**Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)**

Assignment: Animal Farm (Chapter 6)

1. **What happened that year? Were the animals happy?**

**Ans:** All that year the animals worked like slaves. But they were happy in their work; they grudged no eﬀort or sacriﬁce, well aware that everything that they did was for the beneﬁt of themselves and those of their kind who would come after them, and not for a pack of idle, thieving human beings.

1. **What announced was done in the month of August?**

Ans: In August Napoleon announced that there would be work on Sunday afternoons as well. This work was strictly voluntary, but any animal who absented himself from it would have his rations reduced by half.

1. **Which difficulty the animals had to face due to the windmill?**

**Ans:** The problem the animals could not at ﬁrst solve was how to break up the stone into pieces of suitable size. There seemed no way of doing this except with picks and crowbars, which no animal could use, because no animal could stand on his hind legs.

1. **What material was available?**

**Ans:** There was a good quarry of limestone on the farm, and plenty of sand and cement had been found in one of the outhouses, so that all the materials for building were at hand.

1. **How was the force of gravity put to use?**

**Ans**: Huge boulders, far too big to be used as they were, were lying all over the bed of the quarry. The animals lashed ropes round these, and then all together, cows, horses, sheep, any animal that could lay hold of the rope they dragged them with desperate slowness up the slope to the top of the quarry, where they were toppled over the edge, to shatter to pieces below.

1. **How were the stones transported?**

**Ans:** The horses carried it oﬀ in cart-loads, the sheep dragged single blocks, even Muriel and Benjamin yoked themselves into an old governess-cart and did their share.

1. **How is carrying stones on the top described as? Why?**

**Ans:** Carrying stones on the top of the quarry is described to be as a slow and laborious process. Frequently it took a whole day of exhausting eﬀort to drag a single boulder to the top of the quarry, and sometimes when it was pushed over the edge it failed to break.

1. **Whose contribution helped a lot for breaking stones?**

**Ans:** Boxer strength seemed equal to that of all the rest of the animals put together. When the boulder began to slip and the animals cried out in despair at ﬁnding themselves dragged down the hill, it was always Boxer who strained himself against the rope and brought the boulder to a stop.

1. **Why was everyone filled with admiration?**

**Ans:** Everyone was filled with admiration as they saw Boxer toiling up the slope inch by inch, his breath coming fast, the tips of his hoofs clawing at the ground, and his great sides matted with sweat.

1. **Who warned Boxer? How did he respond?**

**Ans:** Clover warned him sometimes to be careful not to overstrain himself, but Boxer would never listen to her. His two slogans, ‘I will work harder’ and ‘Napoleon is always right,’ seemed to him a suﬃcient answer to all problems.

1. **How would Boxer work extra?**

**Ans:** Boxer had made arrangements with the cockerel to call him three quarters of an hour earlier in the mornings instead of half an hour. And in his spare moments, of which there were not many nowadays, he would go alone to the quarry, collect a load of broken stone, and drag it down to the site of the windmill unassisted.

1. **Mention the advantages of having only animals on the farm.**

**Ans:** The advantage of only having to feed themselves, and not having to support ﬁve extravagant human beings as well, was great. In many ways the animal method of doing things was more eﬃcient and saved labour. Such jobs as weeding, for instance, could be done with thoroughness impossible to human beings. Since no animal now stole, it was unnecessary to fence oﬀ pasture from arable land, which saved a lot of labour on the upkeep of hedges and gates.

1. **Which commodities were needed on the farm?**

**Ans:** There was need of paraﬃn oil, nails, string, dog biscuits, and iron for the horses’ shoes, none of which could be produced on the farm. Later there would also be need for seeds and artiﬁcial manures, besides various tools and, ﬁnally, the machinery for the windmill.

1. **What was announced on one Sunday morning?**

**Ans:** Napoleon announced that he had decided upon a new policy. Animal Farm would engage in trade with the neighbouring farms: not, of course, for any commercial purpose, but simply in order to obtain certain materials which were urgently necessary. The needs of the windmill must override everything else, he said.

1. **Which different commodities were going to be exchanged for money?**

**Ans:** The different commodities to be exchanged for more money were a stack of hay and part of the current year’s wheat crop, if more money were needed, it would have to be made up by the sale of eggs.

1. **Why were the animals vaguely uneasy?**

**Ans:** The animals were vaguely uneasy as they remembered passing resolutions- never to have any dealings with human beings, never to engage in trade, never to make use of money- or at least they thought that they remembered it.

1. **How did the animals react to the announcement?**

**Ans:** The four young pigs who had protested when Napoleon abolished the Meetings raised their voices timidly, but they were promptly silenced by a tremendous growling from the dogs. Then, as usual, the sheep broke into ‘Four legs good, two legs bad!’ and the momentary awkwardness was smoothed over.

1. **Who was Mr Whymper? What was his role?**

**Ans:** Mr. Whymper was a solicitor living in Willingdon who had agreed to act as intermediary between Animal Farm and the outside world, and would visit the farm every Monday morning to receive his instructions. He was a sly looking man with side whiskers, a solicitor in a very small way of business, but sharp enough to have realised earlier than anyone else that Animal Farm would need a broker and that the commissions would be worth having.

1. **How did the animals felt whenever Mr Whymper came to the farm?**

**Ans:** The animals watched his coming and going with a kind of dread, and avoided him as much as possible. Nevertheless, the sight of Napoleon, on all fours, delivering orders to Whymper, who stood on two legs, roused their pride.

1. **What change did the relations between the humans and the animals undergo?**

**Ans:** The relations between the humans and the animals underwent a huge change. The human beings did not hate Animal Farm any less now that it was prospering; indeed, they hated it more than ever. Every human being held it as an article of faith that the farm would go bankrupt sooner or later, and, above all, that the windmill would be a failure.

1. **What would these humans do at the pub? What was their innate thought about these animals?**

**Ans:** They would meet in the public-houses and prove to one another by means of diagrams that the windmill was bound to fall down, or that if it did stand up, then that it would never work. Against their will, these animals had developed a certain respect for the eﬃciency with which the animals were managing their own aﬀairs.

1. **How do we know that these animals were given respect by the humans?**

**Ans:** The animals had begun to call Animal Farm by its proper name and ceased to pretend that it was called the Manor Farm. They had also dropped their championship of Jones, who had given up hope of getting his farm back and gone to live in another part of the county.

1. **What justification did the pigs provide on shifting to the farmhouse?**

**Ans:**  It was absolutely necessary, he said, that the pigs who were the brains of the farm, should have a quiet place to work in. It was also more suited to the dignity of the Leader to live in a house than in a mere sty.

1. **What would the pigs do in the farmhouse? How did the animals react to this?**

**Ans:** The pigs not only took their meals in the kitchen and used the drawing-room as a recreation room, but also slept in the beds. Some of the animals were disturbed but Boxer passed it oﬀ as usual with ‘Napoleon is always right!’, but Clover, who thought she remembered a deﬁnite ruling against beds.

1. **What did Clover do as soon as she realised about the rule against beds?**

**Ans:** Clover went to the end of the barn and tried to puzzle out the Seven Commandments which were inscribed there. Finding herself unable to read more than individual letters, she fetched Muriel. She asked Muriel to read out the fourth commandment. With difficulty Muriel did read it that ‘No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets’.

1. **What did Clover do after knowing about the fourth commandment from Muriel??**

**Ans:** Clover had not remembered that the Fourth Commandment mentioned sheets; but as it was there on the wall, it must have done so.

1. **How did Squealer convince others regarding the usage of beds?**

**Ans:** Squealer told everyone that there was never a rule against beds. A bed is merely a place to sleep in. A pile of straw in a stall is a bed, properly regarded. The rule was against sheets which are a human invention. They had supposedly removed the sheets from the farmhouse beds and they would sleep between blankets. And very comfortable beds they were too, he said, as comfortable as it was needed not more than what they needed. Further Squealer justified this act by saying that as they did all the brainwork no animal would rob us of our repose. They shouldn’t be too tired to carry out their duties lest Jones should come back.

1. **What change was brought in, in the schedule of the pigs?**

**Ans:** It was announced that the pigs would get up an hour later in the mornings than the other animals. No complaint was made about that either.

1. **How did the weather change in the month of November? What happened one night?**

**Ans:** November came, with raging south-west winds. Building had to stop because it was now too wet to mix the cement. Finally there came a night when the gale was so violent that the farm buildings rocked on their foundations and several tiles were blown oﬀ the roof of the barn. The hens woke up squawking with terror because they had all dreamed simultaneously of hearing a gun go oﬀ in the distance. In the morning the animals came out of their stalls to ﬁnd that the ﬂagstaﬀ had been blown down and an elm tree at the foot of the orchard had been plucked up like a radish. They had just noticed this when a cry of despair broke from every animal’s throat. A terrible sight had met their eyes. The windmill was in ruins.

1. **What happened when the animals saw the windmill in ruins?**

**Ans:** With one accord the animals dashed down to the spot. Napoleon, who seldom moved out of a walk, raced ahead of them all. The fruit of all their struggles laid down levelled to its foundations. The stones they had broken and carried so laboriously scattered all around. Unable at ﬁrst to speak, they stood gazing mournfully at the litter of fallen stone.

1. **What did Napoleon do at the windmill site?**

**Ans:** Napoleon paced to and fro in silence, occasionally snuﬃng at the ground. His tail had grown rigid and twitched sharply from side to side, a sign in him of intense mental activity. Suddenly he halted as though his mind were made up. He announced that Snowball had destroyed the windmill out of sheet malignity to set back their plans and avenge himself for his ignominious expulsion. The traitor crept under cover of night and destroyed their work.

1. **What did Napoleon announce for capturing Snowball?**

**Ans:** First he pronounced the death sentence upon Snowball. Then he announced ’Animal Hero, Second Class,’ and half a bushel of apples to any animal who brings him to justice and a full bushel to anyone who captures him alive.

1. **From where had Snowball come, according to Napoleon? What proof did they get?**

**Ans:** Napoleon said that Snowball had probably come from the direction of Foxwood Farm. The footprints of a pig were discovered in the grass at a little distance from the knoll. They could only be traced for a few yards, but appeared to lead to a hole in the hedge. Napoleon snuﬀed deeply at them and pronounced them to be Snowball’s.