Animal Farm Writing Prompts

The class decided on three writing prompts typed, double-spaced (1/2-3/4 pages) for this text. I’ve put some possibilities together for you. Remember that you prompt MUST printed at the start of each class.

Chapters 1-2

1. Examine the idea of leadership on the farm. Who gains the leadership role? Why? Comment on this, why you think it is significant (or not), and does it reflect our society in any way?

2. Look at the animals in the initial meeting. If Orwell is applying foreshadowing as a tool to prepare the reader for what the characters might become, what can you say about some of them? Examine who sits where and any actions that are mentioned. What might these imply?

3. In his speech, Old Major claims that animals are subservient to humans, and humans do not earn their keep. Do we have a similar structure in our society, our town, our government, our school?.

4. The animals generate seven commandments. Reflect on them, if they are fair, and how they parallel or don’t parallel current “civilizations.”

5. Place yourself in the meeting or the subsequent revolution. Become an animal (one mentioned, or make up your own character) and tell what is going on in your mind (focus on the book, not other elements like what is for dinner).

Chapters 3-5

1. Select one animal and present all that the reader knows about him/her and all the reader can infer about him/her. Predict what might happen to that animal based on what you view.

2. Describe the relationship between Snowball and Napoleon. Each one of them has a different approach to life on the farm. What are their strengths and weaknesses? Who “wins” and why?

3. How is the leadership continuing to control the animals? What tactics are they using? Are these tactics working? If so, why? If not, why not?

4. Remember that animal you became in the first reading? Elaborate on your experience. What is happening to you? How do you feel about the rift in the leadership? About anything else that impacts your animal.

Chapter 6
1. The windmill is something that comes up first associated with Snowball and then Napoleon. What’s going on there? Why is it necessary? Why is it destroyed? Why was Napoleon against it and then for it? Why did Napoleon run to it when it was destroyed?

2. Now that the farm has been proven to be successful, the humans hate it even more. Why? What does this say about human nature? Compare this situation to our current world and how established countries view developing countries. Does it jive?

3. How is the leadership continuing to control the animals? What tactics are they using? Are these tactics working? If so, why? If not, why not?

4. Major rules are being changed. How can this happen? Why don't the animals do anything about it? How could they if they wanted to?

5. Remember that animal you became in the first reading? Continue to elaborate on your experience. What is happening to you? How do you feel about the pigs moving into the farm house?

**Chapters 7-8**

1. What do you think about the rewriting of history that Squealer presents? Does that happen in our society?

2. There are spies, a possible hen-lead revolution, and executions. What do you think about the turn of events on the farm?

3. The “Beasts of England” anthem is outlawed. We have our national anthem, but do we have others? What are they? Who selects them? How important is music to the ruling class and the masses? Who determines what is popular?

4. It seems that the seven commandments are changing? Who do you think is behind it? Why? And how are the changes justified? Can you make any parallels to today’s society?


6. Remember that animal you became in the first reading? Continue to elaborate on your experience. What is happening to you? How do you feel about the executions?

7. What is a dictator? Detail some of the examples that demonstrate Napoleon’s development into a dictator. Who are some dictators in our current world? How
are they stopped? Can you do so without an army? Are there peaceful revolutions?

Chapters 9-10

1. Describe the state of Animal Farm at the end of chapter 8. What do you perceive as the most significant changes since the revolution?

2. There’s a lot of bloodshed going on. What other rules are being broken? Discuss how these rules have been changed and look at our society to see if we undergo similar changes.

3. Who was the noblest character in Animal Farm? Explain your choice.


5. Remember that animal you became in the first reading? Continue to elaborate on your experience. What is happening to you? How do you feel at the end of the book?