



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

ANIMAL FARM

BY GEORGE ORWELL



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Written by Stacey Pusey

Name: _____

Date: _____

Whole Book Activities

Characterization

Objective: Understanding character change and growth

Activity

In the beginning of the novel, Man is declared the enemy of the animals. Adopting any of Man's behaviors 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 behaviors 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.

Once the students have completed their lists, they can discuss the merits of each human behavior 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.

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. We have supplied one set of responses for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter I

Setting

Objective: Recognizing the importance of setting in creating the atmosphere of the satire

Activity

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.

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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter II

Writing

Objective: Understanding the role of a belief system

Activity

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.

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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter III

Conflict

Objective: Understanding conflict

Activity

Napoleon and Snowball have two different ideas as 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 organize the weekly meeting, or how to get Mollie to do more work. (Feel free to come up with your own topics.)

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:

Animalism, as described now, is doomed.

Support your position.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IV

Map Making and Newspaper Article

Objective: Understanding the significance of the Battle of Cowshed

Activity

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

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. Consult the newspaper appendix for information about writing an article.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VI**Atmosphere**

Objective: Recognizing changes in atmosphere

Activity

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.

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VII

Plot

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

Activity

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.

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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VIII

Conflict

Objective: Identifying conflict and its origins

Activity

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. Analyze the politics between Animal Farm and the neighboring 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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IX**Point of View****Objective:** Understanding Boxer**Activity**

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 realize the true purpose of the pigs.

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