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 effect 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 did the animals know about their condition in spite of the claims of Squealer?

Ans: Truth to tell, Jones and all he stood for had almost faded out of their memories. They knew that life nowadays 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 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. 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. 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. What were the respective ages decided for the retirement of animals on the farm?

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.

1. How had Napoleon planned for the education of the young pigs?

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.

1. Describe Spontaneous Demonstration.

Ans: Napoleon had commanded that once a week there should be held something called a Spontaneous Demonstration, the object of which was to celebrate the struggles and triumphs of Animal Farm. At the appointed time the animals would leave their work and march round the precincts of the farm in military formation, with the pigs leading, then the horses, then the cows, then the sheep, and then 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 hoof

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 fred from the gun.

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. 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.