

Knowledge Organiser— ANIMAL FARM Year 8



Events Time Line

Chapter 1: After drunken farmer Mr Jones goes to bed, the ancient pig Old Major delivers a speech to all of the animals in the barn. They must get rid of humans and live equally. He teaches them a song, Beasts of England. This wakes up Mr Jones, who fires his shotgun into the darkness.

Chapter 2: Old major dies. The animals, especially the pigs, begin to plan for the revolution. One day, when drunken Mr Jones forgets to feed them, the animals break into the store-shed. Jones and his men are chased from the farm. Snowball paints the Seven Commandments of Animalism on the barn. The milk and apples are stolen.

Chapter 3: The animals work hard to bring in the harvest. Boxer is particularly impressive. The pigs become supervisors of the other animals. Snowball tries to educate the animals, but largely fails. Napoleon concentrates upon educating the young puppies away from their mother. Squealer explains the disappearance of the milk and apples, needed by the pigs.

Chapter 4: Mr Jones and a group of men try to take back the farm by force. Snowball leads the animals into a brilliant defence and fights them off.

Chapter 5: Mollie, the vain pony, leaves the farm looking for treats from humans. The pigs continue to take control of the farm—especially Napoleon and Snowball, who constantly argue. Snowball wants to build a windmill to bring power to the farm; Napoleon disagrees. At a vote on the windmill, Napoleon's dogs chase Snowball from the farm, never to be seen again. Napoleon ends debates and voting. He also uses Squealer to explain that the windmill was his idea all alone.

Chapter 6: The animals work harder than ever — especially Boxer, helping build the windmill. Napoleon announces that the farm will now deal with Mr Whymper, a human. The pigs also move into the farmhouse and begin to sleep in beds. A storm makes the poorly designed windmill fall down; Napoleon says that Snowball knocked it down.

Chapter 7: Napoleon forces the hens to give their eggs to Mr Whymper for sale. Snowball is used as an excuse for everything which goes wrong on the

farm. Napoleon forces confessions out of any animals who questioned him. They are all slaughtered by his dogs.

Chapter 8: The animals work harder and harder. Napoleon grows in power and is seen less often. Napoleon is tricked by a local farmer, Mr Frederick, into selling timber. Frederick then attacks the farm. The animals fight off the men but some are killed and Boxer is injured. Napoleon and the pigs get drunk on some of Mr Jones' whisky.

Chapter 9: The pigs take more and more control while the other animals work harder and harder. Boxer collapses. As he is taken away in a cart, Benjamin realises that it is the knackers' cart taking him to his death, not the vet. Boxer is never seen again—though Squealer claims he died at the vet's, praising Napoleon. The pigs use the money from Boxer to buy more whisky.

Chapter 10: Years pass and many of the original animals have died. The pigs begin to walk on two legs and Napoleon carries a hip. When local human farmers come to the farm, the animals can no longer tell them apart from the pigs. They have become identical.

Some Key Themes

power

greed

control

betrayal

gullibility

propaganda and lies

violence

Key Characters



MR JONES



OLD MAJOR



MOSES



SNOWBALL



NAPOLEON



SQUEALER



BOXER



MOLLIE

Some Context

Mr Jones	Tsar Nicholas I, ruler of Russia
Old Major, inventor of Animalism	Karl Marx, inventor of Communism
Snowball	Trotsky, rival in power to Stalin; exiled and assassinated
Napoleon	Stalin, all-powerful dictator of Soviet Russia
Squealer	Stalin's propaganda team
the dogs	Stalin's secret police
Boxer	the betrayed working class of Russia
Moses	the Russian Church
the Sheep	mindless followers of Stalin

Some Key Techniques

- **foreshadowing:** when an event or detail hints to a future event or detail; eg pigs steal milk and apples ⇒ pigs take over farm.
- **irony:** when a deeper, real layer of importance is revealed not by the words themselves but the situation; eg Benjamin does not help other animals read; only he can see the cart is from the knackers.
- **dramatic irony:** when the reader understands more than the characters in the book; eg the animals' ignorance that Squealer is adding to the Commandments.
- **narrative voice:** the perspective of the person telling the story; eg why does the narrator not show emotions or outrage at the events?
- **genre:** the type of story; eg Animal Farm is like a fable, though Orwell calls it "a fairy story". Why?
- **allegory:** a story which symbolises something else; eg Animal Farm is an allegory of Russian politics.

Some Useful Words

- **dictator:** a ruler with absolute power
- **tyrant:** a ruler who uses their power unjustly and unfairly
- **authoritarian:** a system of politics which demands total obedience from the people, total power for the rulers
- **indoctrination:** a process of education which brain-washes its victims
- **utopia:** an ideal, perfect place
- **credulous:** gullible; too easily fooled

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Plot Questions

Chapter 1	<input type="radio"/> Which animals push to the front? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Name two things which, according to Old Major, make humans evil:
Chapter 2	<input type="radio"/> What do the animals notice has been stolen by the end of the chapter? <input checked="" type="radio"/> After the Revolution, what skill do the pigs “reveal” which puts them in charge?
Chapter 3	<input type="radio"/> Which pigs tries to organise the animals to learn to read? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What does Napoleon do <i>instead</i> of taking an interest in Snowball’s committees?
Chapter 4	<input type="radio"/> Who cleverly organises the defence of the farm? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who coldly declares that there can be “no sentimentality” when using violence?
Chapter 5	<input type="radio"/> Which animals does Napoleon use to take control? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Napoleon’s first decision, once is power, is to cancel something: what?
Chapter 6	<input type="radio"/> Who says “Napoleon is <i>always</i> right”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Name two things done by Napoleon which go against Old Major’s vision of how things should be done:
Chapter 7	<input type="radio"/> Which character is blamed for virtually everything which goes wrong? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What is Squealer’s reason for “Beasts of England” being banned?
Chapter 8	<input type="radio"/> Which is destroyed on the farm? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which animal receives a bad leg wound in the battle?
Chapter 9	<input type="radio"/> Where are the animals <i>told</i> Boxer is being taken? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which character, full of fantasies to allow the animals to dream, is allowed to return to the farm?
Chapter 10	<input type="radio"/> What cruel and powerful object does Napoleon begin to carry? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which intelligent animal, for the first time, agrees to use his skills to read publicly to the other animals?

Character Questions

<input type="radio"/> What is the name of the cruel farmer? <input type="radio"/> What is the name of Boxer’s female partner? <input type="radio"/> Which animals does Napoleon take away from their mother? <input type="radio"/> Which animal runs away from the farm because she misses luxuries? <input type="radio"/> Which character is in charge of propaganda for Napoleon? <input type="radio"/> What is the name of the bird who spreads lies about a magical “Sugarcandy Mountain” for the animals when they die? <input type="radio"/> Where is Boxer <i>actually</i> taken in Chapter 9?
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which single character best represents the hard working, poorly educated, over-trusting workers of Russia? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which animals represent the utterly foolish members of society, repeating what they hear without actually thinking about it? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which animals represent both: victims of indoctrination? violent secret police? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which character is full of plans and ideas—but lacks the political cunning to stay in power? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which character refuses to engage with what happens on the farm as he feels life will always be terrible whatever happens? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which character leaves the farm—but is allowed back by the pigs because his message of an other-worldly paradise helps the pigs keep the animals satisfied with their horrible lives?

Ideas Questions

<input type="radio"/> Which character matches the definition of a tyrant ? Boxer Snowball Benjamin Napoleon
<input type="radio"/> Which character could be described as gullible ? Boxer Squealer Mr Whymper Napoleon
<input type="radio"/> Which character creates propaganda ? Boxer Snowball Squealer Napoleon
<input type="radio"/> Which character introduces the idea of a utopia ? Boxer Old Major Squealer Napoleon
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which character is too cynical to challenge events? Boxer Clover Benjamin Napoleon
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which characters are used to intimidate and coerce ? hens dogs horses sheep
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which character comes to grief by being too credulous ? Boxer Squealer Mr Whymper Napoleon
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which character is most authoritarian ? Moses Benjamin Napoleon Mollie

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Plot Questions

At which point do you feel things first start to go wrong?

Explain:

Which part of the novel was the last point that the animals could have stopped Napoleon from taking over?

Explain:

Which part of the novel is the most upsetting?

Explain:

Character Questions

What makes Napoleon a more successful leader than Snowball?

Explain:

Apart from Napoleon, who do you most blame for things going so badly on the farm?

Explain:

Would Snowball have made a better or worse leader than Napoleon if he had won the vote and stayed on the farm?

Explain:

Which person in the news do you feel most links to Animal Farm today?

Explain:

Ideas Questions

Which is the novel's most important theme?

Explain:

Which is the novel's most important message?

Explain:

What is the best word to sum up the ideas of the novel as a whole?

Explain:

