Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Animal Farm Chapter 7**

1. **Describe the weather in which the animals were rebuilding the windmill? How long did it last?**

It was a bitter winter. The stormy weather was followed by sleet and snow, and then by a hard frost which did not break till February.

1. **Why were the animals working through the winter?**

The animals put in their best efforts into rebuilding the windmill because they knew that the outside world was watching them and the envious human beings would rejoice and triumph if the mill were not finished on time.

1. **What did the humans believe to be the reason for the destruction of the windmill? What was the real cause? Why?**

The humans believed that the windmill was destroyed not because of Snowball but because the walls of the windmill were too thin. The humans pretended to believe this out of spite that they had for the animals.

1. **What decision was taken regarding rebuilding the walls? What was the main hurdle the animals faced?**

It was decided to build the walls as thick as three feet instead of eight inches as earlier decided. This meant more stone was required. However the quarry was full of snowdrifts for a long time and nothing could be done.

1. **What was the state of the animals? Where did they get inspiration from?**

The animals felt that it was cruel work as they weren’t as hopeful as they were before. The animals were always cold and usually hungry from all the hard work. Only Boxer and Clover never lost heart. Squealer made excellent speeches on the joy of service and the dignity of labour, but the other animals found more inspiration in Boxer’s strength and his never-failing cry of ‘I will work harder!’

1. **What happened to the food ration in January? What announcement was made?**

In January food fell short. The corn ration was drastically reduced, and it was announced that an extra potato ration would be issued to make up for it.

1. **What happened to the potato ration? What was the effect?**The greater part of the potato crop had been frosted in the clamps which had not been covered thickly enough. So the potatoes had become discolored and only a few were edible. As a result the animals had only chaff and mangels and were faced with starvation.
2. **What news was spread by the humans about the starvation of the animals?**The humans spread the news that the animals were dying of famine and disease and that they were continually fighting among themselves and had resorted to cannibalism and infanticide.

1. **How was Mr. Whymper deceived by Napoleon into believing there was no food shortage on the farm?**Napoleon instructed a few sheep to report to Mr. Whymper that the rations had been increased. In addition he ordered the almost empty bins in the store shed to be filled to the brim with sand which was then covered up with what remained of the grain and meal. Then on some suitable pretext Mr. Whymper was led through the store-shed and allowed to catch a glimpse of the bins. He was deceived and continued to report to the outside world that there was no food shortage on Animal Farm.
2. **Describe Napoleon’s behaviour towards the end of January.**Napoleon rarely appeared in public but spent all his time in the farmhouse which was guarded at each door by fierce-looking dogs. When he did emerge it was in a ceremonial manner with an escort of six dogs that closely surrounded him and growled if anyone came too near. Frequently he did not even appear on Sunday mornings, but issued his orders through one of the other pigs, usually Squealer.
3. **What was announced on one Sunday morning? Who made the announcement?**One Sunday morning Squealer announced that the hens, who had just come in to lay again, must surrender their eggs. Napoleon had accepted, through Whymper, a contract for four hundred eggs a week. The price of these would pay for enough grain and meal to keep the farm going till summer came on and conditions were easier.
4. **How did the hens react to Napoleon’s decision regarding eggs? Describe the rebellion by the hens to save their eggs?**When the hens heard this, they raised a terrible outcry. The rebellion by the hens was led by three young Black Minorca pullets. The hens made a determined effort to thwart Napoleons wishes. Their method was to fly up to the rafters and there, lay their eggs, which smashed to pieces on the floor.
5. **How did Napoleon react to the rebellion? How long did the hen’s rebellion last for? What was the effect?**Napoleon acted swiftly and ruthlessly and ordered the hens rations to be stopped. He then decreed that any animal giving so much as a grain of corn to a hen should be punished by death. For five days the hens held out then they capitulated and went back to their nesting boxes. Nine hens had died of coccidiosis in the meantime. However the eggs were duly delivered in a grocer’s van driving up to the farm once a week.
6. **Where was Snowball rumored to be hiding? Why was Napoleon undecided on selling the timber?**Snowball was rumored to be hiding on one of the neighbouring farms, either Foxwood or Pinchfield. Napoleon was hesitating between selling the timber to either Mr. Pilkington or Mr. Frederick, because when he decided to sell to Mr. Pilkington he was told snowball is hiding in Pinchfield and if he decided to sell to Mr. Frederick he was told that Snowball was hiding at Foxwood.
7. **What alarming discovery was made in the spring? What was the effect?**The alarming discovery made in the spring was that Snowball was secretly frequenting the farm by night. The animals were so disturbed that they could hardly sleep.
8. **What kinds of mischief did Snowball play on the farm?**Snowball performed all kinds of mischief under the cover of night like – He stole the corn, he upset the milk pails, he broke the eggs, he trampled the seed beds and he gnawed the bark of the fruit trees. If a window was broken or a drain was blocked it was also attributed to Snowball coming in the night and doing it.
9. **What did the cows claim?**

The cows claimed that Snowball came in the night and milked them in their sleep.

1. **Describe the investigation conducted by Napoleon to find Snowball?**

Napoleon decreed that there should be a full investigation into Snowball’s activities. Along with his six dogs he carefully inspected the farm buildings, the other animals following at a respectable distance. At every few steps, Napoleon stopped and snuffed the ground for traces of Snowballs footsteps which he said he could detect by the smell. He snuffed and found traces of Snowball everywhere, in the barn, in the cowshed, in the hen houses and in the vegetable garden. He would put his snout to the ground and exclaim in a terrible voice that Snowball had been there and it was followed by the blood curdling growls of the dogs.

1. **What terrible announcement was made by Squealer?**

Squealer made a terrible announcement that Snowball had sold himself to Frederick of Pinchfield Farm who was going to attack them. Snowball was going to be his guide in this attack.

1. **What information did Squealer reveal about Snowball?**

Squealer said that Snowball’s rebellion was all a show and that he was the agent of Jones all along. Squealer also said that they had documents to prove that he was misleading all the animals in the Battle of the Cowshed.

1. **What was the reaction of the animals to squealers information?**

All the animals were stupefied at squealers revelation and snowball had deceived them. Boxer however was very doubtful and did not believe this.

1. **How does Boxer defend Snowball?**

Boxer refuses to believe the announcement made by Squealer, stating that Snowball fought bravely at the Battle of the Cowshed, and they even awarded him ‘Animal Hero First Class’. Boxer also added that Snowball was wounded during the battle.

1. **What did Squealer tell the animals about Napoleon?**

Squealer said that when Snowball fled it was Comrade Napoleon who sprang forward with the cry of ‘Death to humans’ and bit farmer Jones in the leg.

1. **What information did squealer reveal about Snowball?**

Squealer told the animals that according to written documents and Napoleon’s judgment Snowball was an agent of farmer Jones and the Battle of the Cowshed was merely a show. He asked the animals to recall the time when Farmer Jones and his men entered the shed and Snowball had fled at the same time with a lot of animals following him

1. **What image did Squealer create about Snowball for the animals? Did Boxer agree?**

Squealer told the animals that Snowball was an agent of Farmer Jones even before the rebellion and the battle; and that the battle was just a show Boxer agreed with squealer on hearing this information.

1. **What did Squealer request the animals to do?**

Squealer requested all the animals to keep an eye out for Snowball’s agents who might be lurking on the farm.

1. **What did Napoleon award himself?**

Napoleon emerged from the warehouse wearing both his medals of ‘Animal Hero First Class’ and ‘Animal Hero Second Class’.

1. **Why did Napoleon’s dogs seize the four pigs?**

The four pigs were suspected of helping Snowball with the rebellion and keeping in touch with him.

1. **What did the pigs finally confess? What was the result**

Without any compulsion the pigs confessed that they had been secretly in touch with Snowball ever since his expulsion, that they had collaborated with him in destroying the windmill, and that they had entered into an agreement with him to hand over Animal Farm to Mr. Frederick. When they had finished their confession the dogs promptly tore their throats out.

1. **Mention the different animals and what they confessed? What finally happened to them?**

The three hens who had been the ring leaders in the attempted rebellion over the eggs, stated that Snowball had come to them in a dream and incited them to disobey Napoleon’s orders. Then a goose came forward and confessed to have secreted six ears of corn during the last year’s harvest and the night and eaten them in the night. Then a sheep confessed to having urinated in the drinking pool. She said that Snowball urged her to do this. Two sheep confessed to having murdered an old ram who was a devoted follower of Napoleon, by chasing him round and round a bonfire when he had a cough. All these animals were slain on the spot.

1. **What was the effect of the executions on the remaining animals?**

The remaining animals except for the pigs and the dogs were shaken and miserable. They did not know which was worse – the treachery of the animals who had leagued themselves with snowball or the cruel retribution they had just witnessed.

1. **What had not happened since Farmer Jones had left the farm?**

Since Farmer Jones had left the farm no animal had killed another animal. Not even a rat had been killed.

1. **Mention the animals who huddled for warmth near the windmill?**

The animals huddling for warmth were Clover, Muriel, Benjamin, the cows, the sheep and a whole flock of geese and hens, except the cat.

1. **What was Boxer’s resolution after the executions? What did he do?**

Boxer said he did not understand what had happened and would never believe that things like treachery and executions could happen on the farm. He proposed that the solution was to work harder and decided to get a full hour earlier every morning. He then trotted to the quarry and carried over two full loads of stones to the windmill before retiring for the night.

1. **Describe the view from the grassy knoll where the animals were huddled for warmth?**

The knoll where the animals were gave a clear view of the countryside. Most of Animal Farm was within their view – the long pasture stretching down to the main road, the hayfield, the spinney, the drinking pool, me ploughed fields where the young wheat was thick and green and the red rooftops of the farm buildings with the smoke curling from the chimneys.

1. **What were Clovers thoughts as she looked at Animal Farm from the grassy knoll?**

As Clover looked down the hillside her eyes filled with tears and she thought that they had never sought to work for the overthrow of the human race. Her idea of the future was of a society where all the animals were equal and free from hunger and the whip. A Society where the strong protected the weak and all animals worked according to their own capacity.

1. **What did Clover know and what did she decide?**

Clover knew that it was necessary to prevent the return of the humans to Animal farm. She decided that whatever happened she would remain faithful, work hard, carry out the orders that were given to her and accept the leadership of Napoleon.

1. **What song did Clover sing to reflect her feelings?**

Clover sang the song ‘Beasts of England’.

1. **What was the latest decree announced by Squealer? Why?**

Squealer announced that the song ‘Beasts of England’ was abolished and animals were forbidden to sing it, because it was the song of the rebellion and the rebellion was now over.

1. **What indicated that the rebellion was over?**

The final act of the execution of the traitors both internal and external ended the rebellion.

1. **What was the reason behind the song Beasts of England?**

In ‘Beasts of England’ the animals expressed their desire for a better society in days to come.

1. **What song replaced ‘Beasts of England’? Who composed it? When was it sung?**

The song ‘Animal Farm’ replaced the song ‘Beasts of England’. It was composed by Minimus the poet and this was sung every Sunday morning after the hoisting of the flag.