Animal Farm

Comprehension Questions

Chapter 2:

What happens after Old Major dies, and before the rebellion?

Why do the animals dislike Moses’ story about Sugarcandy Mountain? What is the metaphor?

What events lead to the beginning of the rebellion?

What do the animals do after the humans are run off of the farm?

Discussion

What are the pros and cons of an animal rebellion?

Who are the leaders of the rebellion? Why? What do you think will happen next?

At the end of the chapter, the milk disappeared. What happened to it? What does this mean?

What do we learn about Snowball and Mollie from this dialogue?

The stupidest questions of all were asked by Mollie, the white mare. The very first question she asked Snowball was: “Will there still be sugar after the Rebellion?” “No,” said Snowball firmly. “We have no means of making sugar on this farm. Besides, you do not need sugar. You will have all the oats and hay you want.” “And shall I still be allowed to wear ribbons in my mane?” asked Mollie. “Comrade,” said Snowball, “those ribbons that you are so devoted to are the badge of slavery. Can you not understand that liberty is worth more than ribbons?” Mollie agreed, but she did not sound very convinced.

Chapter 3:

What do we learn about these characters abilities and personalities:

Boxer

Snowball

Napoleon

Squealer

Mollie

Old Benjamin

What are Napoleon’s ideas about education? Why do you think he believes this?

Why are birds included in Animalism’s maxim? What do hands represent?

Extract analysis:

“Comrades!” he cried. “You do not imagine, I hope, that we pigs are doing this in a spirit of selfishness and privilege? Many of us actually dislike milk and apples. I dislike them myself. Our sole object in taking these things is to preserve our health. Milk and apples (this has been proved by science, comrades) contain substances absolutely necessary to the well-being of a pig. We pigs are brainworkers. The whole management and organization of this farm depend on us. Day and night we are watching over your welfare. It is for YOUR sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back! Yes, Jones would come back! Surely, comrades,” cried Squealer almost pleadingly, skipping from side to side and whisking his tail, “surely there is no one among you who wants to see Jones come back?”

What reason does he give for the pigs needing milk and apples?

How does he make the pigs sound unselfish and dedicated?

What are some persuasive techniques he uses?

What threat does he use to convince the animals?