Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Animal Farm 4

1. **What would Snowball and Napoleon do every day?**

**Ans:** Every day Snowball and Napoleon sent out ﬂights of pigeons whose instructions were to mingle with the animals on neighbouring farms, tell them the story of the Rebellion, and teach them the tune of Beasts of England.

1. **What had happened to Mr Jones?**

**Ans:** Mr. Jones had spent sitting in the taproom of the Red Lion at Willingdon, complaining to anyone who would listen of the monstrous injustice he had suﬀered in being turned out of his property by a pack of good for-nothing animals.

1. **How did other farmers react to Mr Jones plight?**

**Ans:** The other farmers sympathised in principle, but they did not at ﬁrst give him much help. At heart, each of them was secretly wondering whether he could not somehow turn Jones’s misfortune to his own advantage.

1. **Which aspect was lucky for Animal Farm?**

**Ans:** It was lucky that the owners of the two farms which adjoined Animal Farm were on permanently bad terms. Foxwood was a large, neglected, old-fashioned farm, much overgrown by woodland, with all its pastures worn out and its hedges in a disgraceful condition. Its owner, Mr. Pilkington, was an easy-going gentleman farmer who spent most of his time in ﬁshing or hunting according to the season. The other farm, which was called Pinchﬁeld, was smaller and better kept. Its owner was a Mr. Frederick, a tough, shrewd man, perpetually involved in lawsuits and with a name for driving hard bargains. These two disliked each other so much that it was diﬃcult for them to come to any agreement, even in defence of their own interests.

1. **How did Pilkington and Frederick initially react to the rebellion on Animal Farm?**

**Ans:** They were both thoroughly frightened by the rebellion on Animal Farm, and very anxious to prevent their own animals from learning too much about it. At ﬁrst they pretended to laugh to scorn the idea of animals managing a farm for themselves. The whole thing would be over in a fortnight, they said. They put it about that the animals on the Manor Farm were perpetually ﬁghting among themselves and were also rapidly starving to death.

1. **How did Pilkington and Frederick change their tune later?**

**Ans:** When time passed and the animals had evidently not starved to death, Frederick and Pilkington changed their tune and began to talk of the terrible wickedness that now ﬂourished on Animal Farm. It was given out that the animals there practised cannibalism, tortured one another with red-hot horseshoes, and had their females in common. This was what came of rebelling against the laws of Nature, Frederick and Pilkington said.

1. **Which rumours spread regarding the Farm?**

**Ans:** Rumours of a wonderful farm, where the human beings had been turned out and the animals managed their own aﬀairs, continued to circulate in vague and distorted forms.

1. **Which wave of rebelliousness ran through the countryside?**

**Ans:** Bulls which had always been tractable suddenly turned savage, sheep broke down hedges and devoured the clover and cows kicked the pail over. The hunters refused their fences and shot their riders on to the other side.

1. **Why would humans not contain their rage when they heard the song?**

**Ans:** The human beings could not contain their rage when they heard this song, though they pretended to think it merely ridiculous. They could not understand, they said, how even animals could bring themselves to sing such contemptible rubbish.

1. **What would happen if any animal was found singing? What would the animals do then? How would the humans react to it?**

**Ans:** Any animal caught singing it was given a ﬂogging on the spot. The blackbirds whistled it in the hedges, the pigeons cooed it in the elms. It got into the din of the smithies and the tune of the church bells. And when the human beings listened to it, they secretly trembled, hearing in it a prophecy of their future doom.

1. **What happened in early October? Who came to announce the arrival? How?**

**Ans:** Early in October, Jones and all his men, with half a dozen others from Foxwood and Pinchﬁeld, had entered the ﬁve-barred gate and were coming up the cart-track that led to the farm. They were all carrying sticks, except Jones, who was marching ahead with a gun in his hands. A ﬂight of pigeons came whirling through the air and alighted in the yard of Animal Farm in the wildest excitement.

1. **From where had Snowball learned the strategies?**

**Ans:** Snowball, who had studied an old book of Julius Caesar’s campaigns which he had found in the farmhouse, was in charge of the defensive operations.

1. **Mention Snowball’s first attack.**

**Ans:** Snowball launched his ﬁrst attack. All the pigeons, to the number of thirty-ﬁve, ﬂew to and fro over the men’s heads and muted upon them from mid-air; and while the men were dealing with this, the geese, who had been hiding behind the hedge, rushed out and pecked viciously at the calves of their legs. However, this was only a light skirmishing manoeuvre, intended to create a little disorder, and the men easily drove the geese oﬀ with their sticks.

1. **What was Snowball’s second line of attack?**

Ans: Muriel, Benjamin, and all the sheep, with Snowball at the head of them, rushed forward and prodded and butted the men from every side, while Benjamin turned around and lashed at them with his small hoofs.

1. **How did the humans react to the second line of attack? What did Snowball do next?**

Ans: the men, with their sticks and their hobnailed boots, were too strong for them; and suddenly, at a squeal from Snowball, which was the signal for retreat, all the animals turned and ﬂed through the gateway into the yard.

1. **How was Snowball successful in manipulating in what he wanted? What did Snowball do next?**

**Ans:** The men gave a shout of triumph. They saw, as they imagined, their enemies in ﬂight, and they rushed after them in disorder. This was just what Snowball had intended. As soon as they were well inside the yard, the three horses, the three cows, and the rest of the pigs, who had been lying in ambush in the cowshed, suddenly emerged in their rear, cutting them oﬀ. Snowball now gave the signal for the charge. He himself dashed straight for Jones. Jones saw him coming, raised his gun and ﬁred. The pellets scored bloody streaks along Snowball’s back, and a sheep dropped dead. Without halting for an instant, Snowball ﬂung his ﬁfteen stone against Jones’s legs. Jones was hurled into a pile of dung and his gun ﬂew out of his hands.

1. **Write a note on Boxer’s fight**

**Ans:** Boxer, rearing up on his hind legs and striking out with his great iron-shod hoofs like a stallion. His very ﬁrst blow took a stable-lad from Foxwood on the skull and stretched him lifeless in the mud.

1. **What did the men do on seeing Boxer’s attack? How were they beaten up?**

**Ans:** Panic overtook them, and the next moment all the animals together were chasing them round and round the yard. They were gored, kicked, bitten and trampled on. There was not an animal on the farm that did not take vengeance on them after his own fashion.

1. **Mention the cat’s contribution in this ambush.**

**Ans:** The cat suddenly leapt oﬀ a roof onto a cowman’s shoulders and sank her claws in his neck, at which he yelled horribly.

1. **How did the men escape finally? Who was behind them?**

**Ans:** When the opening was clear, the men were glad enough to rush out of the yard and make a bolt for the main road. And so within ﬁve minutes of their invasion they were in ignominious retreat by the same way as they had come, with a ﬂock of geese hissing after them and pecking at their calves all the way.

1. **Why all men had not left from the farm? What had happened to the young boy?**

**Ans:** Not all men had left. All the men were gone except one. A stable-lad who was attacked by Boxer lay face down in the mud. The boy didn’t stir although Boxer tried to move him with his hoof.

1. **How did Boxer react on the young boy’s death? What did Snowball say?**

**Ans:** Boxer thought the young boy to be dead. He cried that he had no intention of killing the boy and he had forgotten that he wore iron shoes. He lamented that nobody would believe him that it was not done intentionally. Snowball told him that one shouldn’t be sentimental in a war. The only good human being is a dead one.

1. **Where was Mollie? What did the other animals think? Where was she found?**

**Ans:** Mollie was missing. It was feared that the men might have harmed her in some way, or even carried her oﬀ with them. In the end, however, she was found hiding in her stall with her head buried among the hay in the manger. She had taken to ﬂight as soon as the gun went oﬀ.

1. **What was mysterious about the stable-lad?**

When all animals came back from looking for Mollie, it was to ﬁnd that the stable-lad, who in fact was only stunned, had already recovered and made oﬀ.

1. **How was the victory celebrated?**

**Ans:** An impromptu celebration of the victory was held immediately. The ﬂag was run up and Beasts of England was sung a number of times, then the sheep who had been killed was given a solemn funeral, a hawthorn bush being planted on her grave. At the graveside Snowball made a little speech, emphasising the need for all animals to be ready to die for Animal Farm if need be.

1. **Which two military decorations were created?**

**Ans:** ‘Animal Hero, First Class,’ was created which was conferred on Snowball and Boxer. It consisted of a brass medal. It was to be worn on Sundays and holidays. There was also ‘Animal Hero, Second Class,’ which was conferred posthumously on the dead sheep.

1. **Why was it called Battle of Cowshed?**

**Ans:** It was named the Battle of the Cowshed, since that was where the ambush had been sprung. Mr. Jones’s gun had been found lying in the mud, and it was known that there was a supply of cartridges in the farmhouse.

1. **What was decided to do on two occasions? Which were those two occasions?**

**Ans:** It was decided to set the gun up at the foot of the Flagstaﬀ, like a piece of artillery, and to ﬁre it twice a year — once on October the twelfth, the anniversary of the Battle of the Cowshed, and once on Midsummer Day, the anniversary of the Rebellion.