

Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

Animal Farm

by George Orwell

Copyright © 2002 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.
1-800-932-4593. www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for
classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. *This material,
in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.*

ISBN: 978-1-60389-505-7

Item No. 201402

Chapter One

1. Old Major is highly respected and looked to for guidance by all the animals on Manor Farm. Write a paragraph describing a public figure you admire.
2. The animals reflect upon the significance of their lives. Take a moment to contemplate the purpose of human life. Create a diary entry giving your opinion about the meaning of life.
3. In his speech to the animals, Old Major states, “The life of an animal is misery and slavery.” Write a letter to your local SPCA discussing the problem of cruelty to animals and overpopulation. Do you believe they are being handled adequately, or do you feel more needs to be done?
4. Man is condemned as being the root of all the animals’ problems. Imagine you are in a debate with Old Major. Write a defense for mankind based upon Old Major’s accusations about us in *Animal Farm*. Be sure to include any advantages animals gain from being cared for by humans.
5. The animals anticipate a time of revolution against mankind. Write about a historical political revolution. What were the circumstances surrounding the event, and do you feel the revolt was justified?

Chapter Two

6. Old Major's speech gives the animals "a completely new outlook on life." Describe a speech or an event in your life that gave you a new perspective on something.

7. The pigs assume leadership because they are the cleverest animals. Make a list of ten qualities you think a good leader needs to possess. Which trait of the ten do you believe is the most important? Why?

8. Moses is disliked because he tells tales and does not work. Write about a character from a book or movie that you don't like because he or she is dishonest.

9. The horses, Boxer and Clover, completely accept the pigs' leadership on blind faith. Did you or someone you know ever accept something without fully understanding it? Explain.

10. After a long period of not being fed, the animals rebel against Mr. Jones. Describe a time when you or someone you know was pushed to the limit either physically, scholastically, or temperamentally. What was the result?

Animal Farm

11. The animal rebellion terrifies the men and causes them to leave the farm. Think back to a time when you were frightened by someone. Write a letter to that person and explain how the fear made you feel.
12. The animals are both incredulous and ecstatic that the rebellion is successful. In a letter to a friend, describe a time you were proud of an acquired goal. How much effort did you use, and by what means did you accomplish your goal?
13. After seizing control of the farm, the animals make an inspection and find “it was as though they had never seen these things before.” Complete the following dialogue by explaining to a friend, who doesn’t understand, why the animals have a fresh outlook on the farm.
- Friend:** How can the farm seem new if the animals have lived there their entire lives?
- You:** The farm seems new because...
14. Imagine you have a pen pal in another state or country. Write a letter in which you describe your town. What aspects of where you live are you most proud of?

Response Journal

15. The seven commandments are created for all the animals to follow. Compose a list of ten rules you believe all people need to follow. Do not copy from the Ten Commandments, but you may rephrase them. How does your list differ from that of the animals? Across from each rule, write a short sentence that either provides a reason for that rule or gives a proper punishment for breaking it.

Chapter Three

16. The pigs supervise and the direct the work of other animals. Why do you suppose it is so easy for the pigs to assume control over the others? How does this relate to Joseph Stalin's reign?
17. The animals appreciate their food more because they produce it themselves. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper discussing something you feel Americans take for granted. Are you included in this group?
18. Boxer receives more duties for being the most dedicated and hardest working animal on the farm. Describe a situation from a book, movie, or real life where someone is taken advantage of by being rewarded for good work with more responsibilities.
19. List at least three comparisons between *Animal Farm* and the Russian Revolution that you have found so far.

Animal Farm

20. Napoleon and Snowball argue over whether to spend more time training the young or old animals. Napoleon insists “the education of the young was more important than anything that could be done for those who were already grown up.” Which side do you agree with, and why?
21. The animals are told it is for their own welfare that the pigs receive all the milk and apples. Have you ever felt taken advantage of by another? Write a diary entry written by the person who took advantage of you.

Chapter Four

22. The neighbors of Animal Farm are in disbelief of the animal rebellion and think it is ridiculous. Why do you think this is so? Write a letter to a friend describing the most ridiculous, real-life event you have ever heard about.
23. Pilkington and Frederick are frightened by the animal rebellion. Although Animal Farm is well managed, the men call the rebellion unnatural and insist the animals cannot survive. Write a paragraph about a time you or someone you know had trouble accepting a change. Why do you suppose some people have difficulty with change?
24. The men wage war against the animals in an attempt to regain control. Create a list of as many countries as you know about in which wars are going on today. Does this tell you anything about human nature? When do you believe war is justifiable?