**Bookreport assignments**

**File 3**

**Assignment 1**

1. **Title**: Animal Farm
2. **Author**: George Orwell
3. **Year of publication**: 1999
4. **Publisher**: Penguin Books
5. **Genre**: Politiek
6. **Number of pages:** 107
7. **Illustrations**: N

**Assignment 2\***

***Your opinion of the book.***

1. **Look up two reviews about the novel on the internet and write down who wrote them, the titel and source.**

Animal Farm: A Fairy Story by George Orwell - review

'Animal Farm is the most thought-provoking piece of literature I have ever read'

Sinister, sad, yet true. Animal Farm is the most thought-provoking piece of literature I have ever read.

Captioned 'a fairy story', Animal Farm is anything but that. Sick and tired of maltreatment under their enslavement from man, the animals of Manor Farm revolt. Released from all chains, there is but one key rule: All animals are equal. Yet, as the story progresses we soon see some animals are more equal than others…

Written in an elegantly simple style, Orwell uses the turmoil faced on the farm by the animals as a metaphor for the Russian Revolution itself. It shows how a people's fight for freedom can so quickly morph into a power play as chaos ensues. Orwell cleverly plants lies, illiteracy and even a head hunt throughout the novel to explain the oppression, propaganda and elaborate excuses that led to the rise of the Soviet dictatorship.

Yet, this novel goes beyond addressing the Russian Revolution, it speaks to all revolts there have been and will ever be. It suggests an uprising is futile, that things will remain how they have always been neither getting better nor worse. All simply remains constant. Here I cannot agree with what [George Orwell](https://www.theguardian.com/books/georgeorwell) has to say, but right or wrong this book is a brilliant politically minded piece that is an irrevocable page turner, easily read in one sitting.

Truly a timeless classic that speaks so much of human nature. Plus, it's quaint farmyard setting makes this a very British book, lucky enough to have become a global phenomenon.

https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2014/sep/07/review-animal-farm-george-orwell

Cara

Sun 7 Sep 2014 12.00 BST

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Animal Farm by George Orwell was first published in 1945 and will be celebrating its seventieth birthday next year. It is still a keen area of debate whether it remains relevant for readers of this generation - I certainly believe it is, and the fact that it is still studied as part of the United Kingdom’s English Literature curriculum would add further credence to this opinion. I re-read the novella last night and found its themes and messages just as powerful, moving and relevant as they must have been seven decades ago.

George Orwell was – and still is - one of Great Britain’s most famous writers and it was Animal Farm, and the dystopian nightmare Nineteen Eighty-Four (1949) which first brought him worldwide respect. Animal Farm is set in a farmyard where the animals decide to seize the farmer's land and create a co-operative that reaps the benefits of their combined labours. However, some animals see a bigger share of the rewards than others, and the animals start to question their supposed utopia. Little by little, the rules begin to mysteriously change, and the pigs seem to gain power little by little, making the animals question what society they were striving for in the first place and whether their new-found freedom is as liberating as they might have hoped.

Animal Farm is one of the greatest socio-political works of all time but there is no need for the reader to pick-up on - or understand - any of the allusions to Lenin, Marx, Trotsky or Stalin as the story can be enjoyed as the simple, moving and enlightening parable it essentially is, a story that clearly shows humankind at its best and very worst. For me, it highlights the demons within every human – jealousy, greed, laziness and cruelty born of fear.

The parable successfully shows how the dream that communism in theory could be so easily turns into the nightmare that totalitarianism again and again has proven to be. I have always found anthropomorphism within the animal kingdom to provide an excellent framework within on which to build very serious themes – William Horwood’s Duncton Wood deals with religious intolerance, Watership Down deals with the never-ending struggle between tyranny and freedom. And for some reason, a loyal horse betrayed can become one of the most tragic and sympathetic figures in literature.

Animal Farm is moving, bitter and a warning from history – one of which will of course be ignored, for that is what humans excel at, repeating the errors and misjudgements of the past. It will only take 2-3 hours to read from cover to cover and as I believe it can now be sourced legitimately for free from sources like [Project Gutenberg](https://www.gutenberg.org/) it is a book that anyone could and should read.

This Animal Farm book review was written by [Floresiensis](http://www.fantasybookreview.co.uk/reviewers/Floresiensis.html)

http://www.fantasybookreview.co.uk/George-Orwell/Animal-Farm.html

1. **Write down for each review in not more than 30 words what they say about the novel.**

* Cara finds the Animal Farm the most thought-provoking piece of literature she has ever read. She say that the novel goes beyond addressing the Russian Revolution, but it speaks to al revolts. Cara cannot always agree with George Orwell but she finds the novel a brilliant politically minded piece.
* Floresiensis says that the novel shows humankind at its best and very worst, it highlights the demons within every human. He says that it is a book that everybody could and should read.

1. **Write down for each review in not more than 30 words if you agree with them or not.**

* I agree with Cara because the novel is wrote really good. George Orwell has putted so much thought in writting this book and that makes it so good
* I also agree with Floresiensis because as she said the novel shows the humankind at its worst and best an that is so true. It really makes you thinking about the humans and is really good about this story. Also its not a really difficult book to read so everbody could read it and I also think they should.

**Assignment 3**

***Turningpoints (something important that changes the story or makes the story take another direction) in the book. What, do you think, is a turningpoint in the book?***

1. **Describe,min not more than 50 words, the scene that you think is important for the story.**

The scene where Napoleon send his dogs of to chase Snowball from the farm. Napoleon is scared that Snowball becomes the leader of the farm so he send the dogs who he has trained after Snowball. This worked and from this moment Napoleon was the only leader of the farm and that was something Napoleon wanted.

1. **Explain, in not more than 50 words, why you feel this is important for the story.**

After this scene the farm becomes more and more how it was when Mr Jones still was a farmer. And with Napoleon as the only leader he becomes more a dictator. That is why I think this scene is important and a turning point.

**Assignment 4**

1. **Choose three characters from the book and write down if they are a main character or a minor character.**

Mr Jones: minor character

Major: minor character

Napoleon: main character

1. **Describe each character in not more than 30 words.**

Mr Jones:

He is the farmer of Manor Farm. Most of the times Mr Jones is drunk and he does not take good care of his farm and animals.

Major:

He was a wise old boar. Major is a inspiring dreamer how gives at the beginning of the novel a speech. He tells the animals about the rebellion wich would take place some time. A few days after this important speech he dies.

Napoleon:

Napoleon is a boar who becomes leader (with Snowball) after Major dies. If Napoleon want something he will get it down. He most of the time disagree with Snowball.

1. **All these characters probably say something at one point. Choose for each character a quotation from the book that you think is typical for this character.**

Mr Jones:

Mr Jones says nothing in the story, they only talk about him. This is a quotation about him:

‘*He had become much dishearted after losing money in a lawsuit, and had taken to drinking more than was good for him’*

Major:

‘*No Animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth.’*

Napoleon:

‘’Comrades, do you know who is responsible for this? Do you know the enemy who has come in the night and overthrown our windmill? SNOWBALL!’

**Assignment 5**

1. **Write down what the book is about in not more than 50 words. Do not give a summary, do not go into any details, just tell us what the book is about.**

The book is about a farm where the animals take over the farm. After the animals have taken over the farm, not everything goes as planned. The story is comparable with the Russian Revolution.

**Assignment 6\***

***Realistic or not?***

1. **Choose two events from the story and describe these two in not more than 30 words each.**

* When Major told his inspiring speech and dream about a better life with no humans mistreating and exploiting them to the animals.
* When the Seven Commandments change, the pigs are allowed to live the similar lifestyle to that of Mr Jones

1. **Can you think of two similar cases that actually took place in real life? Describe these two events in not more than 30 words each.**

* This event relates to a actuel historical event: the political and social ideas of Karl Marx and Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. Lenin was greatly influenced by Marx and inspired the revolution of 1917, personally leading the attacks on the royal palaces in St Petersburg of Tsar Nicholas II
* A climate of terror is created similar to that in the Soviet Union of the 1930s under Stalin.

**Assignment 7**

***Outline/summary.***

One day Major told the animals on Manor Farm a speech of his dream of a better life with no humans mistreating and exploiting them. This speech opend te eyes of the animals. The animals led by Napoleon and Snowball, decided to revolt against Mr Jones. Mr Jones was the farmer of Manor Farm, who was often drunk and was cruel to his animals. The animals drove him and his men away. After they did that, the animals renamed the farm into ‘Animal Farm’. The pigs where the smartest animals on the farm so two of them, Napoleon and Snowball , became the leaders. They forced every anima lto work and they instructed the animals in the Seven Commandments of ‘animalism’. The animals thought it was alright, because they were working for themselves and not for humans anymore. When some milk and apples disappear it is later learned that these had been taken by the pigs, who said to the other animals that they were not allowed to eat or drink from the milk and apples. Farmers in the neighbourhood were concerned that the revolution might spread to there farms. They plan to attack Animal Farm, but were beaten back by the animals, who were led by Snowball. This was called ‘Battle of the Cowshed’. Napoleon and Snowball are arguing like never before about lots of things. They decided that there can only be one leader at the farm and that the animals shoud vowed who that is going to be. Snowball was winning, so Napoleon decided to send his dogs after Snowball till he was chased off the Animal Farm. Now Napoleon was the only leader at the farm. There is less discussion and the animals lose control over the organization of their work and their lives. Any animal may want to question Napoleon’s decisions was intimidated by Napoleons dogs. Napoleon had become a real dictator. The Seven Commandments changed again and again to suit the position of the ruling pigs. After a while the animals have to work only harder and harder. Napoleon comes to terms with the human masters of the farms in the neighbourhood. After a few years the pigs acted so humanly that there was no difference between them and the humans anymore. They drunk, whore clothes and slept in a bed.