b y G e o r g e o r w e l l

AnimAl FArm

In the beginning of the novel, Man is declared the enemy of the animals. Adopting any of Man’s behaviours is forbidden. Over the course of the story, however, the pigs slowly adopt the ways of Man. As you read the book, record the physical characteristics and behaviours of the pigs as they make their transformation. What is the point of no return, when the pigs cannot go back to behaving like farm animals? Explain and defend your choice.

Student’s Page Animal Farm

**Name: Date:**

S - 5

Boxer and Clover represent the “common animal” throughout the novel. As the story progresses, Clover

becomes disillusioned with the concept of Animalism, but Boxer tries to justify the actions of the pigs. Fill in the Animal Reaction Chart below to show their support and opinion of Animalism. When you have completed the table, explain the difference in the characters’ natures and why they had such different reactions to the events. One set of responses for you.

Once the students have completed their lists, they can discuss the merits of each human behaviour adopted, whether it was necessary for the animals survival or not, and whether the students believe the animals are worse than the human farmers are.

**Activity**

**Objective:** Understanding character change and growth

**Characterisation**

**Whole Book Activities**

Student’s Page Animal Farm

**Name: Date:**

S - 17

In order for Orwell to convey his message, he used a setting and situation that could easily parallel the rise

of communism. First, identify what you believe are the main characteristics of the farm setting that make it an effective background for the satire. Then, chose another setting, and explain why it would also work.

The author deliberately provides minimal description of Manor Farm so that the reader can use his own

imagination to picture the setting. This makes Manor Farm seem familiar to all readers and allows them to more easily suspend disbelief and accept the talking, intelligent animals. Write a physical description of the farm that you imagined, or draw a sketch of the farm, pointing out key characteristics.

**Activity**

**Objective:** Recognising the importance of setting in creating the atmosphere of the satire

**Setting**

**Chapter I**

Student’s Page Animal Farm

**Name: Date:**

S - 23

The conflict between Animalism and Sugarcandy Mountain mirrors the discord between communism

and religion. The author has already laid out the tenets for animalism. Based upon Moses’ description of

Sugarcandy Mountain, create the basic concepts of a religion for the animals.

The pigs develop the concept of Animalism—a utopia on Earth. Moses expounds the concept of Sugarcandy

Mountain, which has similarities to Christianity’s heaven. Write an opinion piece supporting either the concept of Animalism or Sugarcandy Mountain, and explain why the one you chose will bring the most happiness to the animals.

**Activity**

**Objective:** Understanding the role of a belief system

**Writing**

**Chapter II**

Student’s Page Animal Farm

**Name: Date:**

S - 27

Support your position.

Animalism, as described now, is doomed.

The animals respond to the rebellion according to the stereotype of their species. For example, Boxer, the

workhorse, becomes doubly devoted to his duties. Mollie, on the other hand, behaves like a princess and shirks her obligations. Based upon the evidence in this chapter, agree or disagree with this statement:

Napoleon and Snowball have two different ideas has to how to run Animal Farm after the rebellion. Write

a dialogue between them debating a problem on the farm. Possible topics include the retirement age for the animals, what crops to plant in the coming year, how to organise the weekly meeting, or how to get Mollie to do more work. (Feel free to come up with your own topics.)

**Activity**

**Objective:** Understanding conflict

**Conflict**

**Chapter III**

Student’s Page Animal Farm

**Name: Date:**

S - 31

Write two news articles about the rebellion: one from the point of view of the animals and one from the

point of view of Man.

Draw a detailed map of the battle, and explain why the animals were victorious.

**Activity**

**Objective:** Understanding the significance of the Battle of Cowshed

**Map Making and Newspaper Article**

**Chapter IV**

Student’s Page Animal Farm

**Name: Date:**

S - 37

Rewrite one or two passages to recreate the cooperative, loyal atmosphere from Chapter II.

In Chapter II, the author uses words like “toiled” and “sweated” to describe the work efforts of the animals.

Find examples from this chapter that the atmosphere has changed and that the work is not as pleasurable as it was before. Write down the examples and circle the key words that contribute to the growing negative atmosphere.

**Activity**

**Objective:** Recognising changes in atmosphere

**Atmosphere**

**Chapter VI**

Student’s Page Animal Farm

**Name: Date:**

S - 41

The reader is never shown why the animals confessed false crimes or how Napoleon persuaded them to do

so. Make a list of techniques the pigs could use to persuade or force other animals to confess.

Compare the description of the Battle of the Cowshed on page 90 to the actual battle in Chapter IV. Match

the actual incidences with the occurrences from Squealer’s fictional account. After you have completed the

**Revisionist History Chart**, explain why you believe that the animals accept the revised history.

**Activity**

**Objective:** Exploring the pigs’ use of deception and terror to control the animals

**Plot**

**Chapter VII**

Student’s Page Animal Farm

**Name: Date:**

S - 49

The rebellion and the Battle of the Cowshed can be traced to specific acts by Jones. The catalyst for the

Battle of the Windmill, though, is less clear. Analyse the politics between Animal Farm and the neighbouring farms. Identify the key players and the role each played in heightening the tension. Point out any instances where the violence could have been prevented. Based on the personalities of those involved, explain whether prevention was desired.

**Activity**

**Objective:** Identifying conflict and its origins

**Conflict**

**Chapter VIII**

Student’s Page Animal Farm

**Name: Date:**

S - 53

Write an obituary for Boxer from Clover’s point of view and one from the pigs’.

Boxer is the heart of the rebellion and the hardest worker on Animal Farm. His support for the pigs

and Animalism does not waver until he is headed to the slaughterer. Once he dies, though, Animalism is officially over. Write a different ending in which Boxer escapes and finally is able to realise the true purpose of the pigs.

**Activity**

**Objective:** Understanding Boxer

**Point of View**

**Chapter IX**