Animal Farm

Chapter 1

Speech Analysis

Paragraph 1- Why does Old Major begin his speech with the word “comrades”? Why does he repeat the word throughout the speech?

Why does Old Major begin his speech by referring to his dream, only to say that he will talk about it later? What effect might this have on his audience?

What is the mood of paragraph 2? Support your answer with key words and passages from the text?

Which words or phrases appeal to the emotions of the animals?

Paragraph 3- Why does Old Major use rhetorical questions throughout his speech? Why doesn’t he allow the other animals to answer the questions?

Why does Old Major list the positive attributes of England?

Paragraph 4: What is Old Major’s attitude toward Man? Support your answer with key words and passages from the text.

According to Old Major, what is the key difference between Man and the animals?

Why does Old Major list the contributions of groups and individual animals?

Paragraph 5- How is Old Major one of the “lucky ones”? Why does he draw a distinction between the other animals and himself?

Paragraph 6- Throughout the speech, Old Major describes the difficult lives the animals endure. Here he calls for a rebellion. Why does he call for such a drastic measure? How difficult would a rebellion be?

Paragraph 7- We are often told that beginning a sentence with a conjunction (and, but, or, etc.) is incorrect; however, Old Major does so throughout his speech, including in this final paragraph. How effective are the sentences that begin with conjunctions? Try rewriting the sentences so that they do not begin with conjunctions and compare your sentence with the original. Which do you prefer and why?