

Fall 2008/ Spring 2009
Reading assignment for **English I Standard**
ANIMAL FARM by George Orwell

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* was published in 1945. It has been considered an outstanding political satire. It is written in the form of a fable, and the novel tells the events at Manor Farm prior to and following a revolution staged by the animals against their human owners. The themes explored in *Animal Farm* are philosophical questions raised by the social and political upheavals of the first half of the 20th Century. The early years of the twentieth century were marked by WWI and the Russian Revolution in 1917. Since the novel was published in 1945, it was written during the horrors of WWII.

Major characteristics of the novel: Barnyard animals revolt against the human master who exploits them and then they establish a society of their own.

Animal Farm is considered a satire - satire is a form of literature that uses ridicule to make certain people or events look foolish. Satire is written to bring about a change in society by this ridicule. Most satire includes elements of irony. Dramatic irony - dramatic irony occurs when the reader knows something that the characters do not know. Situational irony occurs when the unexpected happens, when what actually happens is different from what the reader expects will happen - a surprise.

Animal Farm is considered a fable - a brief, often humorous literary form that has a moral or a message. The characters in a fable are often animals who think and act like humans.

Animal Farm is considered an allegory. In an allegory the characters and events represent something or someone else. Many of the characters in *Animal Farm* can be seen as representing political leaders of the Russian Revolution. The pig Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin, who assumed power in Russia after Lenin's death.

With this in mind, read the novel and enjoy the story. Here are some study questions to help you stay focused on your reading. Complete this study guide, typed double spaced if possible. This assignment will be taken up the FIRST day of English class - no exceptions. We will have a test on the novel within the week and we will also complete a writing assignment that first week. Please try your best and get started in English with some good grades. Please do not copy someone else's answers that is considered cheating. Their answers will not help you on the test.

Good luck and have a great summer of reading.

MAJOR CHARACTERS:

Beside each name list 2-3 characteristics of each.

1. Old Major
2. Boxer
3. Clover
4. Muriel
5. Benjamin
6. Squealer
7. Snowball
8. Napoleon
9. Moses
10. Mollie

Chapter 1-2

1. Give the 4 main points of Old Major's speech.
2. What did he teach them at the end of his speech.
3. Who were the organizers of the animals?
4. What was Squealer's purpose?
5. Who were the two most faithful animals? Why?
6. What were the first 2 things the animals did after winning the revolution?
7. What was done with the farmhouse?
8. List all 7 of the original commandments.
9. What is done about the name of the farm?
10. What happened to the cow's milk?

Chapters 3-4

11. Which 3 animals were not overjoyed with the revolution?
12. Who is the animal most admired by the others? Why?
13. Snowball organized the animals into what?
14. Napoleon spent his time doing what?
15. Describe the animal's flag.
16. How did the news of the revolution spread to the other farms?
17. Tell about Mollie, snowball, and Boxer's actions during the "Battle of the Cowshed"
18. Which 3 animals got medals?

CHAPTERS 5-7

19. What became of Mollie?
20. What was the biggest debate between Napoleon and Snowball?
21. Describe what happened to Snowball.
22. What was Napoleon's explanation of the windmill not being built?
23. What was done with Old Major's skull?
24. Explain about the difficulty of the building of the windmill.
25. What were Boxer's 2 slogans?
26. What was Napoleon's new business policy?
27. How did Squealer explain about the pigs sleeping in beds and staying in the farmhouse?
28. What happened to the windmill?
29. How has the 4th commandment changed?

30. What did squealer tell the other animals about Snowball?
31. Describe the incident concerning the execution of the animals.
32. Why was the "Beast of England" abolished? (Give Squealer's reason and then give the REAL reason.)

Chapter 8-10

33. Explain about the changing of 2 more commandments.
34. What were some precautions taken to guard Napoleon's life?
35. Tell about Frederick's bank notes and the Battle of the Windmill.
36. What strange incident, involving Squealer, happened one night?
37. What were Boxer's 2 ambitions?
38. What were the retirement conditions for the various animals?
39. What finally happened to Boxer?
40. Of what were the animals most proud?
41. Name several ways that the pigs now resemble men.
42. What causes the uproar at the end of chapter 10?
43. What is the significance of the last line in the novel?

THEMES:

Consider these and write a paragraph about **one** of these as a possible theme.

1. Some government leaders wish to limit individual freedom.
2. Some people see themselves as powerless, thereby giving power to leaders who wish to control them.
3. It is important for people to have hope and vision for the future.

Project:

Do **one** of these:

1. Draw a cartoon or a cartoon strip depicting a character or event from Animal Farm.
2. Write a new report for the events in Chapter 2, which describes the Rebellion.
3. Write a news report of the events in Chapter 19 in which Animal Farm becomes Manor Farm again.
4. Write a speech that Squealer would deliver to the animals on the day after the final scene of the novel.