

Animal Farm
Study Guide

Chapter 1

1. Describe Mr. Jones.
2. The animals who gather to hear Major's speech each mirror a human trait. What trait is revealed in Clover? Boxer? Benjamin? Mollie? the cat? the dogs?
3. What is significant about the pigs and the raven?
4. Why has Major called the meeting?
5. What political statement emerges from Major's dream?
6. What is Major's warning to the animals?
7. What are the evil human habits against which Major particularly warns the animals?
8. How does Major describe the equality of the animals?
9. What kind of world does Major dream of?
10. Describe the song "Beasts of England."
11. Which animals learn the song quickly?
12. How do the animals respond to the song?

Chapter 2

1. What happens to Major? What is the effect of his speech?
2. How do the other animals respond to the new philosophy?
3. What human traits are given to Snowball? to Napoleon? to Squealer?
4. What is the pigs' major contribution to the Rebellion at this point?
5. What is the effect of Moses, the tame Raven, and his tale of Sugarcandy Mountain?
6. How does the Rebellion come about?
7. What are the first things the animals do to celebrate their victory?
8. Why does Boxer discard his straw hat?
9. How is the pigs' announcement that they can read typical of their behavior?
10. How are the cows milked? Where does the milk go?

Chapter 3

1. What causes the animals' feelings of happiness over the summer?
2. What is the significance of Benjamin's cryptic remarks? Why doesn't he share in the joy?
3. Describe the flag Snowball designs. What does it represent?

Chapter 3, continued

4. What is Snowball's attitude toward education? To what extent are the animals educated?
5. What is Napoleon's attitude toward education?
6. What is the only thing that Snowball and Napoleon agree on?
7. How does Squealer explain the pigs' special food? How do the other animals react?

Chapter 4

1. How do neighboring humans react to the situation on Animal Farm?
2. How does Snowball direct the Battle of the Cowshed?
3. Compare Snowball's and Boxer's attitudes towards war.
4. What typical organizational steps are taken after the victory in the Battle of the Cowshed?

Chapter 5

1. Why are the pigs accepted as planners of farm policy?
2. On what issues do Snowball and Napoleon disagree? How does each try to win such disputes?
3. How do Napoleon and Snowball handle the bitter controversy over the windmill?
4. What is the first right Napoleon takes away from the animals?
5. How do the animals respond to this?
6. What is Squealer's explanation of the abolishment of the animal vote?
7. Why is Boxer's reaction important?
8. How does Squealer explain Napoleon's decision to build the windmill after all?

Chapter 6

1. What is the pace of work during Napoleon's first year of power?
2. What is the quality of life for the animals?
3. Why is it necessary to trade with humans? How does Squealer justify this?
4. What is the seemingly contradictory attitude of the animals toward Mr. Whymper?
5. How does Squealer explain the changes in the Commandments?
6. How does Napoleon respond to the destruction of the first windmill? Why

Chapter 7

1. What is the quality of life for the animals during the winter?
2. How does Napoleon handle this problem?
3. How do the hens react to Napoleon's order?

Chapter 7, continued

4. What are Snowball's winter and early spring activities?
5. What is the outcome of Napoleon's investigation into Snowball's activities?
6. What action is taken after this discovery?
7. How do the animals respond to the executions?
8. What is the importance of Minimus's song?

Chapter 8

1. How does Squealer distract attention from the changes in the Commandments?
2. What is the significance of the cockerel who marches in front of Napoleon?
3. What is the quality of life for the animals now?
4. What is important about Napoleon's duplicity in the sale of the timber?
5. What turns the Battle of the Windmill in the animals' favor?
6. How is the victory celebrated?
7. What new vice do the pigs acquire?
8. What is the animals' reaction when Squealer falls from the ladder?

Chapter 9

1. What is the quality of the animals' lives after another year passes?
2. What is Squealer's new explanation of unequal rations?
3. What is the significance of the new ruling on ribbons?
4. What is to "compensate" for hardships in the animals' lives?
5. What is the significance of Moses' return?
6. What are Boxer's expectations of his future after he injures himself from overwork?
7. How do the animals react to Boxer's removal?
8. How does Squealer calm the unrest over Boxer's fate?
9. How does Napoleon capitalize on Boxer's death?

Chapter 10

1. How has the farm grown after several more years?
2. What is the quality of the animals' lives?
3. What new development shocks the starving animals?
4. What is the final interpretation of the word "equal"?

Chapter 10, continued

5. What is the animals' reaction to the tour the pigs conduct for human visitors?
6. What does Pilkington praise the pigs for?
7. What is the change in the flag's design? What does this represent?
8. What other changes are announced?
9. What do the animals see when they look in the farmhouse window?

Discussion Questions: Motivation

1. Why does Napoleon choose the pups as the starting place in his plan to educate the young?
2. Why does Napoleon let Snowball finish the plans for the windmill before driving him away?
3. Why do the animals submit to Napoleon's domination?
4. What political function does Snowball serve for Napoleon?
5. Why do the sheep and geese confess "crimes" when they know others have been executed?

Discussion Questions: Genre

1. The usual beast fairy tale is lighthearted and has a happy ending. How does this form provide irony for *Animal Farm*?
2. Why is *Animal Farm* a good allegory of human politics?
3. Why does Orwell write from the "lower" animals' point of view?
4. Why are there no fully developed human characters in *Animal Farm*?

Discussion Questions: Philosophy

1. The animals thought it would be difficult to take over the farm, but it proved easy. The task they thought would be easy--the exercise of power--proves fatally difficult. What does this irony reveal about Orwell's political philosophy?
2. What function does Benjamin serve in *Animal Farm*? (What does he represent?)
3. What kind of world would Orwell describe as perfect?