Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Animal Farm (Ch 9)

1. How did Boxer react to the injury that he sustained on his hood? Did it affect his work?

Ans: Boxer's split hoof was a long time in healing. Boxer refused to take even a day off work, and made it a point of honour not to let it be seen that he was in pain. In the evenings he would admit privately to Clover that the hoof troubled him a great deal.

1. What had Clover prepared as a medicine to be applied on Boxer’s hoof? What was a piece of advice given by Clover and Benjamin? Why?

Ans: Clover treated the hoof with poultices of herbs which she prepared by chewing them. Both she and Benjamin urged Boxer to work less hard. Clover told Boxer that a horse’s lungs do not last for ever.

1. Mention the retiring age that had been fixed for the animals. What happened then?

Ans: The retiring age had been ﬁxed for horses and pigs at twelve, for cows at fourteen, for dogs at nine, for sheep at seven, and for hens and geese at ﬁve.

Liberal old-age pensions had been agreed upon. As yet no animal had actually retired on pension, but of late the subject had been discussed more and more.

1. Which land was set for the superannuated animals?

Ans: The small ﬁeld beyond the orchard had been set aside for barley, it was rumoured that a corner of the large pasture was to be fenced oﬀ and turned into a grazing-ground for superannuated animals.

1. What pension had been decided for a horse?

Ans: For a horse, it was said, the pension would be ﬁve pounds of corn a day and, in winter, ﬁfteen pounds of hay, with a carrot or possibly an apple on public holidays.

1. How was life for the animals? And how had Squealer convinced them?

Ans: Life was hard. The winter was as cold as the last one had been, and food was even shorter. All rations were reduced, except those of the pigs and the dogs. Squealer explained that a rigid equality in rations would have been against the principles of Animalism. He would somehow prove to the animals that they were not in reality short of food, whatever the appearances might be. He would always use the word ‘readjustment’ and say that in comparison with the days of Jones, the improvement was enormous.

1. How had the animals started believing every word of Squealer?

Ans: When Squealer would read out the figures in a shrill, rapid voice, he proved to them in detail that they had more oats, more hay, more turnips than they had had in Jones’ day. They worked shorter hours, that their drinking water was of better quality, that they lived longer, that a larger proportion of their young ones survived infancy, and that they had more straw in their stalls and suﬀered less from ﬂeas. The animals had started believing all of this.

1. What did the animals know about their condition in spite of the claims of Squealer?

Ans: The animals knew that life was harsh and bare, that they were often hungry and often cold, and that they were usually working when they were not asleep. But doubtless it had been worse in the old days. They were glad to believe so. Besides, in those days they had been slaves and now they were free, and that made all the difference.

1. What happened in autumn? What was announced later?

Ans: In the autumn the four sows had all littered about simultaneously, producing thirty-one young pigs between them. The young pigs were piebald, and as Napoleon was the only boar on the farm, it was possible to guess at their parentage. It was announced that later, when bricks and timber had been purchased, a schoolroom would be built in the farmhouse garden. For the time being, the young pigs were given their instruction by Napoleon himself in the farmhouse kitchen. They took their exercise in the garden.

1. What sort of discriminating rule was laid down?

Ans: The young pigs were discouraged from playing with the other young animals. About this time, too, it was laid down as a rule that when a pig and any other animal met on the path, the other animal must stand aside: and also that all pigs, of whatever degree, were to have the privilege of wearing green ribbons on their tails on Sundays.

1. What purchases were made? Why?

Ans: Lime for the schoolroom was to be purchased, and it would also be necessary to begin saving up again for the machinery for the windmill. Then there were lamp oil and candles for the house, sugar for Napoleon’s own table (he forbade this to the other pigs, on the ground that it made them fat), and all the usual replacements such as tools, nails, string, coal, wire, scrap-iron, and dog biscuits.

1. What scent was smelt on one afternoon late in February? What did the animals guess? What did it turn to be?

Ans: One afternoon in late February a warm, rich, appetising scent, such as the animals had never smelt before, wafted itself across the yard from the little brew-house, which had been disused in Jones's time, and which stood beyond the kitchen. Someone said it was the smell of cooking barley. The animals sniffed the air hungrily and wondered whether a warm mash was being prepared for their supper. And the news soon leaked out that every pig was now receiving a ration of a pint of beer daily, with half a gallon for Napoleon himself, which was always served to him in the Crown Derby soup tureen.

1. Describe Spontaneous Demonstration.

Ans: Spontaneous Demonstration was a celebration with an object to celebrate the struggles and triumphs of Animal Farm. At the appointed time, the animals would leave their work and march around the precincts of the farm in military formation with the pigs leading then the horse, the cow, the sheep and the poultry. The dogs flanked the procession and at the head of all marched Napoleon’s black cockerel. Boxer and Clover always carried between them a green banner marked with the hood and the horn and the caption ‘Long Live Comrade Napoleon!’. Afterwards there were recitations of poems composed in Napoleon’s honour and a speech by Squealer giving particulars of the latest increases in the production of foodstuﬀs, and on occasion a shot was ﬁred from the gun.

1. Who were greatest devotees of Spontaneous Demonstration?

Ans: The sheep were the greatest devotees of the Spontaneous Demonstration, and if anyone complained (as a few animals sometimes did, when no pigs or dogs were near) that they wasted time and meant a lot of standing about in the cold, the sheep were sure to silence him with a tremendous bleating of ‘Four legs good, two legs bad!’

1. Did the animals enjoy these celebrations? Why?

Ans: Yes, by and large the animals enjoyed these celebrations. They found it comforting to be reminded that, after all, they were truly their own masters and that the work they did was for their own beneﬁt. They were able to forget that their bellies were empty, at least part of the time.

1. What happened in the month of April?

Ans: Two incidents took place in the month of April. Animal Farm was proclaimed a Republic, and it became necessary to elect a President. There was only one candidate, Napoleon, who was elected unanimously. Also, on the same day, fresh documents had been discovered which revealed further details about Snowball’s partnership with Jones.

1. What was given in the fresh documents against Snowball?

Ans: It now appeared that Snowball had not merely attempted to lose the Battle of the Cowshed but had been openly ﬁghting on Jones’s side. In fact, it was he who had actually been the leader of the human forces, and had charged into battle with the words ‘Long live Humanity!’ on his lips. The wounds on Snowball’s back, which a few of the animals still remembered to have seen, had been inﬂicted by Napoleon’s teeth.

1. What news had Moses brought with him in the middle of summer?

Ans: In the middle of the summer Moses the raven suddenly reappeared on the farm, after an absence of several years. He was quite unchanged, still did no work, and talked in the same strain as ever about Sugar Candy Mountain. He would perch on a stump, ﬂap his black wings, and talk by the hour to anyone who would listen. ‘Up there, comrades,’ he would say solemnly, pointing to the sky with his large beak—‘Up there, just on the other side of that dark cloud that you can see — there it lies, Sugar Candy Mountain, that happy country where we poor animals shall rest for ever from our labours!’ He even claimed to have been there on one of his higher ﬂights, and to have seen the everlasting ﬁelds of clover and the linseed cake and lump sugar growing on the hedges.

1. What information made the animals feel uneasy after Boxer had collapsed? Why?

Ans: Comrade Napoleon had already made arrangements to send Boxer to be treated in the hospital at Willingdon. The animals felt a little uneasy at this. Except for Mollie and Snowball, no other animal had ever left the farm, and they did not like to think of their sick comrade in the hands of human beings.

1. How did the animals react to the information given by Moses? Did they believe him?

Ans: Yes, Many of the animals believed him. Their lives now, they reasoned, were hungry and laborious. However, the attitude of the pigs towards Moses was different. They all declared contemptuously that his stories about Sugar Candy Mountain were lies.

1. How hard did all the animals work on the farm, that year?

Ans: All the animals worked like slaves that year. Apart from the regular work of the farm, and the rebuilding of the windmill, there was the schoolhouse for the young pigs, which was started in March. Sometimes the long hours on insuﬃcient food were hard to bear.

1. Cite Boxer’s dedication to the farm after his hoof had healed up.

Ans: After his hoof had healed up, Boxer worked harder than ever. Sometimes the long hours on insuﬃcient food were hard to bear, but Boxer never faltered. In nothing that he said or did was there any sign that his strength was not what it had been.

1. How had Boxer changed? What did the other animals hope regarding his health?

Ans: Boxer’s appearance was a little altered; his hide was less shiny than it had used to be, and his great haunches seemed to have shrunken. The others said, ‘Boxer will pick up when the spring grass comes on’; but the spring came and Boxer grew no fatter. Sometimes on the slope leading to the top of the quarry, when he braced his muscles against the weight of some vast boulder, it seemed that nothing kept him on his feet except the will to continue. At such times his lips were seen to form the words, ‘I will work harder’; he had no voice left.

1. Which rumour ran around the farm one evening in the summer? Was it a rumour? What had happened?

Ans: Late one evening in the summer, a sudden rumour ran round the farm that something had happened to Boxer. He had gone out alone to drag a load of stone down to the windmill. And sure enough, the rumour was true. A few minutes later two pigeons came racing in with the news: ‘Boxer has fallen! He is lying on his side and can’t get up!’

1. How did the animals react after knowing what had happened to Boxer?

Ans: About half the animals on the farm rushed out to the knoll where the windmill stood. There lay Boxer, between the shafts of the cart, his neck stretched out, unable even to raise his head. His eyes were glazed, his sides matted with sweat. A thin stream of blood had trickled out of his mouth. Clover dropped to her knees at his side.

1. Who remained near Boxer to take care of him while other animals went to call Squealer? When did Squealer arrive?

Ans: Only Clover remained, and Benjamin who lay down at Boxer’s side, and, without speaking, kept the ﬂies oﬀ him with his long tail. After about a quarter of an hour Squealer appeared, full of sympathy and concern.

1. What message did Squealer bring with him? How did the animals react to it? Why

Ans: He said that Comrade Napoleon had learned with the very deepest distress of this misfortune to one of the most loyal workers on the farm, and was already making arrangements to send Boxer to be treated in the hospital at Willingdon. The animals felt a little uneasy at this. Except for Mollie and Snowball, no other animal had ever left the farm, and they did not like to think of their sick comrade in the hands of human beings.

1. How did Squealer justify about Boxer’s departure?

Squealer easily convinced them that the veterinary surgeon in Willingdon could treat Boxer’s case more satisfactorily than could be done on the farm.

1. How had Clover and Benjamin proved to be Boxer’s friends?

Ans: When Boxer had fallen down, Clover remained and Benjamin who lain to him kept the flies off him with his long tail. Clover and Benjamin had prepared a good bed of straw for him. The pink medicine which was found by the other animals in the medicine chest was administered by Clover to Boxer twice a day after meals. In the evenings, she lay in his stall and talked to him and Benjamin kept the flies off him.

1. What were the feelings of Boxer after he had collapsed and realised he wouldn’t be able to do any work henceforth?

Ans: Boxer professed not to be sorry for what had happened. If he made a good recovery, he might expect to live another three years, and he looked forward to the peaceful days that he would spend in the corner of the big pasture. It would be the first time that he had had leisure to study and improve his mind. He intended, he said, to devote the rest of his life to learning the remaining twenty-two letters of the alphabet.

1. When had the van come to take Boxer away? What were the animals doing then? Who came with the news?

Ans: It was in the middle of the day when the van came to take him away. The animals were all at work weeding turnips under the supervision of a pig, when they were astonished to see Benjamin come galloping from the direction of the farm buildings, braying at the top of his voice.

1. Why were the animals astonished at Benjamin’s approach?

Ans: It was the ﬁrst time that they had ever seen Benjamin excited — indeed, it was the ﬁrst time that anyone had ever seen him gallop.

1. What did Benjamin announce? What did the other animals do?

Ans: ‘Quick, quick!’ he shouted. ‘Come at once! They’re taking Boxer away!’ Without waiting for orders from the pig, the animals broke oﬀ work and raced back to the farm buildings. The moment they saw the van, the animals chorused and bade a good bye to Boxer.

1. Why did Benjamin start prancing about?

Ans: Benjamin called all the animals fools as they were not able to read what was written on the van. The animals paused and there was a hush. Muriel who tried to make an attempt to read was pushed aside by Benjamin and he read it out.

1. What was written on the van? What happened next?

Ans: ‘Alfred Simmonds, Horse Slaughterer and Glue Boiler, Willingdon: Dealer in Hides and Bone-Meal. Kennels Supplied’ was written on the van. Benjamin explained that Boxer was being taken to the knackers.

1. How did the animals attempt to prevent Boxer from being carted away?

Ans: A cry of horror burst from all the animals. At this moment the man on the

box whipped up his horses and the van moved out of the yard at a smart trot.

All the animals followed, crying out at the tops of their voices. Clover forced her

way to the front. The van began to gather speed. All the animals took up the cry of `Get out, Boxer, get out!' But the van was already gathering speed and drawing away from them. In desperation the animals began appealing to the two horses which drew the van to stop. `Comrades, comrades!' they shouted. `Don't take your own brother to his death!' But the stupid brutes, too ignorant to realise what was happening, merely set back their ears and quickened their pace.

1. Who broke the news of Boxer’s death? How?

Ans: Squealer broke the news of Boxer’s death. He said that Boxer had died in the hospital at Willingdon, in spite of receiving every attention a horse could have. Squealer pretended to be crying and moved as he spoke of the sight at the hospital. He elaborates how much care Boxer had received, about the expensive medicines without any thought given to its cost by Napoleon.

1. What defence did Squealer give to explain Boxer’s transportation in a horse’s slaughterer’s van?

Ans: The van had previously been the property of the knacker, and had been bought by the veterinary surgeon, who had not yet painted the old name out. That was how the mistake had arisen.

1. Which two maxims were given by Boxer, on his death bed?

Ans: Boxer’s two favourite maxims "I will work harder" and "Comrade Napoleon is always right" were given by him on his death bed.

1. What happened on the day appointed for the banquet?

Ans: A grocer's van drove up from Willingdon and delivered a large wooden crate at the farmhouse. That night there was the sound of uproarious singing, which was followed by what sounded like a violent quarrel and ended at about eleven o'clock with a tremendous crash of glass.

1. What happened the next day after the banquet?

Ans: Due to over drinking and hangover, no one stirred in the farmhouse before noon on the following day, and the word went round that from somewhere or other the pigs had acquired the money to buy themselves another case of whisky.