

Future Honors English Students,


Welcome to Honors English I at Rossvie High School. We hope you will have a successful freshman year.

Honors English is a rigorous course. You will be expected to complete outside reading assignments in addition to regular class work. Vocabulary is stressed, and most vocabulary will NOT be matching.

It is recommended that students entering this class have achieved a 90 or above in Advanced English. Students should have excellent reading comprehension skills and a solid understanding of grammar. This is not a class where we re-teach English grammar.

Please do not sign up for Honors English if you are not prepared to work hard. Mature, responsible behavior is a must.

You must read *ANIMAL FARM* by George Orwell and complete the accompanying worksheets. Tests over the novel will begin during the first full week of school. Please be prepared.


Pollyanna Parker


Kimberly Barber

Chapters I-II, Multiple Choice

1. Manor Farm is in _____.
a. Russia b. the United States
c. Canada d. England.
2. Old Major is _____.
a. the farm's owner b. a pig
c. a horse d. a dog
3. Old Major wants to talk to the animals about
a _____ that he had.
a. dream b. party c. meeting
d. nightmare
4. According to old Major's view, the lives of
farm animals can best be described as
_____.
a. depressing b. happy c. thoughtless
d. funny
5. Old Major urges the animals to _____.
a. accept their fate b. work harder
c. rebel d. escape
6. _____ is a system of thought based on old
Major's teachings.
a. Patriotism b. Animalism
c. Communism d. Majority Rule
7. "... a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire
boar, the only Berkshire on the farm, not
much of a talker, but with a reputation for
getting his own way." The animal being
described is _____.
a. Boxer b. old Major c. Snowball
d. Napoleon
8. Mollie wants _____.
a. oats and hay
b. more work
c. sugar and ribbons
d. freedom
9. The best writer on the farm is _____.
a. Napoleon
b. Squealer
c. Moses
d. Snowball
10. The laws by which the animals are to live are
called the _____.
a. Animal Farm Laws
b. Seven Commandments
c. Animal Constitution d. Legal Code

**Chapters III-IV, Sentence
Completion**

1. The pigs do not actually work; they
_____ the work of the
other animals.
2. The hardest worker on the farm is
_____.
3. Napoleon and _____
rarely agree on any issue concerning the
farm.
4. Napoleon makes himself responsible for the
education of the _____.
5. _____ explains to the
other animals why the milk and apples are
reserved for the pigs alone.
6. The _____ tell the animals
on other farms about the Rebellion.
7. When men attack the farm, the defense is led
by _____.
8. A(n) _____ is killed in the
attack.
9. The animals confer _____
on Boxer and Snowball.
10. The battle is named the
_____.

Chapters V-VI, True/False

- _____ 1. Mollie runs away from Animal Farm.
- _____ 2. Snowball is a more effective speaker
than Napoleon.
- _____ 3. Snowball and Napoleon's most bitter
disagreement concerns the correct
retirement age for animals.
- _____ 4. Snowball is driven off the farm by
Napoleon's dogs.
- _____ 5. None of the other animals are troubled
by Napoleon's treatment of Snowball.
- _____ 6. Napoleon promises to carry on all the
traditions of Animal Farm.
- _____ 7. Building a windmill proves to be a
simple job.

- _____ 8. Napoleon hires a human being to act as his agent.
- _____ 9. Boxer objects when the pigs move into the farmhouse.
- _____ 10. When the windmill falls down, Napoleon blames Snowball.

Chapters VII-VIII, Multiple Choice

1. When food supplies run low, Napoleon _____
 - a. asks his neighbors for help
 - b. resorts to cannibalism
 - c. pretends that all is well
 - d. steals from another farm
2. The hens rebel when Napoleon _____.
 - a. wants to sell their eggs
 - b. allows pigs to eat chickens
 - c. suspends voting rights
 - d. cuts their rations in half
3. Napoleon blames all the animals' problems on _____.
 - a. the weather
 - b. Mr. Whymper
 - c. Mr. Jones
 - d. Snowball
4. At a meeting, some animals confess to crimes and are immediately _____.
 - a. expelled
 - b. pardoned
 - c. executed
 - d. imprisoned
5. Napoleon abolishes _____.
 - a. capital punishment
 - b. the song *Beasts of England*
 - c. work on Sundays
 - d. special privileges for other pigs
6. _____ composes a poem in honor of Napoleon.
 - a. Muriel
 - b. Squealer
 - c. Mr. Whymper
 - d. Minimus
7. Napoleon decides to sell timber to _____.
 - a. Jones
 - b. Pilkington
 - c. Whymper
 - d. Frederick
8. A few days later, the farm is attacked by _____ and his men.
 - a. Snowball
 - b. Frederick
 - c. Jones
 - d. Pilkington

9. The battle becomes known as the Battle of the _____.
 - a. Windmill
 - b. Timber
 - c. Neighbors
 - d. Century
10. Napoleon becomes ill when _____.
 - a. someone tries to poison him
 - b. he eats too much barley
 - c. he drinks too much whiskey
 - d. he is wounded in battle

Chapters IX-X, Sentence Completion

1. In addition to their other work, the animals struggle to build a _____ for the new little pigs.
2. In preparation for his future _____, Boxer works harder than ever.
3. One day Boxer _____ near the windmill.
4. The van that comes to take Boxer away bears the name of the _____.
5. Squealer explains that the van really belongs to the _____.
6. Squealer announces that Boxer died in _____.
7. When the pigs learn to walk on their hind legs, the sheep bleat, "Four legs good, two legs _____!"
8. At the pigs' party, the human beings compare the lower animals to the lower _____.
9. Napoleon announces that he will change the farm's name to _____ Farm.
10. The other animals find that they can no longer distinguish the pigs from _____.

Animal Farm—Guided Reading Questions**CHAPTER I**

1. 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?
2. According to Major, what is the cause of all the animals' problems?
3. What motto does Major give the animals?
4. What are the commandments Major gives the animals? Can you think of ways each of them could be considered a vice?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
 - h.
 - i.
 - j.
5. 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?

CHAPTER II

1. After Major's death what happens to the idea of rebelling against man?
2. Why don't the pigs like the pet raven Moses' stories about Sugarcandy Mountain?
3. What causes the animals to finally rebel against Mr. Jones and his four farmhands?
4. When the humans have been chased from the farm, what do the animals do
5. What do the animals do about the farmhouse?
6. How does the behavior of the pigs foreshadow their eventual leadership positions?

CHAPTER III AND IV

1. What examples of the difference between the pigs and the other animals occur in these two chapters?
2. What are Napoleon's ideas about education?
3. How is Squealer able to convince the other animals to accept whatever Napoleon decides?
4. Describe the Battle of the Cowshed.
5. What was Snowball's part in this battle?
6. Where is Napoleon during the battle?
7. What is the significance of the gun's placement at the foot of the flagpole

CHAPTER V

1. Why does Mollie run away from the farm?
2. What changes have been made in the weekly meetings over the last year?
3. Explain the windmill controversy from Snowball's point of view
4. Explain the windmill controversy from Napoleon's point of view.
5. What changes does Napoleon make after his dogs chase Snowball off the farm?
6. Why don't the other animals protest Napoleon's decisions?
7. Note how the animals now arrange themselves when they enter the barn to receive their orders as compared to the description in Chapter I.
8. What is the importance of the dogs accompanying Squealer when he comes to talk to the animals?

CHAPTERS VI AND VII

1. How much work are the animals now doing?
2. Why does Napoleon decide to engage in trade with neighboring farms?
3. How do the animals react
4. How is the windmill destroyed? Why does Napoleon blame Snowball?
5. Why does Napoleon insist the windmill must be rebuilt immediately?
6. Why does Napoleon order that the hens' eggs be sold?
7. How does Napoleon react when the hens' rebel against his orders?
8. Why does Napoleon revive the threat of the farm being sabotaged by Snowball?
9. Explain why the animals confessed to being traitors. Or is there any explanation?
10. Why does Napoleon order the animals to stop singing "Beasts of England?"

CHAPTERS VIII AND IX

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. Describe the sale of the stack of lumber. How does Napoleon outwit himself?
4. 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 Sugarcandy 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?

CHAPTER X

1. What changes have the years brought to the farm?

2. How does Orwell make fun of bureaucracy?

3. How do the animals now feel about their social order, their farm?

4. What drastic actions do the pigs use to shatter the animals' complacency?

5. All seven commandments are erased. What is the new commandment and how has it been true from the beginning?

6. At the conference with neighboring farmers, what new changes does Napoleon point out?

7. What happens to the pigs' appearance

The Novel at a Glance

Animal Farm

Literary Elements

Novel Structure: This section of the story is told through chronological narration, linked by dramatic scenes that include brief dialogue. It occurs from March through October in an unidentified year.

As **satire**, the story ridicules

- the vanity of humans (through Mollie)
- blind followers like the sheep
- the manner in which persons (pigs) in power separate themselves, withdrawing from work or making "secret" decisions
- the formation of committees creating an illusion of progress or change
- the ease with which humans accept simplistic slogans such as "Four legs good, two legs bad!" and empty awards such as "Animal Hero, First Class."

As an **allegory** the story presents the Russian Revolution, the early Soviet Union, and attempts by the Western Allies to overthrow it.

Animal Farm - USSR
Manor Farm - Imperial Russia

Conflict: The initial conflict of the novel is that between the animals and their cruel master, Mr. Jones, whose exploitative treatment fuels the Rebellion. Disagreements between Napoleon and Snowball over direction of Animal Farm arise once the animals gain control of the farm. The conflict between the animals and men of the adjoining farms, joined by embittered Jones, culminates in the Battle of the Cowshed.

Future conflict between the animals is **foreshadowed** in Chapter 2 when the buckets of milk disappear because, as the reader learns in Chapter 3, the pigs are taking the milk as a special privilege.

Allegory: Critics see *Animal Farm* as an allegory of the corruption and abuse of power found in all totalitarian regimes and specifically in Russia, which endured totalitarianism under the czars and, later, under Joseph Stalin, who was in power in Russia when the novel was written. The allegory is neither an exact nor a chronological representation of people or events; however, parallels can be drawn between characters and historical figures/events/institutions.

Mr. Jones , Czar Nicholas II	old Major , Karl Marx or
Napoleon , Joseph Stalin	Marxist Leninist thought
the pigs , the Bolsheviks	Snowball , Leon Trotsky
or Reds	Mollie , the White
the Rebellion , the	Russians (the opposition
October Revolution	to the Bolsheviks or
the farmhouse , the	Reds)
Kremlin	Mr. Frederick , Germany
Mr. Pilkington , Britain	Dogs - secret police
Squealer , <i>Pravda</i> , the official newspaper of	
Communist propaganda	
Boxer , the loyal workers, also known as the proletariat	
"Beasts of England," "L'Internationale"	
the wild animals , the <i>muzhiks</i> or Russian peasants	
Moses , the Russian Orthodox Church	
hoof and horn flag , hammer and sickle flag of the Soviet Union	
the Battle of the Cowshed , the Allied invasion of 1918-1919	
Pinchfield - Hitler's Germany	

Plot and Setting

Animal Farm is a political novel set on a British farm where barnyard animals successfully revolt against a human master who has exploited them. The animals establish a society which eventually becomes so similar to the society they overthrew that the animals are no better off than they were originally.

Novel Structure

To convey his political message, Orwell employs the literary forms of allegory, satire, and fable. An **allegory** is a story that can be read on two distinct levels. Characters and events in an allegory represent something else, and they are used by the writer to convey a moral or a philosophical message. Many of the characters in *Animal Farm* represent political leaders of the Russian Revolution.

A **satire** uses ridicule to make certain people, events, or institutions appear foolish. Surprising ironic reversals enhance the satiric nature of the novel. Orwell makes extensive use of dramatic, verbal, and situational irony.

A **fable** is a brief, often humorous, tale that presents a moral or message. As in the familiar *Aesop's Fables*, the characters in *Animal Farm* are animals whose thoughts and behaviors mirror those of **human beings**. Orwell satirizes political machinations and human responses to them. By using animals as characters, Orwell creates a **detachment** that allows the readers to see the issues in a new light.

Conflict

The narrative is driven by the **external conflicts** between the animals, such as the disagreements between Napoleon and Snowball, between the animals and the humans, and between the animals and the elements. **Internal conflict** is minimal; in fact, one of Orwell's points is the lack of internal conflict among animals whose doubts and disillusionments are so easily smoothed over by Squealer. The practical lesson of the fable is most clearly illustrated by external struggles.

Allegory

Animal Farm is a richly allegorical representation of Russia's political history from around 1917 to 1943. That history begins with the Russian Revolution, then follows the establishment of the Soviet Union and the descent of a revolutionary ideal into a repressive regime. Since the story is an allegory, most locations, events, and characters can be translated into this historical context. *Animal Farm* represents Russia. Napoleon the pig represents Joseph Stalin, the revolutionary who becomes a dictator. The farmhouse represents the Kremlin, originally a palace of the czars, which becomes the center of Soviet government.

Characters

The dimensions of the animal characters are developed to the point necessary for them to convey their allegorical function. **Old Major**, a prize Middle White boar, is the visionary whose dream incites the rebellion. The major protagonists are a pig triumvirate: **Napoleon** is a huge Berkshire boar who eventually bests another boar, **Snowball**, to become dictator. **Squealer** is a porker who handles propaganda first for the rebellion, then for the regime. Other significant characters are

Boxer, a huge, loyal plow horse

Benjamin, a stubborn donkey

Mollie, a silly white mare

Mr. Jones, the farm's original owner

Clover, a matronly mare

Muriel, a goat

Moses, a raven

Mr. Whymper, a solicitor (lawyer)

Mr. Frederick and **Mr. Pilkington**, the owners of adjoining farms

Themes

The corruptive nature of power: In *Animal Farm*, Orwell shows how both the leaders and the followers in a society can act in ways that destroy freedom and equality. Corruption through power reaches its zenith when Napoleon becomes a tyrant more oppressive than Mr. Jones.

The oppressed tightening the noose of oppression: Orwell illustrates the limiting of individual freedom through the ignorance, inertia, or misplaced loyalty of the animals. This is exemplified by Boxer who blindly proclaims "If Comrade Napoleon says it, it must be right."

Tyranny distorting history and language: Orwell shows how propaganda techniques like those practiced by Squealer and accepted by the animals are used to justify a tyrant's decisions and actions.

Historical Background

Beneath its surface appearance as a simple fable (a very brief story told to teach a lesson) about talking animals, *Animal Farm* is the story of a revolution betrayed. Although the book can be read and enjoyed as a superb satire on the attempts made by human beings to create a perfect society in an imperfect world, the revolution that inspired Orwell's fable was the very real one that took place in Russia in 1917. (Remind students that satire is a form of writing that ridicules abuses and human foibles in the hope of improving or remedying them.) Because *Animal Farm* functions on one level as a historical allegory, it cannot be fully understood without some knowledge of the Russian Revolution and the subsequent rise to power of Joseph Stalin. Knowing some of the details of modern Russian history underlying the plot will help the reader to appreciate the fable's humor and symbolism.

In the nineteenth century, the socialist philosopher Karl Marx (1818–1883) envisioned a classless society in which the means of production would be placed in the hands of the workers themselves. In *The Communist Manifesto*, Marx predicted an inevitable revolution of the proletariat against the capitalists who exploit their labor for profit. In Orwell's fable, old Major's speech can be read as a witty burlesque of Marx's theories of class struggle and the labor theory of value, in which animals represent the workers and humans represent the capitalistic bourgeoisie.

In 1917, the government of the Russian Czar was toppled. Led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870–1924), the Communist party took control of the new Soviet government. Four years of bloody civil war followed, in which the Red Army, organized by Leon Trotsky (1879–1940) ultimately defeated the anti-Communist and pro-Czar "Whites" and their foreign allies. In terms of allegorical symbols, Mr. Jones is the Czar, Snowball is Trotsky, and the Battle of the Cowshed is the battle between the "Reds" and the "Whites."

Meanwhile, Europe was being ravaged by the First World War. In 1918, the German army, under William II (1859–1941), was on the verge of capturing the Russian city of Petrograd (now Leningrad). Lenin stopped Kaiser Wilhelm's army by signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, at great cost to his own country. In 1921, Lenin further compromised the principles of the revolution by establishing trade relations with many of the same capitalist nations that had supported the White forces in the civil war. In the allegory, Lenin's New Economic Policy, which followed the failure of the first Russian Five-Year Plan, is represented by Napoleon's decision in Chapter VI to trade with the neighboring farmers.

When Lenin died in 1924, his body was entombed in a glass coffin. (Point out to students that in the book, it is old Major's skull that is placed on display to be revered by the animals.) A fierce struggle for control of the Communist party then arose between Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin, represented in the allegory by Napoleon. Trotsky, the great planner and organizer, favored rapid industrialization and the exportation of revolutionary ideals to other countries; Stalin preferred to concentrate on building a strong socialist state at home. Later, Stalin established the Comintern (symbolized by pigeons in the allegory) to spread the Revolution. The song of the worldwide movement, the Communist Internationale, is parodied in Orwell's fable as *Beasts of England*. Trotsky was eventually exiled by the triumphant Stalin, who continued to denounce his former rival as a traitor (paralleling Napoleon's treatment of Snowball in the allegory). Meanwhile, aided by his secret police (symbolized by Napoleon's dogs in the allegory), Stalin continued to aggrandize his own personal power within the Communist party and, consequently, to control the fate of the Soviet people.

In 1936, a democratically elected socialistic government took power in Spain. A group of right-wing generals headed by Francisco Franco (1892–1975) led their armies in a bloody three-year civil war that toppled the Republican forces. Many foreigners, including George Orwell, went to Spain to join in the fight against fascism. The International Brigade, which was composed of Stalinist-dominated volunteer groups, fought against both Franco's forces, which were backed by Nazi Germany, and the Trotskyite militia groups fighting Franco. Many socialists around the world refused to believe that the Soviet Union had, through its Stalinist policies in Spain, betrayed the spirit of international socialist unity.

From 1936 to 1938, the Stalinist regime shocked the world by conducting the infamous Moscow show trials. High-ranking Soviet military and political leaders, including heroes of the revolution, confessed to crimes against the state and were condemned to death. Meanwhile, the secret police were arresting and interrogating hundreds of thousands of Soviet citizens who were charged with crimes and subsequently deported or executed. (The purge of anti-Stalinist elements of the Communist party in the 1930s is mirrored in Chapter VII of *Animal Farm*.) Again, to Orwell's chagrin, well-meaning socialists around the world remained reluctant to express public criticism of the Communist party leadership in Moscow.

As the Second World War got underway, Stalin abruptly shifted his allegiance from England and the British allies (symbolized in the allegory by Mr. Pilkington of Foxwood) to the Nazi regime in Germany (symbolized in the allegory by Mr. Frederick of Pinchfield). The nonaggression pact Stalin signed with Hitler proved as worthless as the banknotes Mr. Frederick exchanged for timber when Germany attacked Russia in 1941. This attack, symbolized by the Battle of the Windmill in the allegory, led to an uneasy alliance between Stalin and the western Allies. It was within the context of this alliance that four publishers rejected George Orwell's new fable about a pig who betrays the revolutionary ideals of the masses. Not until August 1945, when the western Allies accepted the unlikelihood of a successful postwar alliance with the Soviet Union, was Orwell's brilliant satire on Communist totalitarianism finally published.