



Oklahoma Christian School
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Oklahoma Christian School
Sophomore English II Summer Reading - 2022-2023
Instructor: Cheryl Strauss

I am sincerely looking forward to teaching you next year. If you have questions as you are working on the assignment this summer, please feel free to email me (cheryl.strauss@ocssaints.org). A digital copy of this packet can be found on the OCS website.

Text: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell (ISBN: 9780451526342)

Objectives

- Read *Animal Farm* independently and appreciate its value
- Explain why *Animal Farm* is relevant to a modern reader
- Practice literary analysis skills independently
- Begin the year ready to discuss and write about the themes of *Animal Farm*

Due Date: August 11, 2022, the first day of school. Bring your annotated copy of *Animal Farm* and the completed assignment.

The Assignment:

Step 1: Read the background information on page 2 of this packet.

Step 2: Read George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. As you read, annotate your book using the annotation codes on pages 3-4 of this packet.

Step 3: Complete the *Animal Farm* Character Chart by making a digital copy of the chart on pages 4-6 of this packet in your own Google Doc. The chart will help you track the major events and characters in the story.

A Note About Assessments: During the first full week of school, you should expect to complete a combination of objective questions and written responses based on your annotations. You are also expected to participate in class discussions. The final assessment on the novel will be an in-class essay that you will write during the second full week of school. That being said, completing the annotations and character chart will provide a foundation for your success.

***Animal Farm* Background Information**

Meet George Orwell

From The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

“Liberty is telling people what they do not want to hear.” -George Orwell

In the years since the publication of *Animal Farm* and *1984*, both of which conjure visions of modern government’s dangerous power, critics have studied and analyzed George Orwell’s personal life. Orwell was a man who had a reputation for standing apart and even making a virtue of his detachment. This “outsider” position often led him to oppose the crowd.

Orwell began life as Eric Arthur Blair (George Orwell was a pen name he adopted later for its “manly, English, country-sounding ring.”) He spent his early years in India as a lonely boy who liked to make up stories and talk with imaginary companions. He began to “write” before he even knew how, dictating poems to his mother, and perhaps saw this outlet as an alternative to the human relationships he found so difficult. Refuge in words and ideas became increasingly important when Orwell’s parents sent him, at age eight, to boarding school in England.

Later, instead of going on to university, he decided to take a job in Burma with the Indian Imperial Police. Orwell wrote about this experience in *Burmese Days* (1934) and in the essay “Shooting an Elephant.” At odds with British colonial rule, Orwell said he “theoretically—and secretly, of course . . . was all for the Burmese and all against their oppressors, the British.”

Returning to England to recover from a bout of the chronic lung illness that plagued him all his life, Orwell began his writing career in earnest. Over the next two decades, he wrote newspaper columns, novels, essays, and radio broadcasts, most of which grew out of his own personal experience.

Orwell’s beliefs about politics were affected by his experiences fighting in the Spanish Civil War. He viewed socialists, communists, and fascists as repressive and self-serving. Orwell patriotically supported England during World War II, but remained skeptical of governments and their willingness to forsake ideals in favor of power.

With each book or essay, Orwell solidified his role as the outsider willing to question any group’s ideology. Orwell spoke his mind with *Animal Farm*, in which he criticized the Soviet Union despite its role as a World War II ally of Great Britain. At first, no one would publish the novel, but when *Animal Farm* finally appeared in 1945 it was a success. It was later adapted both as an animated film and as a play.

In explaining how he came to write *Animal Farm*, Orwell says he once saw a little boy whipping a horse:

It struck me that if only such animals became aware of their strength we should have no power over them, and that men exploit animals in much the same way as the rich exploit the [worker].

Orwell said it was the first book in which he consciously tried to blend artistic and political goals. Orwell’s final novel, *1984*, continued that effort with a grim portrayal of a world totally under government control. Orwell pursued his writing career faithfully, although it was not always easy. In his final days he made the statement, “Writing . . . is a horrible, exhausting struggle . . . One would never undertake such a thing if one were not driven . . .”

Literary Terms

These terms can be used to describe *Animal Farm*.

- **Allegory** - a story with both literal and symbolic levels of meanings. *Animal Farm* is considered to be an allegory of the Russian Revolution that took place in the early 1900s. *Animal Farm* is also an allegory of human nature. For an explanation of allegory, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3iXy-I2PEg>
- **Satire** - a story that uses humor to ridicule people, groups, or institutions. The goal of a satire is to bring about change. For an explanation of satire, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvhHsRAwDz4>
- **Fable** - a short tale that illustrates a message or a moral; usually has animals for characters.
- **Parody** - a mocking piece of literature that ridicules the subject in an exaggerated, often sarcastic, way.

Forms of Government

Keep these forms of government in mind while reading *Animal Farm*.

- Socialism - property and wealth are controlled by the community and distributed based on the individual's production efforts, meaning that people receive a share of production based upon how much they have contributed to that production
- Communism - property and wealth are controlled by a few and distributed based on people's needs, meaning that everyone receives the same share despite production efforts
- Capitalism - commerce is privately owned and operated for profit, meaning that people own their own property and businesses and keep the profit they earn
- Totalitarianism - the government has absolute control; no individual freedom is permitted

Annotation Assignment

1. As you read, find 2-3 quotations from each chapter that are significant.

2. Decide what is important about each quotation. Label each quotation using the codes below. In your physical copy of the book, underline the quote on the page and mark with the code.

CH- Characterization- The quote allows the author to reveal important traits of the character. Label with the character's name and character trait (example: selfish).

C- Connect- The quote is a great connection to your life, human nature, the world, or another text. Briefly state the connection you find.

L- Literary Device- Identify the literary device.

T- Theme- The quote connects to one of the overall themes of the work listed below. Label with the theme.

Themes to Track:

1. Power's tendency to corrupt the individual
2. Verbal manipulation (propaganda)
3. Dangers of a naive working class
4. The responsibility of individuals to society

Animal Farm Character Chart Assignment

Using your Chromebook, go to the Google Doc at this

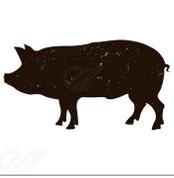
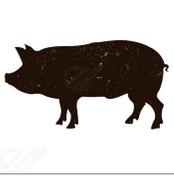
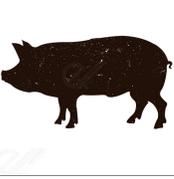
link:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xp_eZ21wJSupCexd7WPosmRotfLJShQmQKjqd2VKuQ/edit?usp=sharing . **Make a copy of this chart into your own Google Doc and complete it on a computer.**

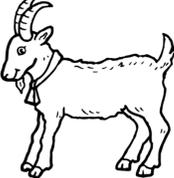
Complete the chart following the example for Farmer Jones.

In the **Role/Actions** column, write information about the character from the book. Include a page number for the information in this column. In the **Significance** column, write your ideas about why the character is significant. What could the character represent beyond the literal meaning?

***Do not** consult any outside sources while completing the chart; that will be considered cheating.

Animal Farm Character Chart

Animal	Character	Role/Actions (include page number for information)	Significance/Symbolic Meaning
	Farmer Jones	Farmer Jones is the irresponsible farmer who mistreats the animals on Manor Farm by forgetting to feed them. The animals chase him and his wife off of the farm (19-20).	Farmer Jones is seen as an evil tyrant. The animals blame Farmer Jones for all of their problems, and the pigs warn of Farmer Jones' return if the animals do not trust their leadership.
	Old Major		
	Napoleon		
	Snowball		
	Squealer		
	Boxer		
	Clover		
	Benjamin		

	<p>Moses</p>		
	<p>Mollie</p>		
	<p>Mr. Frederick</p>		
	<p>Mr. Pilkington</p>		
	<p>The Dogs</p>		
	<p>Muriel</p>		
	<p>Cat</p>		
	<p>Hens, pigeons, sheep, cows, etc.</p>		