

**Day 5**

Composition –



**Thesis for Research Report Exercise to be sent to Seton**



Assignment 23, First Quarter. Refer to Handbook, Section A 1.

**WEEK SEVEN**

**Day 1**

1. Book Analysis – *Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Giant*, or *Great Expectations*. Remember that the book analysis is due at the end of the quarter, so keep reading! At this point, you should be doing some writing of the Analysis, or at least outlining in preparation for the Analysis. Refer to the Handbook, Section C, the Introduction and First Quarter.

When writing the Book Analysis, be sure to follow the rules of paragraph composition that you have learned in the last several weeks. Refer to the Book Analysis Guidelines in the Handbook, Section C.

2. Literature – Begin reading *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

Today we begin the literature assignment for this quarter.

The Online Lecture for Week Seven presents Part I on *Animal Farm*.

*Animal Farm* is one of the best known novels of the twentieth century, and it contains an important message. Begin today by reading the introductory material below and the Introduction in the book (pp. v-xiv). You will read and study *Animal Farm* at the rate of one chapter a day. At the end, there will be a test.

It is best to write the answers to the study questions in your English notebook or on the computer; these questions cover the details of the story and will help you to comprehend the novel. Answers to the Discussion Questions do not need to be written out; these questions are meant to broaden your understanding of the novel's meaning. You should discuss your answers with your parent-teacher, and then read the answers which we provide in the key. If you cannot discuss them with your parent, think about the questions and either jot down your answers or record your answers on a tape recorder before reading the answers in the key.

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**Note:** Even though you are not required to write out the answers to the Discussion Questions, we encourage you to do so. At least, do not fail to read the questions and think about them. They are important and are likely to appear in the test.

George Orwell

Because of his keen perception of the ills of industrial society, George Orwell became a Socialist, mistakenly believing socialism to be a cure for these ills. (Socialism is, of course, forbidden by the Catholic Church.) In 1936, with the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Orwell's sympathies lay with the Republican side in that war which was dominated by Socialists and Communists. The Catholic Church was on the Nationalist side. (For more information, check Christ the King Lord of History by Anne Carroll.) Orwell enlisted in a militia unit to fight against the Nationalists and was badly wounded. Although his unit was aligned with the revolutionaries, it was not controlled by Russian Communists at that time. However, when the Republican government came under the direction of Moscow, the most radical elements began a terrible purge and persecution of Catholics, and Orwell was forced to flee for his life.

**Introduction to *Animal Farm***

The plot of *Animal Farm* is meant to parallel and satirize the course of modern Russian history. Specifically, each character or event represents some historic person or event in the Communist Revolution. We have listed these here and leave it to you to work out in more detail the exact parallels. Chapters 27 – 30 of *Christ the King, Lord of History* or relevant chapters of *The Rise and Fall of the Communist Revolution* by Warren H. Carroll will give you more specific information on the course of the Russian Revolution.

*Animal Farm* is an allegory. An allegory uses one thing to symbolize another to make the story's point. In this book, the animals symbolize humans, e.g., Boxer represents a strong and dedicated but ignorant worker, and Squealer represents a deceitful and artful propagandist. Once this is understood, the meaning of the book is clearer.

1. Character Parallels
  - a. Old Major = Marx
  - b. Jones = Czar Nicholas II
  - c. Napoleon = Stalin
  - d. Snowball = Trotsky
  
2. Group Parallels
  - a. Animalism = Marxism
  - b. Moses = Organized Religion
  - c. Dogs = Secret Police
  - d. Pilkington and Foxwood farm = Britain
  - e. Frederick and Pinchfield farm = Germany

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3. Event Parallels
  - a. Battle of Cowshed = anti-revolutionary invasion by West
  - b. Battle of Windmill = Nazi invasion
  - c. Windmill = Five year plans for agricultural production which invariably failed
  - d. Purges = obvious parallel
  - e. Drunken party (where pigs and humans meet as equals) = Teheran Conference at which Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt first met to declare their wartime alliance against Germany.

*Animal Farm* was published in 1945, just as World War II was ending. Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt sat down at Yalta to divide post-war Europe into “spheres of influence.” (See pp. 447 – 448 of *Christ the King: Lord of History* for specific information.)

Orwell’s position when he began the book in 1943 was a troubled one. His sympathy, as noted, was with Socialism and the lower classes. Stalin and the Communists had put themselves forward as the champions of the working class. However, by 1943, it was abundantly clear to all but the most naive or duplicitous that Stalin was a vicious and power-hungry tyrant. Still, no one in the West had the courage to criticize Stalin because his help was desperately needed in the fight against Hitler.

Karl Marx is represented in the book by Old Major. Below is a brief description of Marx’s fundamental principle which Old Major teaches in the book.

### **Karl Marx and the Class Struggle**

The Industrial Revolution created vast wealth for owners, the capitalists. But the workers [the proletariat] suffered from poverty and injustice. Many social reformers saw a cure for their misery in socialism, i.e., the transfer of the means of production [factories, banks, land, and other properties] from their owners to the state or to the workers for the common welfare. The ‘Utopian Socialists’ believed this could be accomplished peacefully. But Karl Marx, the most influential socialist of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, vehemently disagreed. He asserted that mankind comprised only two hostile classes: the capitalists [the exploiting class] and the proletariat [the exploited class]. These classes had no common interests; their interests were irreconcilable. His **Communist Manifesto** [1848] proclaimed: “The history of all human societies up to the present times has been the history of the class struggle.” The only satisfactory end to this perpetual conflict, he believed, was a violent revolution by the exploited class that would crush the exploiters by seizing their property. Marx argued that the laws of history and the internal contradictions of capitalism dictated that the workers’ revolution and its success were inevitable. Once the revolution was completed, there would be a classless society and social conflict would disappear. The advent of Communism would create a utopian society, he said.

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The twentieth century, in contrast to the nineteenth, can be called “The Age of Totalitarianism.” Beginning with the First World War, the values and dreams of the secularists and modernists crumbled. It is clear to all but the most blind that mankind is not progressing towards a bright future. Continual war and revolution have wracked the world, slavery has been reintroduced to vast populations under the name of Socialism, and hatred and violence have grown immeasurably. No longer is it possible for intelligent people to write about a time when mankind will reach a kind of secular heaven.

Orwell’s book is therefore called anti-utopian fiction. This new kind of fiction arises from the knowledge of the immense power of the State to do harm to the individual person, to destroy the individual. Orwell bases his book on the Soviet Union; he could have selected Nazi Germany, or in fact, any of the dictatorships we see in the world. His story has been repeated many times in many countries throughout the course of this century. Most recently, of course, we have seen it in Iran, Iraq, China, Cuba, and North Korea, as well as many other countries which have cruel and heartless dictatorships.

**Day 2**

Literature – Read *Animal Farm*, Chapter 1. Read the questions before you read the chapter so you can look for the answers as you read. Answer the following questions in writing or on the computer.

**Chapter 1 Quiz Questions:**

1. Who was Old Major?
2. From where did his ideas come?
3. How did he contribute to the Revolution?
4. What was the basic teaching Old Major gave?
5. What was “Beasts of England”?
6. How does the rally end?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Orwell has called his book a “fairy story.” Why is this an ironic description? Think about the usual turn of events in a fairy story.
2. Old Major says “Man is the only real enemy we have. Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever.” Why is Old Major wrong?
3. What does the Catholic Church teach about the root causes of poverty and hunger?

**Day 3**

Literature – Read *Animal Farm*, Chapter 2. Read the questions first, then answer the following questions:

**Chapter 2 Quiz Questions:**

1. Who emerge as leaders after Old Major’s death?
2. Briefly describe the personality of each of the three leading pigs.
3. What is the system they have worked out?
4. What does Moses the raven talk about?
5. Why do Boxer and Clover become such faithful disciples?
6. How did the Revolution occur?
7. What sacrifice does Boxer make?
8. What skill have the pigs learned?
9. What are the Seven Commandments?
10. The cows have a problem. How is it solved?
11. Who will guard the milk?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the function of Moses the Raven? What does he represent? Read in the encyclopedia about the Russian Orthodox church before and after the Communist Revolution. Why was the Orthodox church unable to resist Communism?
2. What was the Russian Government like before the Revolution? How does this compare with Mr. Jones?
3. Discuss the reasons behind each of the seven commandments. How are they similar to human conditions?

In Chapter Two, a passage reads, “These Seven Commandments...would form an unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live for ever after.” Snowball and Napoleon condensed Animalism into the Seven Commandments and they simply proclaimed that these were “an unalterable.” The purpose of laws, however, is to regulate behavior in a society. This was not the purpose of the Seven Commandments. They were not actual laws, but propaganda, a set of assertions and doctrines designed to support the principles of Animalism.

The Seven Commandments were not actual laws, but the ideology which proclaimed a new order on the farm.

**Day 4**

Literature – Read *Animal Farm*, Chapter 3. Answer the following questions:

**Chapter 3 Quiz Questions:**

1. How did the animals work the farm with tools made for human hands?
2. Why did the pigs assume the leadership?
3. Describe Boxer. What was his motto?
4. What is Old Benjamin’s attitude to the Revolution?
5. How are Sundays spent?