

Before You Read

Animal Farm Chapters 5–7

FOCUS ACTIVITY

How would you feel if the rules for correct behavior kept changing?

Discuss

In a small group, discuss some methods people have for persuading others to follow particular rules of behavior. Consider ways in which this persuasion relies on bias and manipulation of information.

Setting a Purpose

Read to find out how Napoleon persuades the other animals to follow his rules.

BACKGROUND

Did You Know?

One of Orwell's concerns about the Soviet state was that it used language to distort historical events. After Stalin bullied Leon Trotsky out of the country, he systematically removed any trace of Trotsky from Soviet history—took him out of photographs, censored his papers, and so on. He also used *Pravda*, his news agency, to control the information people received. In Chapters 5 through 7, Orwell repeatedly calls readers' attention to both Napoleon's manipulation of information and the animals' willingness to believe him.

Power Struggle

In Chapters 5 through 7, the battle for power between Snowball and Napoleon comes to its climax. In Soviet history, a similar battle raged between two very different men, Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin. Stalin exercised power through regulations and rules. As its leader, he controlled the Communist Party bureaucracy. Trotsky had proven himself a masterful military strategist and inspirational leader during the Russian Civil War. He wanted to limit government power. The two also disagreed about how to industrialize and whether to focus on Soviet or worldwide socialism. Stalin took control in 1925—control he kept largely through tactics of terror.

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

canvas [kan'vəs] v. to request support

coccidiosis [kok si'dē ō'səs] n. parasitic disease

dynamo [dī'nə mō] n. electric generator

embolden [em bōld'ən] v. to instill with courage

malignity [mə lig'nə tē] n. an example of evil behavior

manoeuvre [mə nōō'vər] (U.S.: maneuver) n. strategy to gain a particular aim

perpendicularity [pur'pən dik yə far'ə tē] n. the state of being perpendicular, or at right angles, to a specified plane

superintendence [sōō'prin ten'dəns] n. the act of directing

Active Reading

Animal Farm Chapters 5-7

Orwell's characters and narrator use language to communicate hidden agendas. Sometimes Orwell hints that language should be carefully questioned, other times it's up to the reader to notice. As you read Chapters 5 through 7, complete the chart below by filling in some examples of manipulative communication. Then state what you think the language really means. Use as many boxes as you need. You may paraphrase the passages from the text.

The Words

What They Really Mean

In future all questions relating to the working of the farm would be settled by a special committee of pigs presided over by himself.	_____	Napoleon is going to make all the decisions from now on.

Responding

Animal Farm Chapters 5–7

Personal Response

What was your reaction to Snowball's expulsion from *Animal Farm*?

Analyzing Literature

Recall and Interpret

1. What happens to Snowball during the meeting about the windmill? What events in Soviet history does this scene suggest?

2. Identify three ways that Napoleon tries to solidify his leadership position on the farm. How does the process of decision-making on the farm change under Napoleon's leadership?

3. Why do the executions take place? What message do these events send to the animals about their role in a future society?

Responding

Animal Farm Chapters 5–7

Analyzing Literature (*continued*)

Evaluate and Connect

4. How does Orwell compare *Animal Farm* under Napoleon's leadership, to its exploited state under Farmer Jones's rule? What attitude about totalitarian government do you think Orwell conveys?

5. Do you think it's fair that those who are more educated or more skilled—like the pigs in *Animal Farm*—have more influence in decision making? Consider how decisions are made in your community, state, or in the nation.

Literature and Writing

Political Speech

What do you think of the way Napoleon runs the farm? Would you support his leadership? Imagine you are a newcomer to the farm. Write a political speech advocating either support or opposition to Napoleon's views and methods.

Extending Your Response

Literature Groups

Each time the animals question Napoleon's interpretation of the farm rules, Squealer suggests they've misunderstood those rules. Recall the discussion you had for the **Focus Activity** on page 16. Within your group, trace the changes Napoleon makes to the rules as he goes along. Identify and discuss the animals' reactions to the changes.

Learning for Life

Governments, like businesses, need to convey a particular image to their citizens and to other nations in the world. They use public relations experts to craft that image and communicate it through electronic and print media, word of mouth, and specific policies. Play the role of a public relations planner and analyze how Napoleon might best present the farm to its neighbors. Write a list of ideas and be prepared to present them orally to the rest of the class. You might consider including visual elements in your presentation, such as charts and graphs, or illustrations.



Save your work for your portfolio.

Before You Read

Animal Farm Chapters 8-10

FOCUS ACTIVITY

Do you think revolution is worth the upheaval and damage it inevitably causes? Can it bring about real and lasting change? Why or why not?

Debate It

With a partner, identify and discuss factors that a government can modify (such as policies) and those that it cannot (such as climate conditions). Consider also whether there are elements to the human condition so basic that no revolution can change them.

Setting a Purpose

Read to find out the ultimate consequences of the animals' revolution.

BACKGROUND

Did You Know?

Orwell pokes fun at the animals' revolution throughout the novel by revealing to readers information that the characters do not know or acknowledge. This is called using **irony**. Though *Animal Farm* is narrated from the point of view of the lower animals, who appear to grasp very little of the power struggles and political jostling, readers can clearly sense Orwell's commentary on the events. In the final chapters, Orwell's heightened use of irony brings the story to a dramatic and unsettling conclusion that clearly spells out the author's concerns about Soviet socialism.

Allies and Enemies

Napoleon wants the farm to have greater contact with the outside world. Joseph Stalin had similar visions for the Soviet Union. During the 1930s, he was torn between allying himself with Western capitalist nations or with Adolf Hitler's fascist German government. The Soviet propaganda machine defiled each "enemy" in turn as Stalin shifted allegiances. In 1939 Stalin pledged himself to Hitler by signing a "non-aggression pact." Hitler broke his promise and invaded the Soviet Union in 1941. The Soviets then became allies with the West. At first, Hitler had great success against Stalin's less modern armies. Ultimately, the Soviet army turned the tide with the Battle of Stalingrad, though the city was nearly destroyed and thousands of Soviets killed.

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

beatifically [bē'ə tīf'ə kəl lē] *adv.* in a manner suggesting bliss

demeanor [dī mē'nər] *n.* outward manner

deputation [dep'yə tā'shən] *n.* a group appointed to represent others

devotees [dev'ə tēz'] *n.* ardent followers

inebriates [i nē'brē its] *n.* those who are habitually drunk

interment [in tur'mənt] *n.* the act of burial

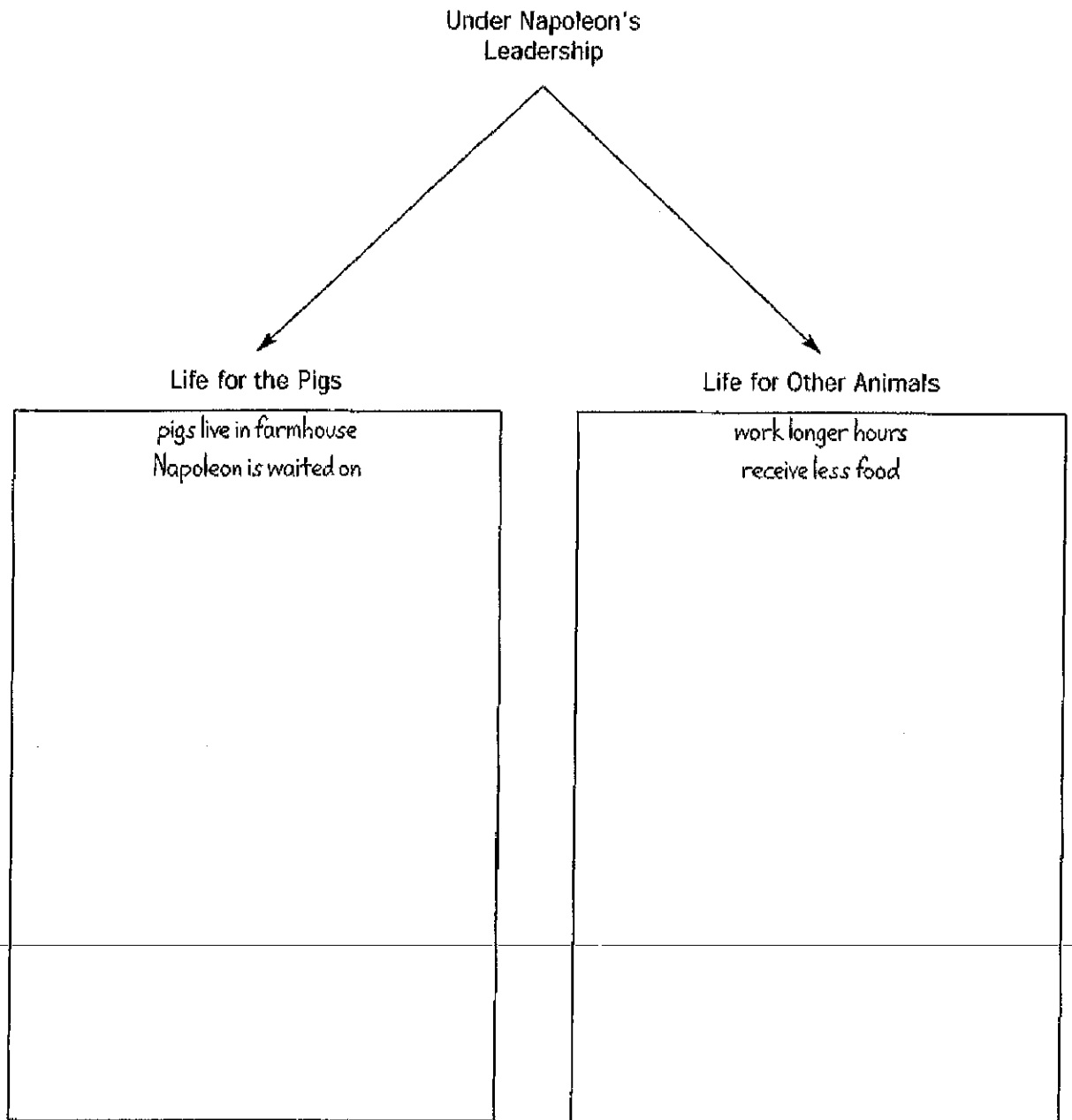
machinations [mak'ə nā'shəns] *n.* scheming actions

taciturn [tas'ə turn'] *adj.* not inclined to talking

Active Reading

***Animal Farm* Chapters 8-10**

As Napoleon takes over leadership of the farm, a new social and political structure emerges. This restructuring leads to many changes in power and privilege among the animals. As you read, use the diagram below to record and compare the living conditions of the pigs with the living conditions of the other animals.



Responding

Animal Farm Chapters 8-10

Personal Response

What is your reaction to the novel's ending? For example, do you find it uplifting, depressing, cynical? Explain.

Analyzing Literature

Recall and Interpret

1. What dealings does Napoleon have with Frederick and Pilkington? How does the battle over the windmill affect the animals? What events from Soviet history is Orwell highlighting?

2. What happens to Boxer and how do the other animals learn of his fate? How do they come to a final conclusion about these events?

3. What changes are made to the Fifth and Sixth Commandments? How is the entire list of Commandments ultimately refashioned? What point is Orwell making about the role of communication in Soviet society?

Responding

Animal Farm Chapters 8–10

Analyzing Literature (*continued*)

Evaluate and Connect

4. In Chapter 10 the pigs begin to walk on two legs. In your opinion is this evolution a sign of progress? Explain.

5. Some critics believe that, at the end of the book, Orwell suggests that the pigs and human political leaders are interchangeable. Do you think most government rulers are interchangeable? How might power change those who have it? Explain.

Literature and Writing

Feature Article

Analyze the descriptions of Napoleon's physical and behavioral characteristics found in Chapters 9 and 10. On a separate sheet of paper, use these details to write a profile of Napoleon for *Animal Farm's* local newspaper.

Extending Your Response

Literature Groups

The animals' initial revolution has faded into the official legend written by Squealer. What if the animals had the same knowledge and insight that you as a reader have? With your groups, identify places in Chapters 8 through 10 where this knowledge might change the course of events. Then predict what might have happened had the animals possessed such knowledge.

Social Studies Connection

Do you think the animals' lives have changed significantly from the beginning of the book to the end? Think back to the **Focus Activity** on page 20, and consider how much revolution changes people's everyday lives. Then use the Internet, media articles, and organizations such as Amnesty International or the Red Cross to gather information about people who live in nations that have undergone revolution. Focus your research on how people's daily lives have changed. Present your findings in a written or oral report.



Save your work for your portfolio.

***Animal Farm* Character Analysis**

Character Name	Personality Traits	Evidence from Novel (w/ pg. #)

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