Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Animal Farm (Ch 2)

1. During the next three months there was much secret activity. The work of teaching and organising the others fell naturally upon the pigs who were generally recognised as being the cleverest of the animals. They elaborated old Major’s teachings into a complete system of thought, to which they gave the name of Animalism. Several nights a week, after Mr. Jones was asleep, they held secret meetings in the barn and expounded the principles of Animalism to the others.
2. No, the animals didn’t know when the Rebellion predicted by Major would take place. The conditions on the farm were not favourable and they had no reason for thinking that it would be within their own lifetime but they saw clearly that it was their duty to prepare for it.
3. Snowball and Napoleon were pre-eminent among all the pigs. These were young boars that Mr Jones was breeding up for sale. All other male pigs on the farm were porkers. Squealer was one of those young porkers. Napoleon was a large, fierce-looking Berkshire boar. He was not much of a talker but had a reputation for getting his own way. Snowball was a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive. But apparently he did not have the same depth of character like Napoleon. Squealer had very round cheeks, twinkling eyes, shrill voice and made nimble movements. He was a brilliant talker and when he argued some difficult point, he would skip from one side to the other and whisked his tail which was somehow very persuasive. The other animals said that he had the capability to turn black into white.
4. At the beginning the pigs met with much stupidity and apathy. Some of the animals talked of the duty of loyalty to Mr. Jones, whom they referred to as ‘Master,’ or made elementary remarks such as Mr. Jones fed them. If he were gone then they should starve to death. Others asked such questions as they should care what happens after they were dead or if the Rebellion had to happen anyway, what difference it makes whether they work for it or not and the pigs had great difficulty in making them see that this was contrary to the spirit of Animalism.
5. The stupidest questions of all were asked by Mollie, the white mare. The very first question she asked Snowball was if there would be sugar still after the Rebellion and if she would be allowed to wear ribbons in her mane.
6. Moses, who was Mr. Jones’s especial pet, was a spy and a tale-bearer, but he was also a clever talker. He claimed to know of the existence of a mysterious country called Sugarcandy Mountain, to which all animals went when they died. It was situated somewhere up in the sky, a little distance beyond the clouds, Moses said. In Sugarcandy Mountain it was Sunday seven days a week, clover was in season all the year round, and lump sugar and linseed cake grew on the hedges. The animals hated Moses because he told tales and did no work, but some of them believed in Sugarcandy Mountain.
7. The most faithful disciples were the two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover. These two had great difficulty in thinking anything out for themselves, but having once accepted the pigs as their teachers, they absorbed everything that they were told, and passed it on to the other animals by simple arguments. They were unfailing in their attendance at the secret meetings in the barn, and led the singing of Beasts of England, with which the meetings always ended.
8. Mr. Jones, although a hard master, had been a capable farmer, but of late he had fallen on evil days. He had become much disheartened after losing money in a lawsuit, and had taken to drinking more than was good for him. For whole days at a time he would lounge in his Windsor chair in the kitchen, reading the newspapers, drinking, and occasionally feeding Moses on crusts of bread soaked in beer.
9. On Midsummer’s Eve, which was a Saturday, Mr. Jones went into Willingdon and got so drunk at the Red Lion that he did not come back till midday on Sunday. The men had milked the cows in the early morning and then had gone out rabbiting, without bothering to feed the animals. When Mr. Jones got back he immediately went to sleep on the drawing-room sofa with the *News of the World* over his face, so that when evening came, the animals were still unfed.
10. They could bear the hunger and one of the cows broke in the door of the store-shed with her horn and all the animals began to help themselves from the bins.
11. When Mr Jones heard noise in the store-shed, he woke up and the next moment he and his four men were in the store-shed with whips in their hands, lashing out in all directions. This was more than the hungry animals could bear. With one accord, though nothing of the kind had been planned beforehand, they flung themselves upon their tormentors. Jones and his men suddenly found themselves being butted and kicked from all sides. They had never seen animals behave like this before, and this sudden uprising of creatures whom they were used to thrashing and maltreating just as they chose, frightened them almost out of their wits. After only a moment or two they gave up trying to defend themselves and took to their heels. A minute later all five of them were in full flight down the cart-track that led to the main road, with the animals pursuing them in triumph.
12. Mrs Jones looked out of the bedroom window and saw that the animals were chasing Jones and his men. She hurriedly flung a few possessions into a carpet bag and slipped out of the farm by another way. Moses sprang off his perch and flapped after her, croaking loudly.
13. First the animals could hardly believe their good fortune. Their first act was to gallop in a body right round the boundaries of the farm, as though to make quite sure that no human being was hiding anywhere.
14. The animals raced to the farm buildings to wipe out the last traces of Jones’ hated reign. The harness-room at the end of the stables was broken open; the bits, the nose-rings, the dog-chains, the cruel knives with which Mr Jones had been used to castrate the pigs and lambs, were all flung down the well. The reins, the halters, the blinkers, the degrading nosebags, were thrown on to the rubbish fire which was burning in the yard. So were the whips.
15. Snowball threw onto the fire the ribbons with which the horses’ manes and tails had usually been decorated on market days. He said that ribbons should be considered as clothes which are the mark of a human being. This act inspired Boxer to throw his small straw hat that he wore in summer to keep the flies out of his ears. He flung onto the fire with the rest. This shows that Boxer was extremely loyal and devoted to his ‘Master’.
16. Napoleon led all the animals back to the store-shed and served out a double ration of corn to everybody, with two biscuits for each dog. Later, Napoleon butted the door of the farmhouse along with Snowball Also, Napoleon sent for pots of black and white paint when the and led the way down to the ﬁve-barred gate that gave on to the main road.
17. When they woke up the next morning, they suddenly remembered the glorious thing that had happened, they all raced out into the pasture together. A little way down the pasture there was a knoll that commanded a view of most of the farm. The animals rushed to the top of it and gazed round them in the clear morning light. Everything that they could see was theirs! In the ecstasy of that thought they gambolled round and round, they hurled themselves into the air in great leaps of excitement. They rolled in the dew, they cropped mouthfuls of the sweet summer grass, they kicked up clods of the black earth and snuﬀed its rich scent. Then they made a tour of inspection of the whole farm and surveyed with speechless admiration the ploughl and, the hayﬁeld, the orchard, the pool, the spinney. Then they ﬁled back to the farm buildings and halted in silence outside the door of the farmhouse.
18. The animals tiptoed from room to room, afraid to speak above a whisper and gazing with a kind of awe at the unbelievable luxury, at the beds with their feather mattresses, the looking glasses, the horsehair sofa, the Brussels carpet, the lithograph of Queen Victoria over the drawing-room mantelpiece.
19. Mollie was discovered to be missing. The animals found that she had remained behind in the best bedroom. She had taken a piece of blue ribbon from Mrs. Jones’s dressing-table, and was holding it against her shoulder and admiring herself in the glass in a very foolish manner.
20. Some hams hanging in the kitchen were taken out for burial, and the barrel of beer in the scullery was stove in with a kick from Boxer’s hoof, — otherwise nothing in the house was touched. A unanimous resolution was passed on the spot that the farmhouse should be preserved as a museum. All were agreed that no animal must ever live there.
21. The pigs revealed that during the past three months, they had taught themselves to read and write from an old spelling book which had belonged to Mr Jones children and which had been thrown on the rubbish heap. They also explained that by their studies of the past three months the pigs succeeded in reducing the principles of Animalism to seven commandments. Those commandments would be inscribed on the wall. Snowball took a brush between the two knuckles of his trotter and painted out MANOR FARM from the top bar of the gate and in its place painted ANIMAL FARM. Also, seven commandments were written by Snowball on the tarred wall in white paint.
22. THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.

2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.

3. No animal shall wear clothes.

4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.

5. No animal shall drink alcohol.

6. No animal shall kill any other animal.

7. All animals are equal

1. The three cows who had seemed uneasy for some time past set up a loud lowing. They had not been milked for twenty-four hours, and their udders were almost bursting. After a little thought, the pigs sent for buckets and milked the cows fairly successfully, their trotters being well adapted to this task. Soon there were ﬁve buckets of frothing creamy milk at which many of the animals looked with considerable interest.
2. Yes, Napolean was responsible for the disappearance of the milk. Napolean placed himself in front of those five buckets of frothing creamy milk and convinced the animals that milk can be attended to. Further, he instructed the animals to troop down to the hayﬁeld to begin the harvest
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