

ENGLISH IV – COLLEGE PREP/HONORS

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2022

Dear English IV College Prep/Honors Students,

Welcome to a brand new year. At Carroll, we are looking forward to a wonderful and challenging year for all of you. As part of your preparation for next year, you are assigned to read one novel listed below. This thought-provoking novel and the related assignment will provide you with the necessary practice to sharpen and maintain your critical reading skills.

Animal Farm by George Orwell

See the plot summary below (from Amazon):

An ironic and at the same time sad story about the desecration of the ideas of socialism by tyrants, is told by the author in the form of a fairy tale, where the animals of an ordinary British farm act as people. Every animal and every bird is a socio-political type. The events in the book will remind the reader of the history of the Soviet state. Here we see events starting from the revolution and ending with the final collapse of all the hopes of the inhabitants of the court, the reduction of all "sacred" commandments to a simple and precise formula: "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others."

Please purchase a hard or paperback copy of the novel. Also, read and carefully follow the instructions for the assignments which are designed to help prepare you for the first quarter of the school year. All assignments will be collected on the first day of school, without exception.

Please purchase a paperback copy of the novel. Also, please read and carefully follow the instructions for the assignment which are designed to help prepare you for the first quarter of the school year. The assignment will be collected on the first day of school, without exception. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Isabella Loffa at iloffa@colemancarroll.org - Dr. Carmen De Ara (Level 1) at cdeara@colemancarroll.org or Ms. Laura Behrens at lbehrens@colemancarroll.org

Have a fun, relaxing summer, enjoy your reading selection, and we'll see you in August!

Many blessings,

Mrs. Loffa, Dr. De Ara, Ms. Behrens
Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School
English Department

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT ON *ANIMAL FARM*

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO READ THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY AS NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THEM WILL BE REFLECTED IN YOUR GRADE

Please purchase a black and white **composition notebook** (\$1.00 at Office Depot) in which to answer the discussion questions on the novel. You must **hand write your answers** (NO TYPED WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED). You may answer in cursive or print, but please make sure that your writing is legible. Your notebook must be turned in on the first full day of class. **This assignment will count as three (3) homework assignments.**



Please answer each question in a complete sentence with details to support your answer. Use the questions to frame your answers. Also, eliminate the use of personal pronouns as much as possible (I, me, he, him, her, she, it, you, them, they). Use the character's name instead to identify who you are talking about. Remember that capitalization and punctuation rules apply and will be considered when grading your notebook.

The key component in reading comprehension is being able to answer what we call the 5 W's and an H: Who, what, when, where, why and how. The discussion questions will address these reading comprehension building blocks. As you finish reading each chapter of the novel, you should complete the discussion questions for that chapter. Do not read the book and then go back and try to answer the questions. Answer them while the chapter is fresh in your mind!

NOTE: Depending on the version of the novel you purchased, the page numbers might not align with some of the questions that cite specific page numbers. Please check for specific quotes/events to answer the questions based on your version of the novel.

Animal Farm - Chapters 1-2



Characterization

1. How is Old Major's appearance and personality described on page 4? Explain how this is direct characterization.
2. What does Old Major's speech say about him? Explain how this is indirect characterization.
3. How are Mr. and Mrs. Jones characterized, especially from their actions in these chapters?

Symbolism

4. Before the Rebellion, what did the promise of a Rebellion symbolize for the animals?
5. After the Rebellion, the animals destroy things such as harnesses, whips, knives, and chains. What meaningful symbolism can be seen here?

Setting

6. What is the significance of the animals changing the name of the farm to "Animal Farm" after the Rebellion?
7. How does the setting seem to change for the animals after the Rebellion? How and why do they look at the farm differently?
8. Compare the setting of the barn to the setting of the farmhouse. How do the animals feel when they enter the farmhouse for the first time? Why?

Conflict

9. What conflict eventually led to the Rebellion? Compare this to both the rebellion in the Russian Revolution and the Bible.
10. What type of conflict seems to be hinted at at the end of Chapter 2? What is possibly being foreshadowed here?

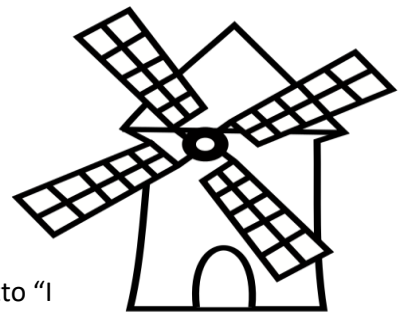
Theme

11. Identify one line in the song “Beasts of England” that sums up the overall theme of the song. What was the purpose of the song?

Allegory

12. What important person from the Russian Revolution do you think Old Major represents? Why?
13. Moses the raven tells the animals about an amazing place called Sugarcandy Mountain. Explain what this place represents within the allegory. How do the pigs respond to Moses? How did Karl Marx feel about religion?
14. Whom do you think Mr. Jones represents in the allegory? What does it tell us about how the Russian people felt about their leader?

Animal Farm - Chapters 3-4



Characterization

1. Describe Boxer’s strengths and weaknesses. What does his motto “I will work harder” say about his character?
2. Compare and contrast the personalities of Snowball and Napoleon. What do their actions and choices say about them?
3. What do Snowball, Boxer, and Mollie’s actions during the Battle of Cowshed say about their characters?

Symbolism

4. Explain the use of the flag in Chapter 3. What does this flag symbolize?
5. Why do the animals keep Mr. Jones’s gun after the Battle of Cowshed? What does it represent for them? How do you think Old Major would feel about them keeping the gun?

Setting

6. The word *utopia* means an imagined place in which everything is perfect. Chapter 3 begins with a harvest better than the farm had ever seen. Explain the animals' attitude at this point and how Animal Farm could be seen as a utopia.
7. Describe the neighboring farms. How is the setting of Animal Farm between these two farms beneficial?

Conflict

8. Napoleon takes puppies from their mothers seemingly without conflict. Why would those mothers allow him to do this? What potential conflict can you see in this situation?
9. When it is revealed that the pigs have been taking the milk and apples for themselves, how does Squealer manage to avoid any conflict? What is his speech an example of?

Theme

10. How do most of the animals feel about the Meeting? Why don't any animals besides the pigs speak up or share resolutions? What theme might Orwell be trying to emphasize here?
11. The original theme of Old Major's speech and the Rebellion was that "all animals are equal." In what ways has Animal Farm lost some of its equality?

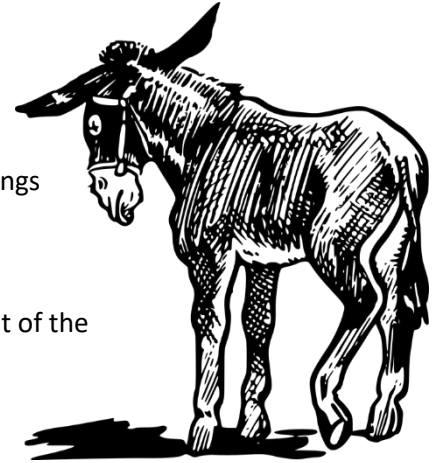
Allegory

12. Napoleon and Snowball have both taken leadership roles at Animal Farm. Who do you think they each represent allegorically? Why? Based on this, make a prediction about what you think may happen.
13. What countries do each of the neighboring farms represent allegorically? Explain the significance of Animal Farm being placed "between" them.

Animal Farm - Chapters 5-6

Characterization

1. Describe some of Napoleon's manipulative actions. What do these things say about him as a leader?
2. How do Snowball and Napoleon present themselves differently in front of the other animals? What are the strengths of each style?
3. What strength of Boxer is seen in these chapters? What weakness?



Symbolism

4. After looking at Snowball's plans for the windmill, Napoleon says nothing but only urinates all over the plans. What did this action symbolize?
5. What does Old Major's dug-up and displayed skull seem to symbolize for the animals? What does this *skull*, ironically, seem to symbolize for Old Major's ideology?
6. What does the windmill represent for the animals on the farm? Why did its destruction affect them so significantly?

Setting

7. How does the change in the pigs' living conditions affect the other animals? What is ironic about this vs. how the animals felt when they first entered the farmhouse?

Conflict

8. Describe the conflict over the windmill. What differing ideas split the animals on the farm?
9. Explain the conflict created by the pigs moving into the farmhouse. Why don't the other animals address this or confront them?

Theme

10. How are the ideas and lessons from Old Major being lost? Who is primarily responsible for this?

11. What lies have been told to the animals, and what lies have the animals been telling themselves? What do you think Orwell is saying about how lies effect society?

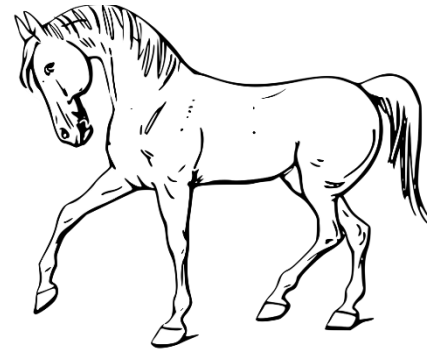
Allegory

12. How do Napoleon's dogs act around him? Whom is Napoleon compared to and what is significant about this? What or whom do the dogs represent in the allegory?
13. Describe Squealer's speaking style. What is often the effect of Squealer's speaking? Not whom, but what does Squealer represent in the allegory?
14. Based on both the living conditions and the attitude of the animals on the farm, what can you assume about the Russian people under Stalin's rule?
15. Based on the way the humans felt about animals farm, how can you assume other countries felt about the USSR when Stalin was in power?

Animal Farm - Chapters 7-8

Characterization

1. Who or what gives Napoleon his strength and power?
2. Napoleon is not seen often and has Squealer do most of his talking for him. He also lives in his own quarters, has food delivered on a silver platter, has extra security from dogs, and has a pig named Pinkeye taste all of his food, checking for poison. What do all of these things say about Napoleon? What type of characterization is this?



Symbolism

3. When Napoleon told the hens to surrender their eggs for trade, the hens were furious, claiming it was murder. However, in protest, they then laid their eggs on the rafter, allowing them to fall to the ground and break. What do the eggs really symbolize?
4. In the battle against Mr. Frederick and his men, the windmill is completely destroyed. What did the windmill represent for the animals on the farm and why were they so upset to see it destroyed? In contrast, why didn't Squealer seem as upset about it? "What matter? We will build another windmill. We will build six windmills if we feel like it" says Squealer (Orwell 105). Lastly, identify the foreshadowing on page 98.

Setting

5. After the deaths of all the animals who had confessed to various crimes, how does the setting change? Identify the imagery at the bottom of page 84 that describes this change.

Conflict

6. Read pages 86-87. Describe Clover's feelings regarding the farm. What contrasting feelings does she share? Why do you think she is unable to express them?
7. What has really been happening to the commandments on the side of the barn? Is it really because the animals have "forgotten"? Why is Napoleon changing the commandments? Compare this to God's commandments and his people.

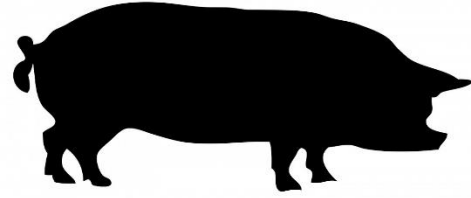
Theme

8. Why are so many of the animals quick to forget the past and remember a story told by Squealer? What do you think Orwell is trying to say about "the masses"?
9. Compare the theme of "Beasts of England" to the new song at the end of Chapter 7. How does this reflect the changes on Animal Farm?

Allegory

10. How do the humans feel about Animal Farm? What kinds of things do they say about it? How does Napoleon respond in order to counteract their rumors? Compare this to how you think other countries reacted to the USSR and communism.
11. How were animals being treated by Mr. Frederick at Pinchfield? Based on what these represent, what is Orwell alluding to? What is ironic about the animals' anger at this?
12. Napoleon continues to attempt trade with both Foxwood and Pinchfield. He then is tricked by Mr. Frederick when he tries to trade the timber and is consequently attacked. Also, Mr. Pilkington offers no support or help, sending a note that says, "Serves you right." Compare this to Stalin during WWII.

Animal Farm - Chapters 9-10



Characterization

1. “Boxer never faltered. In nothing that he said of did was there any sign that his strength was not what it had been...it seemed that nothing kept him on his feet except the will to continue. At such times his lips were seen to form the words, “I will work harder”; he had no voice left” (Orwell 70). Describe the kind of animal Boxer is. What is the tragedy of all his hard work?
2. Napoleon tells Boxer that he is sending him to a hospital but really sells him to be slaughtered for glue. What does this say about Napoleon’s character?

Symbolism

3. Explain the presence of alcohol on the farm. What does alcohol seem to represent?

Conflict

4. Why is this a good time for the animals to accept something like Sugarcandy Mountain? Why would the pigs allow Moses to speak about this even though they denounce it?
5. Read pages 122-123. Explain why this moment is the climax of the story.
6. Read page 131 to the top of 132. What other point of the book does this remind you of? What future conflict does this section hint at?
7. When Napoleon walks out of the farmhouse on his hind legs, it says, “Amazed, terrified, huddling together, the animals watched the long line of pigs” (Orwell 133). Explain the conflicting feelings of the animals. How does this also reflect their feelings of the farm and Napoleon’s leadership?
8. Why did the pigs begin walking on two legs?
9. When the pigs meet with the farmers, what do the farmers like most about Animal Farm? It becomes apparent that Napoleon is running Animal Farm much like how a *human* would. Why is this against the original ideas of Animalism?

Theme

10. On page 132 it says, "No creature called any other creature 'Master.' All animals were equal" (Orwell 132). Explain why this statement is false. Explain why the animals still believe it.
11. What happened to the commandments? How does the new commandment sum up the overall theme of the book? How does it relate to history? Our own lives?
12. Napoleon announces four distinct changes to Animal Farm in his speech to the human farmers. What are they? What do they each signify or mean for Animal Farm?
13. The final words of the book are: "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" (Orwell 141). What is the overall theme depicted by this image?

Allegory

14. Describe the feelings and emotions of the animals on the farm regarding their situation. Make predictions about how the Russian people probably felt under Stalin's rule.
15. Whom does Boxer represent in the allegory? What is the tragedy of their story?