Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Animal Farm (Ch 10)

1. What changes had taken place over a period of time?

Ans: Over a period of time, no one who remembered the old days before the Rebellion, except Clover, Benjamin, Moses the raven, and a number of the pigs. Muriel was dead; Bluebell, Jessie, and Pincher were dead. Boxer was forgotten, except by the few who had known him. There were many more creatures on the farm now. The farm possessed three horses now besides Clover. The farm was more prosperous now, and better organised: it had even been enlarged by two fields which had been bought from Mr Pilkington.

1. How had Clover, Benjamin, Napoleon and Squealer changed?

Ans: Clover was an old stout mare now, stiff in the joints and with a tendency to rheumy eyes. She was two years past the retiring age.

Napoleon was now a mature boar of twenty-four stone.

Squealer was so fat that he could with difficulty see out of his eyes.

Old Benjamin was much the same as ever, except for being a little greyer about the muzzle, and, since Boxer's death, more morose and taciturn than ever.

1. Write a new note on the three horses.

Ans: The three horses were fine upstanding beasts, willing workers and good comrades, but very stupid. None of them proved able to learn the alphabet

beyond the letter B. They accepted everything that they were told about the Rebellion and the principles of Animalism, especially from Clover, for whom they had an almost filial respect; but it was doubtful whether they understood very much of it.

1. Was the windmill finally completed? What was it used for? What dream was still being shown to the animals regarding the windmill?

Ans: Yes, the windmill was finally completed. The wind- mill had been successfully completed at last, and the farm possessed a threshing machine and a hay elevator of its own, and various new buildings had been added to it. The windmill, however, had not after all been used for generating electrical power. It was used for milling corn, and brought in a handsome money profit.

1. Which dreams of the animals were shattered by Napoleon? How?

Ans: The dreams of having the luxuries which Snowball had shown these animals, the stalls with electric light and hot and cold water, and the three-day week, were no longer talked about. Napoleon had denounced such ideas as contrary to the spirit of Animalism. The truest happiness, he said, lay in working hard and living frugally.

1. Which difficult work was done by pigs, according to Squealer?

One of the most difficult tasks to be done was the endless work of supervision and organisation of the fam. Squealer told them that the pigs had to expend enormous labours every day upon mysterious things called ‘files’ ‘reports’ ‘minutes’ and ‘memoranda’. These were large sheets of paper which had to be closely covered with writing, and as soon as they were so covered, they were burnt in the furnace. This was of the highest importance for the welfare of the farm, according to Squealer.

1. What did the animals never cease to marvel at? Why were they proud?

Ans: They were still the only farm in the whole county- in all England!- owned and operated by animals.

1. How would the animals feel when they would hear the loud booming of the gun?

Ans: When they heard the gun booming and saw the green ﬂag ﬂuttering at the masthead, their hearts swelled with imperishable pride, and the talk turned always towards the old heroic days, the expulsion of Jones, the writing of the Seven Commandments, the great battles in which the human invaders had been defeated.

1. Which old dream did the animals not abandon? When was it going to happen? How had the animals kept the dream alive in their hearts?

Ans: The dream of Republic of the Animals which Major had foretold, when the green ﬁelds of England should be untrodden by human feet, was still believed in. Someday it was coming: it might not be soon, it might not be within the lifetime of any animal now living, but still it was coming. Even the tune of Beasts of England was perhaps hummed secretly here and there: at any rate, it was a fact that every animal on the farm knew it, though no one would have dared to sing it aloud.

1. With what kind of thoughts were the animals content?

Ans: They were quite content with the fact that though they went hungry, it was not from feeding tyrannical human beings; if they worked hard, at least they worked for themselves. No creature among them went upon two legs. No creature called any other creature ‘Master.’ All animals were equal. It might be that their lives were hard and that not all of their hopes had been fulﬁlled; but they were conscious that they were not as other animals.

1. Where were sheep taken? What was told to the other farm animals about them?

Ans: Squealer ordered the sheep to follow him, and led them out to a piece of waste ground at the other end of the farm, which had become overgrown with birch saplings. The sheep spent the whole day there browsing at the leaves under Squealer’s supervision. In the evening he returned to the farmhouse himself, but, as it was warm weather, told the sheep to stay where they were. It ended by their remaining there for a whole week, during which time the other animals saw nothing of them. Squealer was with them for the greater part of every day. He was, he said, teaching them to sing a new song, for which privacy was needed.

1. Describe the spectacle of pigs walking on their hind legs

Ans: A little awkwardly, as though not quite used to supporting his considerable bulk in that position, but with perfect balance, he was strolling across the yard. And a moment later, out from the door of the farmhouse came a long file of pigs, all walking on their hind legs. Some did it better than others, one or two were even a trifle unsteady and looked as though they would have liked the support of a stick, but every one of them made his way right round the yard successfully.

1. How did Napoleon make his appearance?

Ans: Napoleon came, majestically upright, casting haughty glances from side to side, and with his dogs gambolling round him. Before him were dogs who were baying tremendously and the black cockerel came with a shrill crowing.

1. How did the animals react to this?

Ans: There was a deadly silence. Amazed, terriﬁed, huddling together, the animals watched the long line of pigs march slowly round the yard. It was as though the world had turned upside-down. When the first shock had worn off they might have even protested they heard tremendous bleating of sheep: ‘Four legs good, two legs better! Four legs good, two legs better! Four legs good, two legs better!’ It went on for ﬁve minutes without stopping. And by the time the sheep had quieted down, the chance to utter any protest had passed, for the pigs had marched back into the farmhouse.

1. Where did Clover and Benjamin go after all pigs had left?

Clover nuzzled her nose at Benjamin’s shoulder and tugged gently at Benjamin’s mane and led him round to the end of the big barn, where the Seven Commandments were written. For a minute or two they stood gazing at the tatted wall with its white lettering. Clover tried reading but she failed. However, she realised that it appeared different to her.

1. Did Benjamin read what was written on the wall?

Ans: Yes, Benjamin consented to break his rule, and he read out to her what was written on the wall. There was nothing there now except a single Commandment. It ran: ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS.

1. How had the pigs adapted ways of human beings, according to this chapter?

Ans: The pigs who were supervising the work of the farm all carried whips in their trotters. The pigs had bought themselves a wireless set, were arranging to install a telephone, and had taken out subscriptions to John Bull, TitBits, and the Daily Mirror. Napoleon was seen strolling in the farmhouse garden with a pipe in his mouth. The pigs took Mr. Jones’s clothes out of the wardrobes and put them on, Napoleon himself appearing in a black coat, ratcatcher breeches, and leather leggings, while his favourite sow appeared in the watered silk dress which Mrs. Jones had been used to wear on Sundays.

1. Who was invited to the animal farm? Why? What was their initial reaction?

Ans: A week later, in the afternoon, a number of dogcarts drove up to the farm.

A deputation of neighbouring farmers had been invited to make a tour of inspection. They were shown all over the farm, and expressed great admiration for everything they saw, especially the windmill.

1. What was seen inside the house by the animals?

Ans: There, round the long table, sat half a dozen farmers and half a dozen of the more eminent pigs, Napoleon himself occupying the seat of honour at the head of the table. The pigs appeared completely at ease in their chairs. The company had been enjoying a game of cards but had broken oﬀ for the moment, evidently in order to drink a toast. A large jug was circulating, and the mugs were being reﬁlled with beer.

1. What aspects of the farm were praised by Pilkington?

Ans: Not only the most up-to-date methods, but a discipline and an orderliness which should be an example to all farmers everywhere. He believed that he was right in saying that the lower animals on Animal Farm did more work and received less food than any animals in the county. Indeed, he and his fellow-visitors today had observed many features which they intended to introduce on their own farms immediately.

1. What was the significance of The Rebellion for the new animals on the farm?

Ans: Many animals had been born to whom the Rebellion was only a dim tradition, passed on by word of mouth, and others had been bought who had never heard mention of such a thing before their arrival. The farm possessed three horses now besides Clover. They were fine upstanding beasts, willing workers and good comrades, but very stupid. None of them proved able to learn the alphabet beyond the letter B.

They accepted everything that they were told about the Rebellion and the principles of Animalism, especially from Clover, for whom they had an almost filial respect; but it was doubtful whether they understood very much of it.

1. What work done by pigs did Squealer claim that the other animals would not understand?

Ans: For example, Squealer told them that the pigs had to expend enormous labours every day upon mysterious things called `files,' `reports,' `minutes,' and `memoranda.' These were large sheets of paper which had to be closely covered with writing, and as soon as they were so covered, they were burnt in the furnace.

1. Why had Squealer taken the sheep away for, to the ground overgrown with birch saplings?

Ans: One day in early summer Squealer ordered the sheep to follow him, and led them out to a piece of waste ground at the other end of the farm, which had become overgrown with birch saplings. The sheep spent the whole day there browsing at the leaves under Squealer's supervision. In the evening he returned to the farmhouse himself, but, as it was warm weather, told the sheep to stay where they were. It ended by their remaining there for a whole week, during which time the other animals saw nothing of them. Squealer was with them for the greater part of every day. He was, he said, teaching them to sing a new song for which privacy was needed.

1. Summarise the speech of Napoleon

Ans: Like all of Napoleon's speeches, it was short and to the point. He too, he said, was happy that the period of misunderstanding was at an end. For a long time there had been rumours| circulated, he had reason to think, by some malignant enemy | that there was something subversive and even revolutionary in the outlook of himself and his colleagues. They had been credited with attempting to stir up rebellion among the animals on neighbouring farms. Nothing could be further from the truth! Their sole wish, now and in the past, was to live at peace and in normal business relations with their neighbours. This farm which he had the honour to control, he added, was a co-operative enterprise. The title-deeds, which were in his own possession, were owned by the pigs jointly. He did not believe, he said, that any of the old suspicions still lingered, but certain changes had been made recently in the routine of the farm which should have the effect of promoting confidence stiff further. Hitherto the animals on the farm had had a rather foolish custom of addressing one another as `Comrade.' This was to be suppressed. There had also been a very strange custom, whose origin was unknown, of marching every Sunday morning past a boar's skull which was nailed to a post in the garden. This, too, would be suppressed, and the skull had already been buried. His visitors might have observed, too, the green flag which flew from the masthead. If so, they would perhaps have noted that the white hoof and horn with which it had previously been marked had now been removed. It would be a plain green flag from now onwards. He had only one criticism, he said, to make of Mr. Pilkington's excellent and neighbourly speech. Mr. Pilkington had referred throughout to `Animal Farm.' He could not of course know | for he, Napoleon, was only now for the first time announcing it | that the name `Animal Farm' had been abolished. Henceforward the farm was to be known as `The Manor Farm' | which, he believed, was its correct and original name.

1. What strange thing was experienced by the animals at the end of the story?

Ans: But as the animals outside gazed at the scene, it seemed to them that some strange thing was happening. What was it that had altered in the faces of the pigs? Clover's old dim eyes flitted from one face to another. Some of them had five chins, some had four, some had three. But what was it that seemed to be melting and changing? Then, the applause having come to an end, the company took up their cards and continued the game that had been interrupted, and the animals crept silently away.