

English 9



Animal Farm by George Orwell

As ferociously fresh as it was more than a half century ago, this remarkable allegory of a downtrodden society of overworked, mistreated animals and their quest to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality is one of the most scathing satires ever published. As readers witness the rise and bloody fall of the revolutionary animals, they begin to recognize the seeds of totalitarianism in the most idealistic organization—and in the most charismatic leaders, the souls of the cruelest oppressors. (from *Amazon*)

Signet Classics; 50th Anniversary edition (1996)

ISBN-10: 9780451526342

READING ASSIGNMENTS

No sources, other than the sources listed on this assignment handout, may be consulted for this assignment.

1. **Read each novel.** As you read, pay attention to the reading focus explained in each reading assignment below.
2. **Complete the attached charts.** Follow the instructions in each reading assignment (below) to complete the attached theme charts. **NO OUTSIDE SOURCES MAY BE CONSULTED**, as mentioned in the assignment instructions.

Questions?

English 9 Summer Reading Contact: Mr. Patton (michael.patton@jp2hs.org)

Animal Farm reading assignment Orwell's Allegory

The novel *Animal Farm* is an allegory, or a story in which the characters and events are symbols that stand for ideas about human life or for a political or historical situation. The animals on the farm are meant to represent types of humans. The behavior of certain individual animals or species of animals is supposed to mirror the behavior of certain types of humans (or even specific historical figures) and how they act in similar circumstances in human history.

Reading *Animal Farm* as an allegory, I want you to think about what Orwell intended certain characters or species of animals in the novel to represent to the reader. As you read, **fill out the chart** that has been provided. I have provided an example to get you started. **This chart will provide you with the evidence you need for (1) our in-class discussion of *Animal Farm* and (2) your first writing assignment on the novel.**

Honors English 9 Summer Reading assignment on *Animal Farm*:

The novel *Animal Farm* is a character-driven novel. The personalities of and relationships between major characters in the novel is crucial to understanding any of the larger themes of the novel.

Orwell wrote the novel as an allegory, or a story in which the characters and events represent larger ideas about human life. The behavior of individual animals or species of animals in the novel is supposed to mirror the behavior of certain common character types in human societies and how they act in similar circumstances throughout human history. In order to have a discussion about creating a character-based allegory, we need to start with a close analysis of how an author creates a vivid character throughout his or her work.

Characterization – the various ways by which an author demonstrates and develops a character’s personality

Direct Characterization	Indirect Characterization
Actions – What a character does, how they do it	Words – What other characters say about that character
Words – What a character says	
Wording – How that character speaks	Reactions – How other characters react to that character, how they act differently when that character is/isn’t around
Appearance/Background – narrative description of the character	

- As you read *Animal Farm*, I want you to think about how Orwell develops the personalities of certain characters or species of animals in the novel to represent to the reader. As you read, **fill out the chart** I have provided. This chart will provide you with the evidence you need for (1) our in-class discussion of *Animal Farm* and (2) your first writing assignment on the novel.
- I only want data here. Save your interpretation/analysis/opinion for later. Every detail you include does not need to be a quotation. You can paraphrase and shorten what Orwell says, but you need to cite the page number of where you saw each important piece of information.
- Feel free to type or write or type your answers on a separate sheet of paper as long as it is clearly labeled and organized. I do not need a full paragraph for each answer; I kept the boxes small on purpose.
- **No sources other than the novel are allowed on this or any other writing assignment in my class.** I have access to SparkNotes and other such resources too, and ANY plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment and a violation of the JPII Honor Code.

Character	Direct characterization – author’s physical description of him	Direct characterization – his/her actions	Direct characterization – his words	Indirect characterization – other characters’ words about him and reactions to him
<p>Boxer</p>	<p>“Boxer was an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, and as strong as any two ordinary horses put together. A white stripe down his nose gave him a somewhat stupid appearance, and in fact he was not of first-rate intelligence.” (26)</p>	<p>Boxer is one of the most faithful disciples of animalism (37)</p> <p>“Boxer with his tremendous muscles always pulled them through [...] There were days when the entire work of the farm seemed to rest on his mighty shoulders [...] there were days when the entire work of the farm seemed to rest on his mighty shoulders. From morning to night he was pushing and pulling, always at the spot where the work was hardest” (46)</p> <p>Turns the tide in the Battle of Cowshed but regrets it, “I have no wish to take life, not even human life” (59)</p> <p>Accepts revisionist versions of events he was present for when they are put forth by an authority figure (90)</p>	<p>“His answer to every problem, every setback, was ‘I will work harder!’ which he adopted as his personal motto” (47)</p> <p>“Napoleon is always right” (70)</p>	<p>“He was universally respected for his steadiness of character and tremendous powers of work” (26)</p> <p>“Boxer was the admiration of everybody” (47)</p> <p>“The other animals found more inspiration in Boxer’s strength and his never-failing cry of ‘I will work harder!’” (85)</p>

Character	Direct characterization – author’s physical description of her	Direct characterization – her actions	Direct characterization – his/her words	Indirect characterization – other characters’ words about her and reactions to her
Clover				

Character	Direct characterization – author’s physical description of her	Direct characterization – her actions	Direct characterization – her words	Indirect characterization – other characters’ words about her and reactions to her
Mollie				

Character	Direct characterization – author’s physical description of him	Direct characterization – his actions	Direct characterization – his words	Indirect characterization – other characters’ words about him and reactions to him
Benjamin				

Character	Direct characterization – author’s physical description of him	Direct characterization – his actions	Direct characterization – his words	Indirect characterization – other characters’ words about him and reactions to him
Moses				

Character	Direct characterization – author’s physical description of him	Direct characterization – his actions	Direct characterization – his words	Indirect characterization – other characters’ words about him and reactions to him
Napoleon				

Character	Direct characterization – author’s physical description of him	Direct characterization – his actions	Direct characterization – his words	Indirect characterization – other characters’ words about him and reactions to him
Snowball				

Character	Direct characterization – author’s physical description of him	Direct characterization – his actions	Direct characterization – his words	Indirect characterization – other characters’ words about him and reactions to him
Squealer				