

Whitehaven High School  
English I and Honor's English I  
Animal Farm by George Orwell

**Text Analysis Questions**

**Chapters 1-4**

1. Describe how the Rebellion takes place. How does the animals' behavior during the Rebellion suggest both human and animal characteristics?
2. How do the pigs gain the rights to the cow's milk? Why do the other animals allow this to occur? What does this event suggest about the power hierarchy on the farm?
3. How does the original vision of Animalism become the slogan "Four legs bad, two legs good"? In your opinion, do the animals want rules with simple language? What kind of language do the pigs use?
4. How does Orwell cast doubt on the likelihood of a successful revolution?
5. Characterize Snowball as a leader. Do you think his reaction to the stable-boy's death is the appropriate reaction to have during a revolution?

**Chapters 5-7**

1. What happens to Snowball during the meeting about the windmill? What events in Soviet history does this scene suggest?
2. Identify three ways that Napoleon tries to solidify his leadership position on the farm. How does the process of decision-making on the farm change under Napoleon's leadership?
3. Why do the executions take place? What message do these events send to the animals about their role in a future society?
4. How does Orwell compare Animal Farm under Napoleon's leadership, to its exploited state under Farmer Jones's rule? What attitude about totalitarian government do you think Orwell conveys?
5. Do you think it's fair that those who are more educated or more skilled—like the pigs in Animal Farm—have more influence in decision making? Consider how decisions are made in your community, state, or in the nation.

**Chapters 8-10**

1. What dealings does Napoleon have with Frederick and Pilkington? How does the battle over the windmill affect the animals?
2. What happens to Boxer and how do the other animals learn of his fate? How do they come to a final conclusion about these events?
3. What changes are made to the Fifth and Sixth Commandments? How is the entire list of Commandments ultimately refashioned? What point is Orwell making about the role of communication in society?
4. In Chapter 10 the pigs begin to walk on two legs. In your opinion is this evolution a sign of progress? Explain.

5. Some critics believe that, at the end of the book, Orwell suggests that the pigs and human political leaders are interchangeable. Do you think most government rulers are interchangeable? How might power change those who have it? Explain.

Writer's Circle:

Choose a Prompt on which to respond in a multi-paragraph essay.

Initially, the seven commandments issued by the animals were deemed unalterable, and symbolized a code by which the animals could live peacefully and equally among themselves. How and by what means were the commandments eventually changed? Choose and discuss one or two individual commandments. Who benefited in each instance and how?

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Animal Farm is replete with subtle and not so-subtle lessons on blind conformity and the misuse of power. What are some of the lessons you've personally taken away from the novel regarding education of the masses, knowledge of history, idealist thought and class structure? Has the novel changed your worldview in any way?

**Note: Responses to the discussion questions must be in complete paragraphs that are error free. Answers should include examples of evidence (cited) and opinion.**

**The essay must be 2-3 pages typed using the MLA format. The Purdue Owl (online writing lab) is an excellent tool when using MLA.**