



George Orwell was a British journalist and author, who wrote two of the most famous novels of the 20th century 'Animal Farm' and 'Nineteen Eighty-Four'.

Orwell was born Eric Arthur Blair on 25 June 1903 in eastern India, the son of a British colonial civil servant. He was educated in England at Eton University from 1917 to 1921. After he left Eton University, he joined the Indian Imperial Police in Burma, then a British colony. He resigned in 1927 and decided to become a writer. In 1928, he moved to Paris where lack of success as a writer forced him into a series of menial jobs. He described his experiences in his first book, 'Down and Out in Paris and London', published in 1933. He took the name George Orwell, shortly before its publication. This was followed by his first novel, 'Burmese Days', in 1934.

An anarchist in the late 1920s, by the 1930s he had begun to consider himself a socialist. In 1936, he was commissioned to write an account of poverty among unemployed miners in northern England, which resulted in 'The Road to Wigan Pier' (1937). Late in 1936, Orwell travelled to Spain to fight for the Republicans against Franco's Nationalists. He was forced to flee in fear of his life from Soviet-backed communists who were suppressing revolutionary socialist dissenters. The experience turned him into a lifelong anti-Stalinist.

Between 1941 and 1943, Orwell worked on propaganda for the BBC. In 1943, he became literary editor of the Tribune, a weekly left-wing magazine. By now he was a prolific journalist, writing articles, reviews and books.

In 1945, Orwell's 'Animal Farm' was published. A political fable set in a farmyard but based on Stalin's betrayal of the Russian Revolution, it made Orwell's name and ensured he was financially comfortable for the first time in his life. 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' was published four years later. Set in an imaginary totalitarian future, the book made a deep impression, with its title and many phrases - such as 'Big Brother is watching you', 'newspeak' and 'doublethink' - entering popular use. By now Orwell's health was deteriorating and he died of tuberculosis on 21 January 1950.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Characterization Map – *Animal Farm's* “Old Major”

Appearance/Attributes	Motivations/Actions	Other Characters' Reactions

PLOT – CHAPTER 2 (STANDARD LEVEL)

ANIMALISM

Three days after giving his speech, Old Major dies and in the following three months three pigs (Snowball, Napoleon and Squealer) expound a system of thought they call Animalism. How do the following animals react to it?

Mollie	Boxer, Clover

REASONS FOR THE REVOLUTION

Why is Mr. Jones in a foul mood and what does he do at the Red Lion?

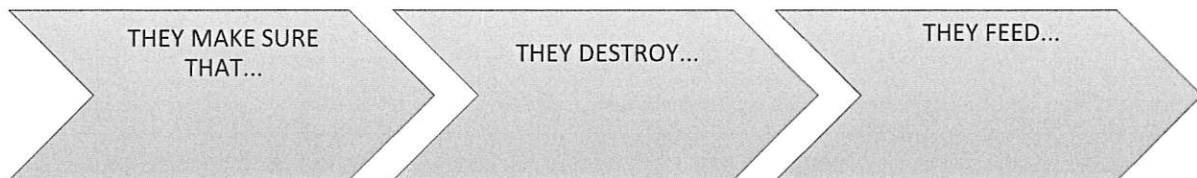
How do Jones's men treat the animals?

Why does Jones eventually physically attack the farm animals?

Why do animals win the fight?

ANIMALS' INITIAL REACTION TO THE VICTORY

Initially in disbelief over their improbable victory, what is the animals' immediate reaction to their accomplishment? Complete the flow chart outlining their reaction to their success.



When inspecting Jones's house:

- a how do the animals feel? _____
- b how does Mollie's react? _____
- c the animals decide the house should be turned into _____.

THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

Now, the Manor farm is renamed to _____ and on the wall of the big barn, the pigs publically write the seven rules that all the farm animals should live by. Fill in the gaps to complete the Seven Commandments.

- 1 Whatever goes upon _____ is an enemy.
- 2 Whatever goes upon four legs, or has _____, is a friend.
- 3 No animal shall wear _____.
- 4 No animal shall sleep in a _____.
- 5 No animal shall drink _____.
- 6 No animal shall kill any other _____.
- 7 All animals are _____.

What do these Seven Commandments remind you of? Why do we need rules anyway?

THE ROLE OF PIGS

In Chapter 2, we learn that the pigs are taking control of the farm on account of their intellect, which the other animals consider only natural: "The work of teaching and organising the others fell naturally upon the pigs, who were generally considered as being the cleverest of the animals."

Three pigs in particular stand out. What do you find out about them?

Napoleon	Snowball	Squealer
The names are very suggestive; what may they imply?		

When did the pigs learn to read and write? What happens to the milk in the end of Chapter 2? What implications do these two things have?
