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Animal Farm Final Discussion

1. I believe Old Major would not be proud of Animal Farm’s accomplishments. This is because although they achieved Old Major’s vision, the way the animals went about accomplishing the goal was horrendous. Napoleon’s style of rule was very determined in getting his own way and would do anything to complete his mission. Moreover, Napoleon is dangerous, would be violent in his actions to achieve his objective, is very power hungry and uses fear to get the animals to do stuff for him. In addition, Napoleon is very demanding and always puts himself first. He praises himself and does anything to get his way. Old Major’s vision was to rebel against the humans so the animals can be their own bosses on the farm. Old Major thinks that they should have their own food source so they can sustain themselves and be able to control their own fate. Furthermore, Old Major thinks no animal has ever been happy under man’s rule and wants to rebel so that the animals can encounter true happiness. Old Major’s dream is to create an ideal society with their own sufficient resources. Yes, I do believe that Animal Farm has become what Old Major has envisioned, but the method that the animals used to reach the goal is be frowned upon. Old Major would be proud of the results but would not be proud of how they did so to get there. According to the text, in chapter one, page 3, it states, “You, Boxer, the very day that those great muscles of yours lose their power, Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will cut your throat and boil you down for foxhounds.” Old Major points out that Boxer will eventually become weak and his body would be sold. Old Major makes the right prediction and would not be proud at the fact that his people are dying. Old Major would like the animals to no longer serve as slaves and work for themselves, but Napoleon forced the animals to work for him. The animals were not free at all and were made to build the windmill. It was mandatory that the animals built the windmill, so they could do something and not think about Napoleon’s wrongdoings. Napoleon uses fear and intimidation to make the animals do what he wants. The animals would not be happy with the fact that they were being manipulated. Old Major would not be proud because he would want the animals to be happy. Yet, they are exhausted everyday after working on the windmill. Furthermore, in chapter one, page 2, it says “Man is the only real enemy we have. Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever.” Old Major believes that Man can only do bad, and animals can only do good. Thus, Old Major would not be proud at the fact that they unite with the humans in the end.
2. I believe Snowball would be a better leader than Napoleon since Snowball cares about the wellbeing of the animals. Snowball didn’t have motives to gain power, but instead wants to gain the loyalty of the animals to secure his power. In the story, chapter 3, page 10, it said, “He formed the Egg Production Committee for the hens, the Clean Tails League for the cows, the Wild Comrades' Re−education Committee (the object of this was to tame the rats and rabbits), the Whiter Wool Movement for the sheep, and various others, besides instituting classes in reading and writing. On the whole, these projects were a failure. The attempt to tame the wild creatures, for instance.” Snowball had wanted the animals to support themselves and be educated to improve the farm. Snowball cared for the animals and believes in the happiness of the herd, while also sticking to the rules. While Napoleon does anything to complete his goal, including violence and breaking the rules. This is shown during chapter 7, page 25, where it states, “They were all slain on the spot. And so, the tale of confessions and executions went on, until there was a pile of corpses lying before Napoleon's feet and the air was heavy with the smell of blood, which had been unknown there since the expulsion of Jones.” Napoleon does whatever to get what he wants, and to prove the point that he is the one in charge of the animals. Napoleon cares about himself and benefitting himself rather than the wellbeing of the herd on the farm. Although Snowball would be a better leader, the animal herd would be better off with Napoleon as the leader. Snowball is very gullible and is too nice to be a ruler. This is because Snowball can be a pushover since he always puts the farm first and tries to achieve the needs of everyone. If Snowball was never exiled, the farm would be in ruins in the future as there would be a lack of restrictions. Yet, Napoleon enforces many guidelines but also changes some rules to fit his actions. But the animals were still kept in place through fear from Napoleon. Moreover, Snowball would have ideas and create committees to benefit the people, while Napoleon changes and makes things for his own benefit.
3. The major point that George Orwell attempts to make in the novel’s end is the need for human rights and how the corrupt leaders exploited their subjects. The animals do not realize that they are being exploited since they are constantly being manipulated. Old Major tries to explain to the animals that they are being exploited and enslaved and that the humans are to blame for this. Old Major not only teaches the animal about exploitation and what it means, but also states that it is inevitable. History repeats itself since although each individual is different, they have the same greedy mindset. In chapter one, page 2, “’No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery; that is the plain truth.’” Old Major says this to the animals to get them riled up and use emotional distraught to get them to rebel against a common enemy. George Orwell is saying how if one society class has an advantage over the other, then exploitation is inescapable. In addition, any of the animals on Animal Farm were manipulated and exploited under the rule of Napoleon. This is because he exploits their mental ability, ignorance, and physical strength. Napoleon exploits some to the point of death. In addition, Boxer is an instance of Napoleon’s exploitation. He had only done it to himself since he trusts Napoleon’s judgement and was his most loyal subject. Even though Boxer was the strongest and the most loyal subject of Napoleon’s, Napoleon would kill Boxer for a profit after Boxer was weakened. On chapter 9, page 36, it says, "'Alfred Simmonds, Horse Slaughterer and Glue Boiler, Willingdon. Dealer in Hides and Bone−Meal. Kennels Supplied.' Do you not understand what that means? They are taking Boxer to the knacker's!’" This is the moment when Benjamin realized that Boxer is being sent to the factory to be sold. Everyone was horrified by then and was very worried about Boxer.