Early in the story what consideration do the animals, representing the exploited masses, show for one another?

8. The revolutionary rhetoric has stirred them and united them. What is the first sign that might break their unity?

9. On pages 30-31, Old Major warns the animals that they must always be hostile to man and his ways. Specifically, what are man's evil ways?

10. How does this advice apply to the exploited masses vis-à-vis the exploiters?

11. As they sing the song, Beasts of England, what is the mood in the barn?

12. Some critics see Old Major's speech as a parody that makes fun of revolutionary, overblown rhetoric. How can a parody mock something while still being deadly serious?

13. The sentiments expressed in the song represent Orwell's feelings, but how does he say the tune goes?
Chapter II

Vocabulary
vivacious – lively
ecstasy – great joy
gambolled – frisked
scullery – kitchen
stove – kicked
unalterable – unchangeable

1. Old Major dies, but his dream has awakened all the animals. Whose job is it to lead and organize the animals? Why them?

2. If there is a classless society which strives to treat everyone the same, why are the pigs taking the lead?

3. Within the ranks of the pigs, which three are predominant? Why?

4. When you read about Sugarcandy Mountain on page 37, what is suggested? What does the name of the raven suggest?

5. If Mr. Jones represents the state, who is the raven, Moses, meant to represent? What is implied about the relationship between the two?

6. What is “Animalism,” and what does it represent?

7. How does the revolution come about?

8. After Jones runs off, what image of the animals does the reader get?
9. Napoleon leads the animals back to the storage shed and serves everyone a double ration of corn. How did he become the one to pass out the food? Why do you suppose he gives the dogs two additional biscuits?

10. On what did the animals base the Seven Commandments?

11. The reader is told at the end of Chapter II that when the animals came back, “the milk had disappeared.” What happens to the milk? What is this a sign of?

12. From whose point of view is this story written?

Chapter III

Vocabulary
acute – sharp
chaff – wasted part
cockerel – rooster
cryptic – mysterious
paddock – small fenced in field
indefatigable – untiring

1. You are told “the pigs were so clever that they could think of a way round every difficulty.” (Pg. 45) Apparently it is because of their cleverness that they do not do physical work, but supervise others. Yet, in terms of the business of farming, who understands it better than anyone else does, even better than Jones?

2. Orwell suggests that the pigs are most clever in what area? What is the irony on page 46? What does it mean?

3. In the early days of the revolution, what is the mood? What is Boxer’s attitude?
4. What happens on Sundays?

5. Since all the animals can vote, why are the pigs always in charge of saying what is to be done and when?

6. What is the result of all the committees that Snowball starts?

7. For the more stupid animals, what slogan does Snowball come up with that contained the essential principles of Animalism?

8. In this context, who do the sheep represent in their bleating of this slogan?

9. Napoleon is very interested in the education of the young. But of all the baby animals, why do you suppose he took the nine puppies to educate on his own?

10. How does Squealer justify the pigs’ appropriation for themselves of the milk and apples?

11. We are told that Napoleon and Snowball disagree on just about everything. What, however, is the one thing on which they are in full agreement at the end of this chapter?

12. How does Snowball convince the animals to allow the pigs to have control over the milk and apples?
Chapter IV

Vocabulary
ignominious – dishonorable
impromptu – without preparation

1. How do the people who live next to Animal Farm feel about the revolution?

2. In allegorical interpretations, the neighbor Frederick is said to represent Germany, and Pilkington is said to represent the allies, especially Britain. From your knowledge of Russian history, what allegorical interpretation would you give to the raid by Jones, Frederick, and Pilkington.

3. The pigs generally do not come off too well in this story, yet Snowball is shown as being exceptionally brave. Why do you suppose Orwell did this?

4. After the battle, why is Boxer upset? What does Snowball tell him?

5. What implication may be drawn from these two points of view?

6. What aspects of human militarism are mocked toward the end of this chapter?
Chapter V

Vocabulary
pretext – excuse
blithely – without concern
gaiters – a covering for shoes
publican – a tax collector
silage – food for animals
sordid – dirty, foul
maxim – a saying
disinterred – dug up

1. What happens to Mollie?

2. Why have the pigs become a central committee that does all the planning? Explain the irony of this decision making.

3. What use has Napoleon made of the sheep?

4. What is Snowball’s dream for the windmill? What is Napoleon’s thinking about the windmill?

5. A second major point of disagreement between the two is the defense of the farm. What point of view does each have?

6. From your knowledge of Russian history, point out how these two points of view, on the windmill and on the defense of the farm, represent Stalin’s and Trotsky’s arguments.

7. How does this argument between Napoleon and Snowball end?
8. Where do the dogs come from, and how do they act around Napoleon?

9. The dogs in this allegory are used to represent what?

10. What does Napoleon do to put an end to any opposition?

11. In the classic style of a tyrant, how does Napoleon, through Squealer, go about rewriting history?

12. What two things convince the animals of the truth of Squealer’s pronouncements?

13. What offhand comment does Orwell make at the end of the chapter that conveys both innocence and craftiness?
Chapter VI

Vocabulary
arable – farmable
repose – rest
solicitor – an agent

1. What is ironic and unstated about the opening paragraph?

2. What two meanings could be given to the phrase in that paragraph, “the animals worked like slaves”?

3. How is Boxer portrayed? What do his efforts and his statements, “I will work harder” and “Napoleon is always right,” represent?

4. In what ways are the pigs abusing their leadership offices?

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

6. On pages 75-77, why are the animals becoming uneasy?

7. What is Squealer’s task at this point?

8. How do the pigs justify the fact that they are now sleeping in beds?

9. Why does the author never comment on the injustices and lies, but only presents them to the reader?

10. How does Napoleon use the propaganda technique of “the big lie”?
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unscathed – unharmed
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2. By this point what trappings of a typical dictator has Napoleon assumed?

3. Napoleon’s constantly shifting allegiances between Frederick and Pilkington represent Stalin’s dealings with the Germany and the Allies in the late 1930’s. For Russia, how did all those dealings end in 1939?

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5. What enables the animals to defeat Frederick’s armed forces?

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7. Why does Squealer report that Napoleon is dying?

8. The narrator begins the next-to-last paragraph, “About this time there occurred a strange incident which hardly anyone was able to understand.” (Pg. 112) What was this incident?

9. A few days later the animals found another commandant they “had remembered wrong.” (Pg. 113) Which one was it?

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