**Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)**

Assignment: Animal Farm (Chapter 1)

1. **To what extent was Mr. Jones drunk? Did he straight go to his bedroom? What did he do instead?**

**Ans:** Mr. Jones, of the Manor Farm, had locked the hen-houses for the night, but was too drunk to remember to shut the pop-holes. No, he didn’t not straight to his bedroom but he kicked off his boots at the back door, drew himself a last glass of beer from the barrel in the scullery, and made his way up to bed.

1. **What happened the moment the light in the bedroom went out? Why?**

**Ans:** As soon as the light in the bedroom went out there was a stirring and a fluttering all through the farm buildings. Word had gone around during the day that old Major, the prize Middle White boar, had had a strange dream on the previous night and wished to communicate it to the other animals. It had been agreed that they should all meet in the big barn as soon as Mr. Jones was safely out of the way.

1. **Describe Old Major.**

**Ans:** Old Major (so he was always called, though the name under which he had been exhibited was Willingdon Beauty) was so highly regarded on the farm that everyone was quite ready to lose an hour's sleep in order to hear what he had to say. He was twelve years old and had lately grown rather stout, but he was still a majestic-looking pig, with a wise and benevolent appearance in spite of the fact that his tushes had never been cut.

1. **Who all attended the meeting? Describe their arrival.**

**Ans:** First came the three dogs, Bluebell, Jessie, and Pincher, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw immediately in front of the platform. The hens perched themselves on the window-sills, the pigeons fluttered up to the rafters, the sheep and cows lay down behind the pigs and began to chew the cud. The two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover, came in together, walking very slowly and setting down their vast hairy hoofs with great care lest there should be some small animal concealed in the straw. After the horses came Muriel, the white goat, and Benjamin, the donkey. At the last moment Mollie, the foolish, pretty white mare who drew Mr. Jones's trap. Last of all came the cat, who looked round, as usual, for the warmest place, and finally squeezed herself in between Boxer and Clover.

1. **Describe Boxer and Benjamin.**

**Ans:** Boxer was an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, and as strong as any two ordinary horses put together. A white stripe down his nose gave him a somewhat stupid appearance, and in fact he was not of first-rate intelligence, but he was universally respected for his steadiness of character and tremendous powers of work.

Benjamin was the oldest animal on the farm, and the worst tempered. He seldom talked, and when he did, it was usually to make some cynical remark—for instance, he would say that God had given him a tail to keep the flies off, but that he would sooner have had no tail and no flies. Alone among the animals on the farm he never laughed. If asked why, he would say that he saw nothing to laugh at. Nevertheless, without openly admitting it, he was devoted to Boxer; the two of them usually spent their Sundays together in the small paddock beyond the orchard, grazing side by side and never speaking.

1. **Describe Clover**

**Ans:** Clover was a stout motherly mare approaching middle life, who had never quite got her figure back after her fourth foal. Clover made a sort of wall round the ducklings who had lost their mother with her great foreleg, and the ducklings nestled down inside it and promptly fell asleep.

1. **According to Old Major, what is the nature of an animal’s life?**

**Ans:** Old Major believed that their lives were miserable, laborious, and short. They were born and given just so much food as will keep the breath in their bodies, and those of them who were capable of it were forced to work to the last atom of their strength; and the very instant that their usefulness came to an end they were slaughtered with hideous cruelty. No animal in England knew the meaning of happiness or leisure after he was a year old. No animal in England was free and that was the life of an animal- full of misery and slavery.

1. **According to Old Major, who is animals’ enemy?**

**Ans:** 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. Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals. He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving, and the rest he keeps for himself.

1. **What contribution does every animal make, according to Old Major?**

**Ans:** According to Old Major, their labour tills the soil, their dung fertilises it, and yet there is not any animal that owns his own bare skin. The cows have sacrificed thousands of gallons of milk which should have been breeding up sturdy calves. Every drop of it has gone down the throats of their enemies i.e. the man. Hens have laid many eggs that could have ever hatched into chickens. The rest have all gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. Clover lost her four foals who were supposed to be the support in her old age. Each was sold at a year old and she would never see them again.

1. **Why did Old Major call himself luckier than the other pigs?**

**Ans:** Old Major called himself luckier as he had reached the natural life span i.e. twelve years and he has four hundred children. But he knows that no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. Young porkers will scream their lives out at the block within a year. He says that all must come—cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone to that horror. Even the horses and the dogs have no better fate. According to Old Major, Boxer who would lose power in his great muscles will be sent to the knacker. The knacker would cut his throat and boil him down for the foxhounds. As for the dogs, when they grow old and toothless, Jones ties a brick round their necks and drowns them in the nearest pond.

1. **How could the evils of animals’ lives be eradicated, according to Old Major?**

**Ans:** According to Old Major, all evils of their life springs from the tyranny of human beings. Only get rid of Man, and the produce of our labour would be our their own. Almost overnight they could become rich and free. They must overthrow the human beings and work day and night, body and soul.

1. **What happened in respect to four rats?**

**Ans:** While Major was speaking four large rats had crept out of their holes and were sitting on their hindquarters, listening to him. The dogs had suddenly caught sight of them, and it was only by a swift dash for their holes that the rats saved their lives. Major raised his trotter for silence and asked if the wild creatures, such as rats and rabbits were their friends or comrades. He proposed that question to the meeting and at once it was agreed by an overwhelming majority that rats were comrades.

1. **What rules were the animals supposed to follow in order to be different from human beings?**

**Ans:** Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend. No animal must ever live in a house, or sleep in a bed, or wear clothes, or drink alcohol, or smoke tobacco, or touch money, or engage in trade. All the habits of Man are evil. And, above all, no animal must ever tyrannise over his own kind. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers. No animal must ever kill any other animal. All animals are equal.

1. **Summarise the song ‘Beasts of England’ in your own words.**

**Ans:** The song is addressed to animals of England, Ireland specifically and to all the animals of every land and climate on this Earth. The song wants everyone to listen to the joyful tidings of the golden future time when sooner or later the day will come when the tyrant man will be overthrown and the fruitful fields of England will be trodden by beasts alone. It waits for the day when rings would vanish from their noses, And the harness from their back, bit and spur would rust forever, cruel whips won’t be used. The animals would be richer than even mind can imagine. All crops would be theirs and the fields would be bright, water purer and breeze would be sweeter. That day would certainly come when it would set everyone free. The song urges everyone to labour for that day, though they might die before the actual day of freedom arrives. All animals; small or big should strive harder for that day, for freedom’s sake. In the last stanza, the song urges its message to be spread everywhere.

1. **How was the response to ‘Beasts of England’?**

**Ans:** The singing of this song threw the animals into the wildest excitement. Almost before Major had reached the end, they had begun singing it for themselves. Even the stupidest of them had already picked up the tune and a few of the words, and as for the clever ones, such as the pigs and dogs, they had the entire song by heart within a few minutes. And then, after a few preliminary tries, the whole farm burst out into Beasts of England in tremendous unison. The cows lowed it, the dogs whined it, the sheep bleated it, the horses whinnied it, the ducks quacked it. They were so delighted with the song that they sang it right through five times in succession, and might have continued singing it all night if they had not been interrupted.

1. **What happened after Mr. Jones woke up?**

**Ans:** He sprang up from his bed as he thought a fox had entered the yard. He seized the gun which always stood in a corner of his bedroom, and let fly a charge of number 6 shot into the darkness. The pellets buried themselves in the wall of the barn and the meeting broke up hurriedly. Everyone fled to his own sleeping-place. The birds jumped on to their perches, the animals settled down in the straw, and the whole farm was asleep in a moment.