

Animal Farm Study Guide

Chapter 1

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? (The pigs and dogs sit in the front row. The other animals arrange themselves behind the pigs and dogs. In the future the pigs will be in charge, and the dogs will guard the pigs.)
2. According to Major, what is the cause of all the animals' problems? (Man is the only real enemy. Man is the only animal who produces nothing, but consumes what the animals produce. Get rid of man and all of the animals' problems will be solved)
3. What motto does Major give the animals? (He urges them to remember whatever goes on two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes on four legs or has wings is a friend. He also urges them to refrain from coming to resemble man and lists man's vices.)
4. What are the commandments Major gives the animals? Can you think of ways each of them could be considered a vice?
 1. No animal is ever to live in a house. (Caring more about possessions)
 2. No animal is ever to sleep in a bed. (Becoming lazy, spending too much time in bed sleeping instead of working, luxury)
 3. No animal is ever to wear clothes. (Pride in appearance)
 4. No animal is ever to drink alcohol. (Drinking to excess, forgetting duties)
 5. No animal is ever to smoke tobacco. (Ruining health, expensive habit)
 6. No animal is ever to touch money. (Money corrupts)
 7. No animal is ever to engage in trade. (Profit making)
 8. No animal is ever to tyrannize his own kind. (Slavery)
 9. No animal must ever kill any other animal. (Murder)
 10. All animals are equal. (Competition is self-serving)
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? (The song paints a vivid picture of the day when animals are at last free of man and all the symbols of slavery such as whips and spurs are gone. It appeals to their dreams of a more prosperous future, an abundance of food and the absence of cruelty, and the need for hope to keep an individual from giving up.)

Chapter 2

6. Who is Old Major supposed to represent? What support do you have from the text or other outside resources to back up your claim?
7. Explain the meaning of the following quote: "The others said of Squealer that he could turn black into white" (Orwell 13).

8. Define Animalism.
9. What is Moses and what does he argue?
10. Who do Boxer and Clover represent? (Hint: Refer to the top of page 15 to help you figure out the answer.)
11. What is happening to Mr. Jones on page 15? Who is he supposed to symbolize?
12. What event sets off the Rebellion? How is this connected to the actual Russian Revolution?
13. What do the newly freed animals do? What do their actions symbolize?
14. Explain the meaning of the following quote: “‘Ribbons,’ he said, ‘should be considered as clothes, which are the mark of a human being. All animals should go naked’” (Orwell 17).
15. How do the animals feel about the farm house? What does the farm house symbolize?
16. Compare and contrast Old Major’s commandments on page 8 with the seven commandments created by the pigs. What is the same and what has changed?

Chapter 3

17. What obstacles do the animals face while starting to run the farm?
18. What was successful or unsuccessful about the first harvest?
19. Analyze the following quote: “Every mouthful of food was an acute positive pleasure, now that it was truly their own food, produced by themselves and for themselves, not doled out to them by a grudging master” (Orwell 24). How do you think you would feel if you had grown and cooked your own food or made your own clothes?
20. Use five adjectives to describe Boxer.
21. What kind of workers are Mollie and the cat?
22. Explain how the following quote relates to communism: “But everyone worked according to his capacity” (Orwell 25).
23. How does Old Benjamin the donkey feel about the rebellion?
24. Describe what happens on Sundays.
25. What programs does Snowball create? Are they successful?

26. What does reading symbolize? What role does education play in society?
27. What happens when a complex idea get simplified? Make sure to connect the following quote to your answer: "After much thought Snowball declared that the Seven Commandments could in effect be reduced to a single maxim, namely: 'Four legs good, two legs bad.' This he said, contained the essential principle of Animalism" (Orwell 29).
28. What do you think will happen to the pups Napoleon separates from the rest of the animals?
29. How does Squealer justify the special privileges given to the pigs? Do you think it's fair?

Chapter 4

30. How does Mr. Jones deal with being shoved off his farm?
31. Why do Snowball and Napoleon send out pigeons? How does this connect to communism or the Russian Revolution?
32. Who are Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Frederick? What is their relationship like? Who are they supposed to symbolize?
33. How do Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Frederick feel about Animal Farm? What do they do to support or undermine Animal Farm?
34. How do animals on other farms react to Animalism? Give specific examples!
35. What do the humans try to do to Animal Farm? Why are their efforts successful or unsuccessful?
36. What is gained in the fight and what is lost?
37. What does Mollie do in the skirmish? What do her actions foreshadow?
38. What honors are created after the battle and who receives them?
39. What is the Battle of the Cowshed? What role does the gun play on Animal Farm?

Chapter 5

40. How does Mollie feel about her new life outside of Animal Farm?
41. Why does Snowball want to build a windmill?
42. How does Napoleon feel about the windmill?

43. What does Napoleon do to the weekly Meetings?
44. How does Squealer explain Napoleon's change in attitude about the windmill?

Chapter 6

45. How do the animals feel about working at the beginning of the chapter?
46. Is working on Sundays really voluntary? Why or why not?
47. What obstacles do the animals face when they start building the windmill?
48. What role does Boxer play on the farm? What are his two slogans and what do they illustrate about him?
49. What is life like on Animal Farm under Napoleon's rule? Would you like to live there? Why or why not?
50. Use five adjectives to describe Squealer. How does he get support for Napoleon?
51. Who is Mr. Whymper and how do the animals feel about him?
52. How are the other human farmers starting to treat Animal Farm? How do you think this connects to the actual Russian Revolution?
53. Connect the following quote to the real Russian Revolution: "But there were constant rumors that Napoleon was about to enter into a definite business agreement either with Mr. Pilkington of Foxwood or with Mr. Frederick of Pinchfield--but never, it was noticed, with both simultaneously" (60).
54. Why do the pigs move into the farmhouse and what does it symbolize?
55. How does Clover react to the pigs' move?
56. What happens to the windmill near the end of the chapter?
57. Of what crime does Napoleon accuse Snowball?
58. Are the "facts" presented in this chapter by Napoleon and Squealer true? Why or why not?

Chapter 7

59. Why is the windmill so important to the humans? What does it symbolize?
60. What do the humans think caused the windmill to break? Do you agree with their position?
61. What inspires the animals to keep working despite the hardships they face?

62. What does Napoleon do about the food shortages? Why does he do this?
63. What causes the hens to rebel against Napoleon? What are the results of their efforts?
64. What mischief has Snowball supposedly been causing? Do you believe it's Snowball? Why or why not?
65. How do the animals feel about Snowball? How does Squealer respond?
66. What happens between four pigs, the dogs, and Boxer? What does it symbolize?
67. What happens to the four pigs, three hens, sheep, and other animals who admit to conspiring with Snowball? Do you think the animals are guilty of what they admitted to doing? How does this connect to real events in Russia?
68. How does Clover feel about Animal Farm?
69. What happens to the song "Beasts of England"? Why is this development important?
70. What is happening to Animal Farm? Whose fault is it?

Chapter 8

71. How did the animals feel about the killings or "purges"? What happens when they investigate the Sixth Commandment?
72. How has Napoleon's character changed throughout the book? How does he act? What special things does he do now?
73. What is the poem "Comrade Napoleon" about? How is it connected to the main ideas of Animal Farm?
74. How do the animals feel about Pilkington and Frederick? What about Napoleon?
75. What happens after Napoleon enters into a business negotiation with Frederick? How do you think this connects to real historical events?
76. Who attacks Animal Farm and why is it attacked?
77. What happens to the windmill? How do the animals respond?
78. Where was Squealer during the conflict? Do his actions surprise you? Why or why not?
79. What change occurs in Boxer's attitude in this chapter?

80. How do the animals celebrate the victory of the Battle of the Windmill? What about the pigs?

81. What happens with Squealer and the Commandments? Why is it an important event?

82. What do you predict will happen in the rest of the book?

Chapter 9

83. How does Boxer's wound affect his work?

84. What is the winter like for the animals?

85. How do the animals feel about Spontaneous Demonstration?

86. What happens to Boxer?

87. How does Squealer explain Boxer's disappearance?

88. How do the pigs get their whiskey?

Chapter 10

89. What is the farm like in chapter 10? What/who has changed? What/who has stayed the same?

90. How is the wealth distributed on Animal Farm? Is this consistent with your understanding of communism? How is it similar and how is it different?

91. How does Benjamin feel about life on the farm and life in general? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

92. How do you think Orwell felt about people who lived in Soviet Russia? What information can you find from the book to support your position?

93. Describe the pigs' actions in this chapter. What do they do that surprises the other animals? What do their actions symbolize?

94. Briefly paraphrase Mr. Pilkington's toast. How do you think it connects to real historical events? (Guesstimate for the second part of the question.)

95. What do you think Orwell is saying about Stalin and the Russian Revolution in this last chapter? Is the method he uses to comment on the situation effective? Why or why not?