

***World Literature for
Christian Homeschoolers***

**Volume 6:
*Animal Farm***

Answer Key to Review Questions

By Scott Clifton

Web: www.homeschoolpartners.net

Email: scott@homeschoolpartners.net

For a FREE two-week sample of *Classic Literature for Christian Homeschoolers, World Literature for Christian Homeschoolers*, and a free copy of *The First Book of Homeschool Follies*, [click here.](#)

Week 29, Day 1 (Chapters I-II)

1. List the story's main characters and traits.

Major: white boar who starts revolution
Boxer: huge, strong, dumb horse
Clover: middle-aged female cart horse
Bluebell, Jessie, Pincher: dogs
Mollie: foolish, pretty, white mare
Benjamin: bad-tempered donkey, devoted to Boxer
Moses: raven

2. What gets the story moving?

Major, the old, dying boar, has a dream and shares it with the animals on the farm.

3. What does Major call the animals as he speaks? List his speech's key ideas.

He calls them "Comrades." The speech's main points:

"We work too hard, but don't get the benefit of their work."
"We're not free."
"Man is our enemy."
"Those on four legs are friends; those on two legs are enemies."
"Let's don't start to resemble men."
"All animals are equal."
"Never kill another animal."
"Time for a revolution!"

4. Sum up Chapter 2.

Major dies, but the animals are stirred by his speech. The pigs start organizing a rebellion.

5. Name the two main pigs. What do they do?

Snowball (quicker in speech, more inventive) and Napoleon (bigger, used to getting his own way, not much of a talker). They teach the animals "Animalism" and organize the rebellion, taking the lead.

6. Define *Animalism*.

It's not really well defined until the Seven Commandments sum it up, but just seems to fight against Man owning farms and running them the way things are.

7. What instigates the animals' next major act?

Their hunger; they take food, which leads to the rebellion, and they kick Jones out of the farm and take it over themselves.

8. List 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.*

9. What mystery occurs after the cows are milked?

The milk disappears (taken by the pigs!).

Additional Notes:

- Major is the equivalent of Karl Marx and/or Lenin: He “thinks up” and starts the revolution.
- “Comrades” is a Russian communist term (what Major calls the animals).
- “Man” equates to the Russian czars that communism overthrew.
- Class envy: Major’s speech refers to “Man” like communists refer to the bourgeoisie.
- “Beasts of England” resembles communist anthems we saw in class.
- Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin; Snowball represents Leon Trotsky.
- Boxer and Clover represent dumb, unthinking followers who do what they’re told.

Week 29, Day 2 (Chapters III-IV)

1. Describe the harvest. Which animals *don’t* work?

It’s a great harvest; everyone works hard, especially Boxer, but Napoleon and Snowball don’t work.

2. Explain Boxer’s importance. How do Mollie and the cat work?

He works incredibly hard and tirelessly, completely sold on the whole idea of Animal Farm; the harvest wouldn’t have happened without him.

3. Describe the meetings.

Napoleon and Snowball are always the ones suggesting things, and they argue constantly.

4. How and why are the Seven Commandments altered? How do the sheep react?

It’s reduced to “Four legs good, two legs bad.” The sheep respond to any questioning of the new commandments by other animals by stupidly repeating the slogan over and over.

5. How do the pigs explain the milk and apples?

They say they’re doing it for the OTHER animals’ sake! They claim that they have to keep up their strength so they can keep Jones from coming back and taking over Animal Farm.

6. Why are nearby farmers worried?

They're worried that animals on their farms will get the idea to revolt; this represents the leaders of the countries around communist Russia. Some farms do, in fact, revolt.

7. Describe the battle with Jones. How do Snowball and Boxer react afterwards? What memorial is then instituted?

It's called "The Battle of the Cowshed." The animals win, but it is bloody and violent, and many die, and they decide to commemorate their victory twice a year by firing Jones's left-behind shotgun. This represents the 1917 communist revolution.

Additional Notes:

- The "hoof and horn" flag represents the "hammer and sickle" communist flag.
- Napoleon's taking the puppies to "educate" represents the brainwashing of children.
- What does the "milk and apples" situation represent?

Week 29, Day 3 (Chapters V-VI)

1. What is Mollie suspected of?

Being friendly with other farmers; lumps of sugar and ribbons are found under her straw.

2. Sum up the Napoleon/Snowball fight and windmill debate. Which view seems more reasonable?

Snowball makes better speeches, but Napoleon does better rounding up support (especially the sheep). Snowball argues that a windmill will save the animals work, but Napoleon wants to just focus on food production. The animals, except Benjamin, take sides.

3. How do the two argue about defense? How does Napoleon "win" the windmill debate? What does Napoleon say about the meetings?

Napoleon says the animals should get arms and train themselves; Snowball says they should send out pigeons to stir up rebellion among the other farms. The debate is "won" when Napoleon sends attack dogs (the puppies he trained) upon Snowball, who flees; Napoleon says there will be no more debate, and that he will make all the decisions.

4. What is Squealer's function? What is his "unity" phrase?

To convince the other animals that Napoleon isn't a dictator—just working extra hard to help the other animals. "Surely, Comrades, you do not want Jones back?"

5. What does Napoleon then announce?

The windmill will be built! He also uses Squealer to convince the animals that he (Napoleon) was never against the windmill, and in fact, it was his idea—Snowball just stole the idea!

6. Why are the animals happy, though working "like slaves"? Describe the windmill work and harvest. How is Boxer key?

They imagine that they're working for themselves, and not to enrich those evil Men. The work is extremely hard, Boxer works incredibly hard, but the harvest is poor.

7. Explain Napoleon's new policy. Why is there little protest?

The animals will now trade with other farms. There's little protest because Squealer convinces them that there never WAS really a rule that the animals couldn't trade with others—it was probably some rumor that Snowball started!

8. Where do the pigs move? How does Squealer handle the protests?

Into the farmhouse; Squealer quells the protests by saying that there was no resolution passed that the pigs couldn't live there.

9. What other advantages do the pigs enjoy? How do they justify it?

*Sleeping in a bed; even though the commandments forbade animals to do so, Squealer says it only said that animals couldn't sleep in a bed **with sheets**. They're also allowed an extra hour of sleep.*

10. What stops the windmill's progress? What claim does Napoleon make?

It is destroyed; Napoleon claims it's Snowball again.

Additional Notes:

- The Windmill represents the advanced technology that communist leaders crave, to give the appearance that their nations are sophisticated and modern like other nations.
- The animals' happiness, though working like dogs with little to show for it, shows that propaganda works.
- The animals' having to trade with other farms represents communism's failure to provide itself the things that the people need.
- Napoleon's "two-year plan" to build the windmill represents communist Russia's five-year-plans.
- Major's skull on display to inspire the animals represents Lenin's body, which was preserved and put on display.

Week 30, Day 1 (Chapter VII)

1. Why are the animals intent on finishing the windmill? What do they face? Why is this fact hidden?

They don't want to be criticized by the other farmers. They work on the windmill in the bitter cold, facing food shortages, but this is hidden, again, to prevent Animal Farm from looking bad to the other nations.

2. What is ironic about Squealer's labor speeches? How does Napoleon use Whymper?

They praise the joy and dignity of labor, which the ordinary animals are doing, but the "leaders" aren't. Napoleon uses Whymper to lie to the world about the empty food bins (like reporters such as Walter Duranty of the New York Times did to the world—falsely reporting that communism worked well, when it didn't).

3. What new policy upsets the hens? What happens to them, and what does Napoleon say happened to them?

That their eggs will be taken from them. They protest and are murdered, but Napoleon says they died of a disease.

4. What is "discovered" about Snowball? How do the animals react?

He is secretly visiting Animal Farm at night and ruining all the animals' work. He was with Jones all the time. But the animals remember how he fought Jones at the Battle of the Cowshed and are confused.

5. What "confessions" occur? How does this affect the other animals?

False confessions of wrongdoing from many of the animals, who are executed. This frightens the other animals, naturally, into doing what they're told, especially with the threat of the dogs tearing them apart.

6. What new policy does Squealer announce at the chapter's end?

The anthem "Beasts of England" won't be sung, since it's "no longer needed," the rebellion having succeeded.

Additional Notes:

- The hens' situation parallels the forced collectivization and starvation of the Ukrainians in 1932-33.
- The false confessions are Stalin's "show trials," which forced the accused to "confess," since they were told their families would be tortured and killed if they didn't.
- Communist leaders always have an excuse for the system's failures: It can't be the *system*, or *their* fault—it must be somebody or something else, of course. It can't be the Five-Year Plan....

Week 30, Day 2 (Chapter VIII)

1. Which commandment comes up?

The Sixth Commandment, which says animals aren't allowed to kill other animals. When the animals read it, it has been changed to add "without cause."

2. How is Animal Farm faring? How does Squealer "prove" the opposite?

The animals work harder than ever, but the farm is doing poorly. Squealer's propaganda shouts out how well Animal Farm is supposedly doing, using "facts and figures."

3. How is Napoleon more revered? Does the poem (94-95) sound familiar?

He's hardly seen in public, referred to as "Our Leader," and credited for idiotic things like "I laid five eggs today, thanks to Our Leader." The poem sounds like the Russian propaganda film song we watched in class.

4. How are the animals kept in fear of the outside world? Sum up the relations between Napoleon and the other farmers.

They're told (1) the world plans to attack them any day; (2) Snowball has been seen skulking around Animal Farm; and (3) that three hens were caught planning to assassinate Napoleon.

5. What is Frederick accused of? What info on Snowball is revealed?

Wanting to bring 20 armed men against Animal Farm. Snowball, it is said, never got a medal for heroism; that was an old rumor, of course

6. What happens after the windmill is finished? Describe the attack and aftermath. What happens to the pigs? What occurs afterwards?

Napoleon comes down to inspect it, names it "Napoleon Mill," and announces an alliance with Frederick, saying that the rumors about Frederick's plans and cruelty to animals were lies. Frederick does attack, destroys the windmill, but is defeated by the animals.

Napoleon awards himself the Order of the Green Banner. He then gets drunk, which breaks one of the commandments, but later the animals read "No animal shall drink alcohol TO EXCESS."

Additional Notes:

- Communism doesn't work; this is represented by the animals' working harder than ever, without success.
- The interaction with Pilkington and Frederick represents Russia's alliances with Germany, then the Allies, during World War II. (The timber buying = the non-aggression pact with Germany; the counterfeit bills = Germany's invading Russia anyway.)

Week 30, Day 3 (Chapter IX)

1. What does Boxer want to see before he retires?

To see the windmill built.

2. How is life on Animal Farm? What are "readjustments" of food?

Bad. Rations are low, morale is low. The pigs and dogs, however, eat all they want. The reductions in food are called "readjustments," not reductions, though. Squealer continues to "prove" life is better, and many animals stupidly accept it.

3. Explain the new rule on pigs. How are the pigs now getting along?

Animals must stand aside for pigs now, and pigs may wear green ribbons on their tails on Sundays. The pigs are getting fatter and drinking and are much better off than the rest of the animals.

4. Define the term “Spontaneous Demonstration.” What is the actual purpose?

Napoleon orders one to happen every week, to distract from the misery of life on Animal Farm.

5. What else is revealed about Snowball?

He actually fought for Jones the whole time, and his wounds in battle were actually made by Napoleon’s teeth.

6. What does Moses talk about? Why do the pigs allow him to do this?

Heaven. The pigs let him do it to distract the people.

7. Describe Boxer’s condition. Why is he taken away? Where is he taken? How is this fact explained by Squealer?

Boxer, getting old and worn down, is sold to the knacker’s to be turned into dog food. Benjamin sees the outside of the vehicle, and asks why Boxer was taken to the knacker’s, but Squealer says that wasn’t where Boxer went; the truck was bought by a veterinarian, who did all he could to save Boxer.

8. What do the pigs do yet again at the chapter’s end?

They get drunk and have a party, probably with the money they got from the knacker’s payment.

Additional Notes:

- Moses the raven represents the Russian Orthodox Church.
- Boxer’s death represents communist leader’s using people, then discarding them.

Week 30, Day 4 (Chapter X)

1. What happens as the years pass? Which animals retire?

Many animals die, and the old ones and beginnings of how Animal Farm are forgotten. Three horses are added, but they are stupid, and accept everything that they’re told. No animal retires, because they have to keep working to survive.

2. How are the pigs faring? How have plans for the windmill changed?

The pigs are fatter than ever. They drink, smoke, wear clothes, etc. The windmill that was supposed to reduce the workload has changed to be used for milling, for profit (to give to the pigs).

3. How does Napoleon define “true happiness”? Has the farm grown richer?

He defines it as “working hard and living frugally.” Except him, of course, and the dogs, who grow richer.

4. How is life on the farm for most animals? Why do they soldier on, still with a feeling of “honor and privilege”?

Life is hard and grim for most animals, but they keep going because they’re trying to continue the “only farm in the whole country...owned and operated by animals.” They can’t remember if life was better or worse under Jones.

5. What do the pigs do that shocks the animals? What song do the sheep sing?

They walk on two legs, when the commandments said that those on two legs were the enemy. But Squealer has taught the sheep a new song: “Four legs good, two legs better!”

6. How do the Seven Commandments now read?

“All animals are equal. But some animals are more equal than others.”

7. Sum up the meeting’s two speeches.

The meeting attendees (representing the government leaders of the world) hear two speeches. The first is Pilkington’s; he says Animal Farm is a success, and that no animals work harder and get less. The second is Napoleon’s, and he says Animal Farm wants normal relations with his neighbors, as well as that the collective farm is owned by the pigs. Also, Animal Farm was now to be called “Manor Farm.”

8. What can you conclude from the story’s very last sentence?

The animals who peek in the window realize that the humans and the animals are indistinguishable from each other. The pigs are completely turned into the thing that they claimed to hate: leaders who took advantage and grew rich at the expense of the people (like the Russian czars).

Additional Notes:

- Pilkington’s speech represents those governments who can get away with their current rotten government and corruption, since they can say they’re not as hard on their people than the pigs at Animal Farm.