Animal Farm

Discuss questions

Chapters 8-10

Be prepared to discuss the following in class. Jot down your ideas before class, so you are well prepared.

Chapter 8

1. At this point, most animals truly believe Napoleon is responsible for all things good on the farm. For example, some hens said “Under the guidance of our Leader, Comrade Napoleon, I have laid five eggs in six days”. Why do all animals believe this?
2. When told that the Battle of the Windmill was a victory, Boxer says: “Then we have won back what we had before”. What does this mean?
3. Why does Napoleon want to plant barley? How does this affect the principles of Animalism?
4. What changes have occurred to the principles of Animalism?
5. What do you predict will happen?
6. What do these changes mean when thinking about the Russian Revolution and communism? What might have actually happened in the past?

Chapter 9

1. The animals think that Boxer is going to the knackers. Napoleon says it is an old knackers van, but he really went to the hospital. Who do you believe? Do you have any evidence from the book?
2. One of the main principles on Animalism is “All animals are equal”. Do you think this principle is still followed? Use the book to support your answer?
3. The maxim of Animalism, “Four legs good, two legs bad” is about to change in the next chapter. Based on the past events, and what you know about the pigs, make a few predictions about the new maxim.
4. Animals often think that life was worse when Jones was their master. Why do they think this? Is it true? Compare Manor Farm (Jones’ farm) to animal Farm (Napoleon’s farm).

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| Manor Farm | Animal Farm |
|  |  |
| Which one is worse? |

Chapter 10

1. “The Republic of the Animals which Major had foretold, when the green fields of England should be untrodden by human feet, was still believed in.” What does this mean? Why is it significant?
2. Explain the significance of the following two quotes:

“…out came Napoleon himself, majestically upright, casting haughty glances from side to side, and with his dogs gamboling round him.”

“The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which.”

1. Why do you think Orwell chose to write an allegorical, fictional novel instead of non-fiction? Do you think his story is realistic?
2. What events could have been changed to prevent Napoleon’s rise to power or make the animals’ lives better? What could the animals have done? Why didn’t they?