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**Guided Reading Questions**

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Teacher\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Animal Farm Pre-Reading Questions**

*****Directions: Please answer the questions below.*

1. Life in Australia would be perfect if everyone were totally equal. Do you agree or disagree with this statement, and why? Be specific.
2. Life in the Australia would be perfect if…\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Fill in the blank.)
3. What problems can you foresee that might arise in a society with enforced “equality for all”? How would you handle those problems?
4. Do you believe that total equality is possible, or would human nature assure that some people would eventually dominate others? Why do you think so?
5. What freedoms do we take for granted in the Australia?
6. What freedoms would you be willing to give up to improve society as a whole?
7. ![C:\Documents and Settings\kslattery\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\ZVKA8ARB\MC900192277[1].wmf]()What makes a successful nation/society?

**Literary Elements**

**Define the literary elements, and then describe their connection to the novel.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Literary Element** | **Definition** | **Examples** |
| Fable |  |  |
| Allegory |  |  |
| Caricature |  |  |
| Microcosm |  |  |
| Parody |  |  |
| Satire |  |  |
| Irony |  |  |

***Animal Farm* Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Guided Reading Questions: Ch. 1-4**

**Did You Know?**

Many of the ideals behind the Soviet revolution were based on the writings and teachings of Karl Marx. A German intellectual who lived in the mid-1800s, Marx believed that societies are divided into two segments, a working class and an owner class. The working class creates all the products, while the owner class enjoys all the benefits of these products. This class division leads to inequality and oppression of the working class. Marx’s objective was to create a classless society in which the work is shared by all for the benefit of all, and he believed revolution was the way to achieve this goal.

In leading workers toward revolution, Marx used slogans like “From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs.” He also urged people to give up their religion, which he believed gave them false hope for a better life in heaven. The character of Old Major in *Animal Farm* is sometimes interpreted as a representation of Karl Marx. Major’s speech in the novel’s opening chapter reflects many Marxist ideas, from the opening “Comrades,” a typical form of address in the former Soviet Union, to the revolutionary song he teaches the other animals.

**Character Types**

A **fable** is a narration intended to enforce a useful truth. Fables have two important characteristics. First, they teach a moral or lesson. In *Animal Farm*, the moral involves Orwell’s views about Soviet politics. Second, the characters are most frequently animals. These animal characters often function as a satiric device to point out the follies of humankind. Though Old Major, Snowball, and Napoleon may represent Karl Marx, Leon Trotsky, and Joseph Stalin, many of the story characters are much more general. Some animals are grouped together as a single character—“the sheep,” “the hens,” and “the dogs.” Orwell also capitalizes on the traits generally associated with particular animals, such as sheep as followers and dogs as loyal.

**Reading Check and Study Guide Questions**

1. What's the name of the farm at the beginning of the story? Who was the farmer?
2. When Orwell describes how the animals enter the room for Old Major’s speech and where they sit, what are some details that give us insight into the different animal’s personality and their status on the farm?
3. According to Old Major, what is the cause of all the animal’s problems? Why and what reasons does he give?
4. What motto does Old Major give the animals?
5. How is Old Major’s speech motivational? Why does it appeal to the animals?
6. What commands does Old Major give the animals in regards to human behavior? Why might these each of these things be considered bad?
7. After Major’s death, what happens to the idea of rebelling against man?
8. What was Boxer's personal motto?
9. What did the pigs use as their headquarters?
10. What name do the animals give to the revolutionary philosophy?
11. List the 7 Commandments. What are they based on?
12. What single sentence did Snowball reduce the 7 Commandments to?
13. What two farms were beside Animal Farm? Who were the owners of these farms and why were they upset about the animal rebellion?
14. What book did Snowball study in preparing the farm's defenses?
15. What causes the animals to finally rebel against Mr. Jones and his farmhands? How does it take place?
16. What is Snowball’s part in the Battle of Cowshed? Where is Napoleon during the battle?
17. What did the battle become known as? Who was killed in battle?
18. What do the animals do after the humans have been chased from the farm? In particular, what do the they do in regards to the farmhouse?
19. What is the first sign of the pig’s corruption?
20. Who is Benjamin’s best friend?
21. What animals were sent out to tell other animals about the rebellion?
22. Why don’t the pigs like Moses’ stories about Sugarcandy Mountain?
23. How might the behavior of the pigs foreshadow their eventual leadership positions?
24. How do the pigs gain the rights to the cow’s milk? Why do the animals allow this to occur?
25. What are Napoleon’s ideas about education?
26. How is Squealer able to convince the other animals to accept whatever Napoleon says?
27. In your opinion, which of the three pigs does Orwell characterize as the strongest leader? Which does he characterize as the “best” leader? If there is a difference, explain.

***Animal Farm* Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Guided Reading Questions: Ch. 5-7**

**Did You Know?**

*One of Orwell’s concerns about the Soviet state was that it used language to distort historical events. After Stalin bullied Leon Trotsky out of the country, he systematically removed any trace of Trotsky from Soviet history—took him out of photographs, censored his papers, and so on. He also used Pravda, his news agency, to control the information people received. In Chapters 5 through 7, Orwell repeatedly calls readers’ attention to both Napoleon’s manipulation of information and the animals’ willingness to believe him.*

**Power Struggle**

*In Chapters 5 through 7, the battle for power between Snowball and Napoleon comes to its climax. In Soviet history, a similar battle raged between two very different men, Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin. Stalin exercised power through regulations and rules. As its leader, he controlled the Communist Party bureaucracy. Trotsky had proven himself a masterful military strategist and inspirational leader during the Russian Civil War. He wanted to limit government power. The two also disagreed about how to industrialize and whether to focus on Soviet or worldwide socialism. Stalin took control in 1925—control he kept largely through tactics of terror.*

**Reading Check and Study Guide Questions**

1. What did Snowball want to build?
2. What happened to Jessie and Bluebell's puppies?
3. What happened to Snowball?
4. What did Napoleon announce would come to an end?
5. Who was hired to handle the affairs of Animal Farm?
6. What did Napoleon offer for the capture of Snowball?
7. How did the animals attempt to fool Mr. Whymper?
8. What reason(s) did the pigs give for moving into the house?
9. Which animals were the first killed by Napoleon?
10. Why does Mollie run away from the farm?
11. What changes have been made in the weekly meetings?
12. What changes does Napoleon make after Snowball disappears?
13. Why don’t the other animals protest Napoleon’s decisions?
14. How does Squealer justify Napoleon’s take-over to the others?
15. What is the importance of the dogs accompanying Squealer when he talks to the animals?
16. How much work are the animals doing now compared to the beginning?
17. What is Boxer’s new maxim?
18. Why does Napoleon decide to engage in trade with other farms? How do the animals react?
19. How is the windmill destroyed and why does Napoleon insist it is rebuilt immediately?Who does Napoleon blame?
20. Why odes Napoleon order that the hens’ eggs are sold? How does he react when the hens rebel?
21. Why does Napoleon revive the threat of the farm being sabotaged by Snowball?
22. Explain why the animals confessed to being traitors.
23. Why does Napoleon order the animals to stop singing “Beasts if England”?

***Animal Farm* Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Guided Reading Questions: Ch. 8-10**

**Did You Know?**

*Orwell pokes fun at the animals’ revolution throughout the novel by revealing to readers information that the characters do not know or acknowledge. This is called using* ***irony****. Though Animal Farm is narrated from the point of view of the lower animals, who appear to grasp very little of the power struggles and political jostling, readers can clearly sense Orwell’s commentary on the events. In the final chapters, Orwell’s heightened use of irony brings the story to a dramatic and unsettling conclusion that clearly spells out the author’s concerns about Soviet socialism.*

**Allies and Enemies**

*Napoleon wants the farm to have greater contact with the outside world. Joseph Stalin had similar visions for the Soviet Union. During the 1930s, he was torn between allying himself with Western capitalist nations or with Adolf Hitler’s fascist German government. The Soviet propaganda machine defiled each “enemy” in turn as Stalin shifted allegiances. In 1939 Stalin pledged himself to Hitler by signing a “nonaggression pact.” Hitler broke his promise and invaded the Soviet Union in 1941. The Soviets then became allies with the West. At first, Hitler had great success against Stalin’s less modern armies. Ultimately, the Soviet army turned the tide with the Battle of Stalingrad, though the city was nearly destroyed and thousands of Soviets killed.*

**Reading Check and Study Guide Questions**

1. What titles did the pigs invent for Napoleon? How else has he set himself apart from the other animals?
2. What purpose is served by the production figures Squealer reads to the animals?
3. How is Napoleon becoming more and more like a typical dictator?
4. Compare/contrast “Comrade Napoleon” to “Beasts of England”
5. How did Frederick cheat Napoleon?
6. Why did the animals attack Frederick and his men?
7. Why is the battle against Frederick and his mean different than the Battle of Cowshed?
8. Why do the men blow up the windmill?
9. Although the animals claim victory, what is the cost of that victory?
10. Why does Napoleon think he is dying? Why might Orwell make this incident somewhat humorous?
11. What are the living conditions like for all of the animals except the pigs and the dogs?
12. What special treatment do the pigs and piglets get?
13. How did Boxer get hurt? What ultimately happens to him?
14. What did Squealer announce to the animals concerning Boxer's death? How do the animals accept it?
15. Why are the animals so easily fooled, even when they find Squealer with a ladder and white paint by the barn?
16. Why does Napoleon allow Moses to return and tell his stories about Sugarcandy Mountain?
17. Who were the only animals to remember the old days with Mr. Jones?
18. What changes have the years brought to the farm? At the conference with the neighboring farmers, what new changes does Napoleon point out?
19. All seven commandments have been erased. What is the new commandment?
20. Who made a toast to the Animal Farm near the end of the novel?
21. What did Napoleon announce would be the new name of Animal Farm?
22. What was the source of the violent quarrel between Mr. Pilkington and Napoleon?