

Ms. Johnson

English 9

Animal Farm

Survival Guide

Name: _____

Block: _____

BACKGROUND

GEORGE ORWELL

George Orwell was the pen name of Eric Blair, a British political novelist and essayist... Born in 1903 to British colonists in Bengal, India, Orwell received his education at a series of private schools, including Eton, an elite school in England. His painful experiences with snobbishness and social elitism at Eton, as well as his intimate familiarity with the reality of British imperialism in India, made him deeply suspicious of the entrenched class system in English society. As a young man, Orwell became a socialist, speaking openly against the excesses of governments east and west...

Unlike many British socialists in the 1930s and 1940s, Orwell... did [not] consider the Soviet Union a positive representation of the possibilities of socialist society. He could not turn a blind eye to the cruelties and hypocrisies of Soviet Communist Party, which had overturned the semi-feudal system of the tsars only to replace it with the dictatorial reign of Joseph Stalin. Orwell became a sharp critic of both capitalism and communism, and is remembered chiefly as an advocate of freedom and a committed opponent of communist oppression. His two greatest anti-totalitarian novels—*Animal Farm* and *1984*—form the basis of his reputation. Orwell died in 1950, only a year after completing *1984*, which many consider his masterpiece.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Russian society in the early twentieth century was bipolar: a tiny minority controlled most of the country's wealth, while the vast majority of the country's inhabitants were impoverished and oppressed peasants. Communism arose in Russia when the nation's workers and peasants, assisted by a class of concerned intellectuals known as the intelligentsia, rebelled against and overwhelmed the wealthy and powerful class of capitalists and aristocrats. They hoped to establish a socialist utopia based on the principles of the German economic and political philosopher Karl Marx.

In the Russia of 1917, it appeared that Marx's dreams were to become reality. After a politically complicated civil war, Tsar Nicholas II, the monarch of Russia, was forced to abdicate the throne that his family had held for three centuries. Vladimir Ilych Lenin, a Russian intellectual revolutionary, seized power in the name of the Communist Party. The new regime took land and industry from private control and put them under government supervision. This centralization of economic systems constituted the first steps in restoring Russia to the prosperity it had known before World War I...

After Lenin died in 1924, Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky jockeyed for control of the newly formed Soviet Union. Trotsky was a popular and charismatic leader, famous for his impassioned speeches, while the taciturn Stalin preferred to consolidate his power behind the scenes... In the following years, Stalin succeeded in becoming the unquestioned dictator of the Soviet Union and had Trotsky expelled first from Moscow, then from the Communist Party, and finally from Russia altogether in 1936. Trotsky fled to Mexico, where he was assassinated on Stalin's orders in 1940.

In 1934, Stalin's ally Serge Kirov was assassinated in Leningrad, prompting Stalin to commence his infamous purges of the Communist Party. Holding "show trials"—trials whose outcomes he and his allies had already decided—Stalin had his opponents officially denounced as participants in Trotskyist or anti-Stalinist

conspiracies and therefore as “enemies of the people,” an appellation that guaranteed their immediate execution. As the Soviet government’s economic planning faltered and failed, Russia suffered under a surge of violence, fear, and starvation. Stalin used his former opponent as... a common national enemy and thus a source of negative unity. [Trotsky] was a frightening specter used to conjure horrifying eventualities, in comparison with which the current misery paled...

These and many other developments in Soviet history before 1945 have direct parallels in *Animal Farm*... [A]lthough *Animal Farm* was written as an attack on a specific government, its general themes of oppression, suffering, and injustice have far broader application; modern readers have come to see Orwell’s book as a powerful attack on any political, rhetorical, or military power that seeks to control human beings unjustly.

<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/animalfarm/context.html>

ANIMAL FARM IS A “FAIRY STORY”

George Orwell originally gave his novel the subtitle “A Fairy Story.” There are multiple reasons behind this label. The main characters are animals, giving the novel a magical appeal. The lesson of the story comes from the animals, which suggests a Aesop-style fable. These, however, are only surface level reasons for the subtitle. There is no other magic than talking animals, and there is no happily ever after. A deeper level reason is the absence of morality. In a fairy tales, girls are rewarded for beauty and punished for ugliness, and princes win the princesses in the end not through superior goodness but through luck. In *Animal Farm*, the hard working and obedient animals suffer, and the villains prosper. The purpose of *Animal Farm* is to reveal the “Soviet myth” (that the U. S. S. R. failed to achieve a Socialist state) in order to ultimately revive true Socialism (a utopian system in theory). In other words, Orwell gives readers a sad ending so that they may learn from it. The lesson is not in the moral of the story but in the moral missing from the story. Orwell is saying, “This is how life is (bad),” and if we listen and learn to see it for ourselves, perhaps we can change it.

ANTICIPATION ACTIVITY

Directions: Read the following statements. If you agree with the statement, write A on the line. If you disagree with the statement, write D on the line. Try to make a decision, but if you cannot choose, be prepared to explain why.

1. A perfect society is possible (no poverty, complete equality, etc.). _____
2. Humans take natural resources (animals, plants, etc.) for granted. _____
3. Different cultures are too different to ever truly live in peace. _____
4. The strongest and smartest people should naturally lead over others. _____
5. It is acceptable to kill under the right circumstances. _____
6. The wealthier you are, the more tax breaks you should get because you work really hard for that money. _____
7. A person should only receive aid if he/she contributes to society. _____
8. A person should receive however much aid he/she needs no matter how much he/she contributes to society. _____
9. People who are given power will only ever want more power. _____
10. I like owning private property (stuff that belongs to only me). _____
11. Communism and Socialism are the same thing. _____
12. A Communist government is the same thing as a dictatorship. _____

VOCABULARY

A = I know this word; B = I'm not quite sure what it means; C = I don't know this word

<u>Term</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Definition</u>
inscribe				
ration				
labor				
chaff				
gambol				
windfall				
cryptic				
maxim				
readjust				
reduce				
unalterable				
piebald				
resolution				
abolish				
shirk				
toil				
procure				
capitulate				
contrary				
spontaneous				

MAJOR EVENTS CHART

Use this chart to keep track of important events throughout the novel.

<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Who is involved?</u>	<u>Major events</u>
1	The barn	Old Major, listeners, Jones	Old Major's wisdom and dream; "Beasts of England"
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

CHARACTER CHART

Use this chart to keep track of the characters and their classifications. Make sure you read the definitions of the classifications first - these are important terms you will have to remember!

--The “Wild Card” space is for a character not list who stood out to you.

- **Protagonist** - main character; faces challenges and changes (mentally) throughout the story; “good guy”
- **Antagonist** - main character; opposes or “antagonizes” the protagonist; “bad guy”
- **Round** - character who is complicated and interesting
- **Flat** - character who is simple and underdeveloped
- **Dynamic** - character who grows emotionally and learns throughout the story
- **Static** - character who grows very little (or not at all)
- **Direct Characterization** - when the author/narrator directly (outright) tells the reader what a character is like
- **Indirect Characterization** - when the reader must determine what a character is like through action, dialogue, or the thoughts of other characters

Character	Napoleon	Snowball
Direct Characterization		
Indirect Characterization		
Protagonist/ Antagonist		
Round/ Flat		
Static/ Dynamic		
Character	Boxer	Benjamin
Direct Characterization		
Indirect Characterization		
Protagonist/ Antagonist		
Round/ Flat		
Static/ Dynamic		

Character	Clover	Mollie
Direct Characterization		
Indirect Characterization		
Protagonist/ Antagonist		
Round/ Flat		
Static/ Dynamic		
Character	Mr. Frederick	Mr. Pilkington
Direct Characterization		
Indirect Characterization		
Protagonist/ Antagonist		
Round/ Flat		
Static/ Dynamic		
Character	The Sheep	Old Major
Direct Characterization		
Indirect Characterization		
Protagonist/ Antagonist		
Round/ Flat		
Static/ Dynamic		

CHAPTER 1 QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of Mr. Jones' farm?
2. Who is Old Major, and what is his status on the farm?
3. Who are the other characters named as they come into the barn?
4. When all the animals gather in the barn, Old Major explains that he must pass on to them (1) wisdom and (2) a strange dream he had. Describe them.
5. List the rules Old Major describes (what animals must never do).

CHAPTER 1 ACTIVITY

“Utopia”

In *Animal Farm*, the song “Beasts of England” describes an animal utopia. The word “utopia” is derived from Greek words that literally translate to “no place.” In English, utopia is pronounced “eutopia,” which means “good place.” *Utopia* is a fictional/politically philosophical novel by Thomas More, which describes the political, religious, and social customs of a perfect society. Some of More’s critics argue that the the name of the novel suggests a society that is perfect but ultimately impossible.

A dystopia (“not-good place”) is the total opposite: an undesirable or even frightening society caused by a catastrophic decline in society. These fictional societies are popular in Science Fiction (futuristic), and the societal downfalls that lead to dystopias are caused by unattended problems with our current society (environment, politics, economics, ethics, religion, technology, etc.). Authors often insinuate that dystopias are often caused by societies that try to achieve utopias. Some very popular books you have read and movies you have seen are dystopian: *The Hunger Games*, *The Giver*, *Divergent*, *V for Vendetta*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *A Clockwork Orange*, and just about any story about zombies.

Be prepared to discuss the following questions:

1. Do you think it is possible to establish a utopian society? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think people today (even if this doesn’t include you) are so convinced that dystopias are more likely?
3. If you had the opportunity to create a utopia, what would you include in your society? List your top 3 aspects (political, religious, social customs...).

CHAPTER 2 QUESTIONS

1. Who “naturally” became the teachers/organizers of Old Major’s Rebellion?
2. Why is Mollie difficult to convince (two reasons)?
3. Describe Moses.
4. Who are the pigs’ “most faithful disciples” (two animals)?
5. Describe why and how the Rebellion takes place.
6. Once all the humans are gone, what is the first thing the animals do?
7. After exploring the farmhouse, what do the animals decide to do with it?
8. What do the pigs reveal they have done secretly over the past three months? Is this good, or does it go against Old Major’s advice? Explain.
9. What is the new name of the farm? Why is renaming it important?
10. What are the animals’ Seven Commandments?

CHAPTER 2 ACTIVITY

Socialism vs. Communism - The Basics

In a way, **communism** is an extreme form of **socialism**. Many countries have dominant socialist political parties but very few are truly communist. In fact, most countries - including staunch capitalist bastions like the U.S. and U.K. - have government programs that borrow from socialist principles. "**Socialism**" is sometimes used interchangeably with "**communism**" but the two philosophies have some stark differences. Most notably, while communism is a political system, socialism is primarily an economic system that can exist in various forms under a wide range of political systems.

Communism

- *From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.
(There has to be an overabundance of product before this can occur)
- *No private property at all.
- *No religion at all.
- *Class distinction eliminated.
- *Either collective "vote" or the state's leaders make all decisions.
- *Usually takes the form of totalitarianism (leaders control all)

Socialism

- *From each according to his ability, to each according to his contribution.
(You get back however much you are willing or able to put into the system)
- *Some private property (houses, clothes)
- *Freedom of religion (promotes secularism)
- *Class distinction diminished.
- *Mostly free choice (religion, jobs, marriage), but production decisions are made by state leaders.
- *Can coexist with other political systems; often leads to communism

*More info @ http://www.diffen.com/difference/Communism_vs_Socialism

Communism and Socialism sound great in theory, but we often mess them up in practice. Looking at the comparison above, pick out 3 details from each system, and explain why a community like ours might not like to change to that system.

Communism

Socialism

CHAPTER 3 QUESTIONS

1. Why do the pigs not do any physical labor?
2. Why are the animals happy despite having to work so hard for the harvest?
3. Describe Boxer - his actions and his motto.
4. What does Benjamin mean when he says, "Donkeys live a long time"?

What are Snowball's Animal Committees?

5. Some animals cannot memorize the Seven Commandments, so Snowball reduces it to a single maxim for them to remember. What is it?
6. What does Napoleon think is more important than Snowball's committees?
7. Why does Napoleon take the puppies from Bluebell and Jessie?
8. What has happened to the milk that disappeared in the previous chapter?
9. What role does Squealer serve? What job do you think he would have as a human?

CHAPTER 3 ACTIVITY

A Parody of the Soviet Flag



This is the flag of the Soviet Union. The hammer and sickle represent the unity of workers and peasants. The red field represents the blood spilt by workers in the fight for their freedom.



This is a representation of the flag of Animal Farm. Orwell does not give us a picture of what the flag should really look like, but it is difficult not to imagine this parallel.

What does the green field represent?

Snowball says the hoof and horn represent “the future Republic of the Animals” - what do you think he means? What do each specifically symbolize?

CHAPTER 4 QUESTIONS

1. Describe Jones' neighbors (names, personalities, attitude toward Animal Farm).
2. What encourages animals on other farms to behave rebelliously?
3. Who is in charge of defense operations? How does he know what to do?
4. Describe the battle step-by-step.
5. Why do the humans think the animals retreat? Why do they really retreat?
6. How does Snowball get wounded?
7. Who are awarded the military decoration of "Animal Hero, First Class," why?
8. Who is awarded the military decoration of "Animal Hero, Second Class," why?
9. What is the battle named? Why?
10. What two anniversaries are to be honored with shots from Jones' gun?

CHAPTER 5 QUESTIONS

1. Who leaves Animal Farm, and why?
2. How does Snowball gain support for his ideas? How does Napoleon gain support?
3. How does Napoleon challenge Snowball's ideas (at meetings and quietly in between)?
4. Describe Snowball's plan for the windmill. Describe Napoleon's objection.
5. All the animals pick sides about the windmill except Benjamin. What does he say about it?
6. How does Napoleon force Snowball out of power? How is Napoleon like Jones?
7. What new rules/procedures does Napoleon set down? What does he do with Major's skull?
8. What is Boxer's new motto?
9. What are the two catches in Napoleon's plans for the windmill?

CHAPTER 5 ACTIVITY

PRESENCE AND PUBLIC SPEAKING



In 1960, JFK and Nixon faced off in the first ever televised presidential debate. People listening on the radio were convinced that the debate was a draw, but TV viewers overwhelmingly favored JFK. This spoke volumes to the importance of presence in a viewed debate.

1. What does it take to be a good public speaker?
2. What is “presence,” and how does one achieve it?
3. Why do these matter in a debate?
4. How does Orwell compare Napoleon’s speaking skills to Snowball’s?

CHAPTER 6 QUESTIONS

1. What is the punishment for not taking part in the “voluntary” work?
2. What jobs go untended in order to focus on the windmill?
3. Which of Old Major’s original rules do the pigs break in order to get supplies (3 rules)?
4. What has happened to the Fourth Commandment? Why?
5. What has happened to the windmill? Whom does Napoleon blame?

CHAPTER 6 ACTIVITY

“Scapegoat”



“Scapegoat” comes from a biblical story in which a Jewish chief priest symbolically laid all the sins of his people onto a goat and sent it into the wilderness. Now, it is a term used for someone/something chosen as a convenient one to blame (Hitler blamed the Jews for poverty, Christianity blamed women for the existence of sin, and Stalin blamed Trotsky for undermining Soviet Russia).

1. Who is the scapegoat in *Animal Farm*?
2. Who is the chief priest (blamer)?
3. What does the blamer stand to gain by blaming the scapegoat?

CHAPTER 7 QUESTIONS

1. How does Napoleon fool the humans about what is happening on Animal Farm?
2. What deal does Napoleon make to get grain for the animals? How does this go against Old Major's original ideas? How does the chickens' protest end?
3. What does Squealer claim to have happened to Snowball, and what is his plan?
4. How does Squealer change the story of the Battle of the Cowshed?
5. List the "traitors" who confess. What happens to them all?
6. What realization does Clover come to that she is unable to put into words?
7. Why is the song *Beasts of England* abolished? Is it a valid reason? Explain.
8. How is the new song different from the original?

CHAPTER 7 ACTIVITY

“Clover’s Picture”

Directions: At the end of Chapter 7, Clover realizes that Animal Farm has not become what they had hoped, and she sings “Beasts of England” in mourning. Then the pigs inform the others that a new song has replaced “Beasts of England.” Draw two pictures: (1) the ideal farm Clover imagines and (2) the farm the new song represents.

“Beasts of England”

New Song

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CHAPTER 8 QUESTIONS

1. What has happened to the Sixth Commandment?
2. Why does Squealer read “figures” to the animals?
3. Describe how Napoleon has changed - how he appears and how the animals speak of him.
4. Describe Napoleon’s “complicated negotiations” with Frederick and Pilkington.
5. What rumors spread about Snowball’s plots? How has the story of the Battle of the Cowshed changed further?
6. Why does Napoleon pretend to favor Pilkington and then choose to trade with Frederick? What does Mr. Whymper reveal about their deal?
7. Describe the Battle of the Windmill. Was it really a victory? Explain.
8. What happens to Napoleon when the pigs find whiskey in the cellar?
9. What was Squealer doing at midnight that only Benjamin understands?

CHAPTER 9 QUESTIONS

1. What do the pigs do with the field that was supposed to be for retired animals?
2. Food rations are reduced again for everyone except... (2 groups)?
3. Compare the luxuries of the pigs to the hardships of the other animals (list).
4. Describe Napoleon's "Spontaneous Demonstrations."
5. What new title does Napoleon take on? How? Is this what Old Major intended?
6. How has the story of the Battle of the Cowshed changed even more?
7. Who returns to the farm, and how do the pigs treat him? What does this mean?
8. What happens to Boxer? How does Benjamin react - why is this a big deal? What lie does Squealer tell the others?
9. What do the pigs do in honor of Boxer (what rumor spreads about the banquet)?

CHAPTER 9 ACTIVITY

The Cycles of Animal Farm

Directions: Use the image below to show the progress of a theme in *Animal Farm*. Pick one of the following items, or think of your own, and use specific examples to explain how the situation changes throughout the novel.

Equality

Health

Leadership of the farm

Safety

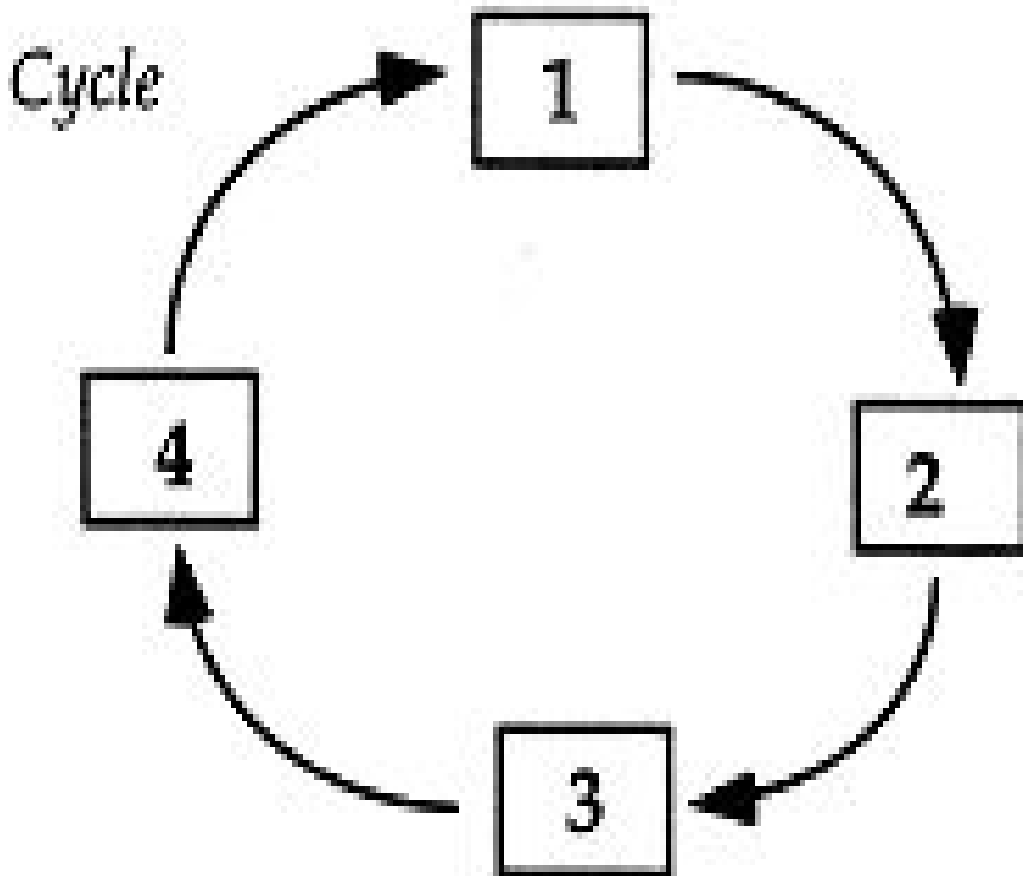
Relationships with humans

Work done on the farm

Happiness

The Seven Commandments

Hope of an animal utopia



CHAPTER 10 QUESTIONS

1. Years have passed, and no one remembers the old days (pre-rebellion) except...
2. How has Animal Farm acquired many new animals? What does this mean?
3. Napoleon says true happiness is “working hard and living frugally.” Explain.
4. Explain the author’s statement, “Somehow it seemed as though the farm had grown richer without making the animals themselves any richer.”
5. What does Benjamin claim to be the “unalterable law of life” for animals?
6. What hope do many of the animals still have, and how do they express it?
7. What is the new maxim the sheep chant?
8. What is the new single Commandment?
9. List ways in which the pigs have changed (behavior).
10. List the things Napoleon says in his speech that contradict his old ideas (6).

