

Animal Farm – Knowledge Organiser

Plot summary

1 Old Major's speech - Mr Jones, the owner of Manor Farm falls asleep in a drunken stupor. All the animals of Manor Farm meet in the big barn where *Old Major* delivers a speech arguing for a rebellion against the men. The Animals sing 'Beasts of England', a song from Old Major's dream.

2 The rebellion - *Old Major dies and the pigs adapt his speech, forming the principles of Animalism. The pigs plan the rebellion even though some animals (like Mollie) are concerned. The rebellion happens faster than expected after Mr. Jones forgets to feed the animals. The animals of Mr. Jones house and leave it as a museum. Napoleon steals milk.*

3 The pigs emerge as leaders - The animals complete the harvest faster than ever. Snowball sets up the Sunday assemblies where Napoleon and Snowball often argue. Snowball's committees fail, yet he is able to bring literacy to the animals with minor success. Napoleon teaches the sheep 'four legs good two legs bad' and takes the dogs for 'education'. Cow's milk and windfall apples are given to pigs, Squealer convinces the animals that this is a good idea.

4 Battle of the Cowshed - News of the rebellion spreads, Frederick, Jones and Pilkington complain about Animal Farm's success. In October, a group of men try to seize the farm. Led by Snowball's brilliance, the animals repel the attack, which is names 'The Battle of the Cowshed'.

5 Snowball's expulsion - Mollie deserts the farm. The pigs grow in influence, suggesting ideas on which the animals must vote. Snowball and Napoleon continue to disagree, especially over the construction of a windmill. When the Windmill is put to vote, Snowball is expelled from animal farm. Later, Napoleon announces that the Windmill will be built.

6 Building the windmill - The animals work harder than ever, Boxer proves himself to be an inspiration. Napoleon begins trading with humans and hires Mr Whymper. Jones gives up trying to reclaim the farm. The animals begin sleeping with beds, and Muriel and Clover notice a change in the commandments 'with sheets'. Squealer persuades the animals that this is acceptable. In November, a storm topples the half complete windmill. Napoleon blames this on Snowball.

7 Rebuilding the windmill and the executions - The animals struggle against starvation. After learning that they must sacrifice their eggs, the hens stage a demonstration. Napoleon denies their rations and 9 hens starve as a result. The animals are led to believe Snowball has been returning to the farm – his role at the battle of the Cowshed is adapted by Squealer. In spring, Napoleon calls a meeting and several 'traitors', who confess to being in league with Snowball, are executed, including protesting hens and pigs. *Beasts of England* is outlawed.

8 Trading with humans and the destruction of the windmill - Clover and Benjamin notice a change in the commandments: 'killing without cause'. The next year brings more work and less food, despite Squealer's figures and statistics to the contrary. More executions occur. Napoleon's is seen in public less often. Napoleon trades Frederick and Pilkington off against each other, and sells a pile of timber to Frederick, who tricks Napoleon with forged banknotes. Napoleon pronounces the death sentence on him. Frederick, with 14 other men, attack the farm and blow up the windmill, which rallies the animals to fight back. Several animals die, Boxer is injured but Squealer convinces the animals of their victory. The pigs find a crate of whiskey, Napoleon fears he is dying and proclaims that drinking alcohol is punishable by death. He then recovers and orders the retirement paddock to be planted with barley.

9 Boxer's fate - Once again, the animals are faced with rebuilding the windmill. 31 pigs are born, and Napoleon orders for a schoolhouse to be built for their education. Rations are yet again reduced. Animal Farm is proclaimed a republic with Napoleon as president. Boxer is injured working and Napoleon sends for a vet. A van arrives, Boxer is taken away but Benjamin reads the its side and learns that Boxer is being slaughtered. Squealer manages to convince the animals otherwise. Boxer is never seen again.

10 Pigs and humans come together - Years pass. Muriel, Jessie, Pincher are dead. Clover is 14. No animal has ever retired. The farm has grown in size and population. Two windmills are complete. Clover notices the pigs walk on two legs. The commandments are deleted and replaced with "All animals are equal but some are more equal than others." The pigs start carrying whips and wearing Mr Jones' clothes. In the final scene, human farmers visit the farm and meet the other pigs. Toasts are exchanged and Napoleon changes the farm's name back to Manor farm. The pigs and humans play cards. A quarrel brakes out. On looking animals can not discriminate between pigs and humans.

Key characters	Key themes	Context	Key vocabulary
<p>Mr Jones - Drunken owner of Animal Farm. Embodies the tyranny of man</p> <p>Mr Pilkington - Owner of Foxwood. Sells land to Napoleon and praises his methods.</p> <p>Mr Frederick - Cutthroat businessmen. Trades with & manipulates Napoleon</p> <p>Mr Whymper - Sly, greedy and self interested. Solicitor who aids Napoleon's tyranny</p> <p>Moses - Tamed raven of Jones. Spreads the idea of Sugarcandy Mountain</p> <p>Snowball - Devoted to animalism and the education of lesser animals. Hero at the battle of the cowshed.</p> <p>Squealer - Mouthpiece of Napoleon. Uses propaganda to control the animals.</p> <p>Boxer - Devoted citizen and immensely strong. Innocent and naïve.</p> <p>Clover - Maternal, caring and loyal. Senses hypocrisy but cannot articulate it.</p> <p>Mollie - Shallow and childish. Craves ribbons and sugar. Deserts the farm</p> <p>Benjamin - Stubborn, cynical & apathetic. Only stirred to passion by Boxer's removal</p> <p>Napoleon - Expels Snowball. Executes animals. Establishes himself as dictator. Controls with fear. Becomes Jones.</p> <p>Old Major - Wise, old pig. Inspires the rebellion with his rhetoric.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership and Corruption Control over the intellectually inferior Lies and deceit Foolishness and naivety Violence Pride and Ceremony Dreams, hopes and future plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An allegorical tale with direct links to the history of the Soviet Union in the early 20th century. The book charts the corruptions of Communist ideals of equality, where workers are promised equality and freedom and are eventually repressed and treated as bad, if not worse, as under the previous rule of the capitalist 'Tsar'. Old Major represents Karl Marx, putting forward the communist ideals which will free them from the tyranny of capitalism (represented by Jones). Snowball represents Trotsky, a passionate component of Animalism (Communism) who is expelled by Napoleon (Stalin). Napoleon follows a similar rise to power as Stalin, using fear and propaganda to control the masses, including show trials and executions. By the end of the novel, the ideals of communism have been so far abused and forgotten, that Napoleon meets and forms agreements with former oppressors. 	<p>Abundance</p> <p>Advocated</p> <p>Canvassing</p> <p>ceremonial</p> <p>Comrade</p> <p>Dejectedly</p> <p>Denounced</p> <p>eloquence</p> <p>emboldened</p> <p>expulsion</p> <p>Liberty</p> <p>Maxim</p> <p>Negotiations</p> <p>Posthumously</p> <p>Precautions</p> <p>Presided</p> <p>Principle</p> <p>Procession</p> <p>Procured</p> <p>Prophecy</p> <p>Readjustment</p> <p>Recitation</p> <p>Seclusion</p> <p>Sentimentality</p> <p>Stupefied</p> <p>Superintended</p> <p>Suppressed</p> <p>Surmounted</p> <p>Treachery</p> <p>Unanimously</p>

Key quotations (Chapter.paragraph)

- Mr. Jones, of the Manor Farm, had locked the hen-houses for the night, but was too drunk to remember to shut the pop-holes. With the ring of light from his lantern dancing from side to side, he lurched across the yard, kicked off his boots at the back door, drew himself a last glass of beer from the barrel in the scullery, and made his way up to bed, where Mrs. Jones was already snoring. (1.1)
- Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland, Beasts of every land and clime, Harken to my joyful tidings Of the golden future time. (1.19)
- These three had elaborated Old Major's teachings into a complete system of thought, to which they gave the name of Animalism. Several nights a week, after Mr. Jones was asleep, they held secret meetings in the barn and expounded the principles of Animalism to the others. (2.3)
- "Now, comrades," cried Snowball, throwing down the paint-brush, "to the hayfield! Let us make it a point of honour to get in the harvest more quickly than Jones and his men could do." (2.24)
- The pigs did not actually work, but directed and supervised the others. With their superior knowledge it was natural that they should assume the leadership (3.2)
- The birds did not understand Snowball's long words, but they accepted his explanation, and all the humbler animals set to work to learn the new maxim by heart. FOUR LEGS GOOD, TWO LEGS BAD, was inscribed on the end wall of the barn, above the Seven Commandments and in bigger letters (3.10-11)
- Mollie refused to learn any but the six letters which spelt her own name. She would form these very neatly out of pieces of twig, and would then decorate them with a flower or two and walk round them admiring them. (3.8)
- "He is dead," said Boxer sorrowfully. "I had no intention of doing that. I forgot that I was wearing iron shoes. Who will believe that I did not do this on purpose?" (4.10)
- At the Meetings Snowball often won over the majority by his brilliant speeches, but Napoleon was better at canvassing support for himself in between times. He was especially successful with the sheep. Of late the sheep had taken to bleating "Four legs good, two legs bad" both in and out of season, and they often interrupted the Meeting with this. It was noticed that they were especially liable to break into "Four legs good, two legs bad" at crucial moments in Snowball's speeches. (5.8)
- Benjamin was the only animal who did not side with either faction. He refused to believe either that food would become more plentiful or that the windmill would save work. Windmill or no windmill, he said, life would go on as it had always gone on— that is, badly. (5.11)
- Throughout the spring and summer they worked a sixty-hour week, and in August Napoleon announced that there would be work on Sunday afternoons as well. This work was strictly voluntary, but any animal who absented himself from it would have his rations reduced by half. (6.2)
- Now when Squealer described the scene so graphically, it seemed to the animals that they did remember it. At any rate, they remembered that at the critical moment of the battle Snowball had turned to flee. (7.18)
- When they had finished their confession, the dogs promptly tore their throats out, and in a terrible voice Napoleon demanded whether any other animal had anything to confess. (7.25)
- I do not understand it. I would not have believed that such things could happen on our farm. It must be due to some fault in ourselves. The solution, as I see it, is to work harder. From now onwards I shall get up a full hour earlier in the mornings. (7.28)
- They had just finished singing it for the third time when Squealer, attended by two dogs, approached them with the air of having something important to say. He announced that, by a special decree of Comrade Napoleon, "Beasts of England" had been abolished. From now onwards it was forbidden to sing it. (7.32)
- "Impossible!" cried Napoleon. "We have built the walls far too thick for that. They could not knock it down in a week. Courage, comrades!" (8.19)
- In April, Animal Farm was proclaimed a Republic, and it became necessary to elect a President. There was only one candidate, Napoleon, who was elected unanimously. (9.7)
- "Fools! Fools!" shouted Benjamin, prancing round them and stamping the earth with his small hoofs. "Fools! Do you not see what is written on the side of that van?" (9.19)
- But the luxuries of which Snowball had once taught the animals to dream, the stalls with electric light and hot and cold water, and the three-day week, were no longer talked about. Napoleon had denounced such ideas as contrary to the spirit of Animalism. The truest happiness, he said, lay in working hard and living frugally. (10.4)
- It was a pig walking on his hind legs. (10.10)
- But just at that moment, as though at a signal, all the sheep burst out into a tremendous bleating of- "Four legs good, two legs better! Four legs good, two legs better! Four legs good, two legs better!" It went on for five minutes without stopping. And by the time the sheep had quieted down, the chance to utter any protest had passed, for the pigs had marched back into the farmhouse. (10.13-15)
- "Gentlemen," concluded Napoleon, "I will give you the same toast as before, but in a different form. Fill your glasses to the brim. Gentlemen, here is my toast: To the prosperity of The Manor Farm! " (10.32)
- Twelve voices were shouting in anger, and they were all alike. No question, now, what had happened to the faces of the pigs. The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which. (10.35)