# CORNELL NOTES

*Animal Farm*, by George Orwell

## CHAPTER 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the meeting in the barn about?</td>
<td>• Based on Major’s dream</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the major point of Old Major’s speech?</td>
<td>• Man only real enemy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Man is the only animal who produces nothing but consumes what animals produce.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Get rid of man and all of the animals’ problems will be solved.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• REVOLUTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- overworked</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- under fed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- no freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- humans taking advantage of animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is significant about how the animals arrange themselves as they</td>
<td>• Pigs and dogs sit in the front row</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gather to hear Major?</td>
<td>- other animals arrange themselves behind the pigs and dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What might this arrangement say about future meetings or events?</td>
<td>• Pigs will be in charge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dogs will guard the pigs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which human habits does Old Major forbid?</td>
<td>• live in a house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• sleep in a bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• wear clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• drink alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• smoke tobacco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• touch money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• engage in trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Anything that humans do)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### What is the theme of "Beasts of England"?

Revolution

### Characterize Mr. Jones

- Taskmaster, but used to run the farm well
- Lost a lot of money in a lawsuit
  - Started drinking
  - Hired help were idle and dishonest
  - Fields were full of weeds
  - Animals were underfed

### What finally pushed the animals to revolt?

- Mr. Jones went to Willington
  - Got so drunk, he didn’t come home until the next day
  - His men had milked the cows, but then went rabbiting without feeding the animals
  - Mr. Jones came back, but went to sleep
  - The animals were still unfed
  - One of the cows broke the door to the storeroom to get food
  - Mr. Jones and his men woke up and began whipping the animals
  - Animals flung themselves upon their tormentors (butted and kicked from all sides)

### Chapter 2

#### What is Sugarcandy Mountain?

- Sugarcandy Mountain — a paradise — is as unattainable a place
- As the biblical Moses led his people out of bondage and into the Promised Land, Moses the raven only offers a story about an obviously fictitious place
- The fact that the animals are so willing to believe him reveals their wish for a utopia

#### Why do the pigs work so hard to discredit Moses?

- Moses’ stories are better than the animals’ conditions
- If a fantasy world of ease and plenty awaits them when they die, they will not rebel
**Animal Farm, by George Orwell**

| and his tales of Sugarcandy Mountain? | • Karl Marx said, "Religion … is the opium of the people"  
- an idea shown in the animals' acceptance of Moses' tales |
| --- | --- |
| Which group of animals takes leadership before and after the Rebellion? | • The pigs because of their intelligence  
- Put themselves in charge of educating the animals about Animalism  
- Secretly had taught themselves to read before the Rebellion  
• At the beginning, met with stupidity and apathy (lack of interest)  
• Some talked of the duty of loyalty to Mr. Jones  
• Most faithful disciples were Boxer & Clover (cart-horses)  
- Had great difficulty thinking for themselves  
- Once they accepted the pigs as their teachers, they absorbed everything they were told |
| How do the other animals feel about this? | --- |
| What is animalism? | • "All Animals Are Equal" is one of the tenets of Animalism, the philosophy upon which the rebellion is supposedly based |
| What are the 7 Commandments? | • Seven Commandments of Animalism = Biblical Ten Commandments  
- A system of morality  
- Direct and straightforward, leaving no room for interpretation or qualification  
- Painted in "great white letters" on the side of the barn = permanence like Ten Commandments engraved on stone tablets  
• The Commandments are:  
  1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.  
  2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.  
  3. No animal shall wear clothes.  
  4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.  
  5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
**CORNELL NOTES**  
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| Were the Seven Commandments arrived at in a democratic way? | 6. No animal shall kill any other animal.  
7. All animals are equal.  
- Three pigs (Snowball, Napoleon & Squealer) elaborated on old Major’s teaching  
  - the complete system of thought was named Animalism  
  - the 3 pigs wrote the commandments  
  - they did not consult anyone else  
  - the other animals couldn’t even remember what all the commandments were |

| What happens to the milk? |  
- The cows give five buckets of milk  
- One of the hens suggests that the milk was put into the animals’ mash  
  - everyone is to enjoy it (an Animalistic thought)  
- Actually Napoleon steals the milk  
| What does the disappearance of the milk indicate? |  
- The boar’s greed betrays the most basic law of Animalism  
- Napoleon uses the patriotism and drive of the other animals for his own purposes  
  - gains control over the farm’s food |

| What might it foreshadow? |  
- Hints at the ruthlessness Napoleon will display  
- Suggests that Animalism (like Communism) will end up with a ruling class rather than being classless |

| How are the pigs being set apart as a separate class? |  
- The pigs become the supervisors and directors of the animal workers.  
- Pigs do not do any physical work  
  - they stand behind the horses shouting commands  
| What is their motive for supervising the farm work? |  
- Suggests they are the masters (very much like the humans they overthrew) |
### CORNELL NOTES

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yet who knows more about plowing, a pig or a horse?</th>
<th>• Horses knew every inch of the field—understood the business of mowing and raking better than Jones and his men had ever known</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| What was Squealers explanation of why pigs are given special food? | • Animals learn that the cows’ milk and apples are mixed into the pigs’ mash every day—
- the animals object
- Squealer explains that pigs need the milk and apples to sustain themselves
- they work for the benefit of all the other animals
| Is his reasoning valid? | • Squealer convinced everyone they didn’t like apples, but they were especially good for pigs
- preserve our health (science proves necessary for the well being of pigs)
- Pigs are brainworkers – it is for the sake of everyone that they do their duty of eating the milk and apples
- if the pigs didn’t eat them, Farmer Jones would come back
- always ends with the threat that Jones will return if the pigs are not obeyed |

### CHAPTER 3

**What causes the animals to be happier than ever?**

- Biggest harvest the farm has ever seen
  - Enjoy the food more thoroughly because they produced every morsel of it

**What is the significance of Benjamin not sharing the self-congratulatory atmosphere of the farm?**

- ‘Donkeys live a long time. None of you has ever seen a dead donkey.’
  - means that how they are living in their lifetimes may work, but it won’t work forever
  - they will never see the way it ends

**To what extent are the animals educated?**

- Benjamin can read and write as well as any pig (but never does)
- Clover knew entire alphabet, but can’t put words together
**CORNELL NOTES**

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| What is Napoleon’s attitude toward education? | • The young are more important than anything  
• Took 9 puppies from Jessie and Bluebell  
  -he educated them  
  -never let them out of the loft of the farm  
  -rest of farm soon forgot their existence |
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Boxer can’t get past the letter ‘D’ (when he learned E,F,G,H, he forgot A,B,C,D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mollie refused to learn any letters other than those in her name</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>None of the other animals could get past ‘A’</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 4</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
| What is the mission of the pigeons? | • Spread news of the Rebellion to other farms  
  -pigs hope to instigate rebellions elsewhere and eventually live in the world depicted by old Major’s dream |
| How do the other farmers feel about Animal Farm? | • Pilkington and Frederick commiserate with Jones in principle  
  -each secretly wonders whether he could somehow turn Jones’ misfortune to his own advantage  
  -Pilkington’s farm, Foxwood, is in a "disgraceful condition"  
  -Frederick is "perpetually involved in lawsuits" and has a "name for driving hard bargains" |
| How do their feelings change? | • Both are frightened by the Rebellion  
  -anxious to prevent own animals from learning too much about it  
  -pretended to laugh at the idea of animals managing a farm  
  -said animals were perpetually fighting amongst themselves and rapidly starving to death  
• Changed their tune to and began rumors about the terrible wickedness (which is not true)  
  -animals were practicing cannibalism (eating each other)  
  -torturing each other with red-hot horseshoes  
  -rebelling against the laws of nature |

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### CORNELL NOTES

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| Who plans and leads the battle against Jones and his men? | Snowball (studied old book of Julius Caesar’s campaigns)  
- pigeons flew over men’s heads and muted upon them from mid-air  
- geese rushed out and pecked viciously at the men’s calves  
- Muriel, Benjamin, and all of the sheep rushed forward and prodded and butted the men (then retreated when Snowball squealed)  
- 3 horses, 3 cows, and the rest of the pigs (including Snowball) ran straight for Jones  
- Snowball got shot, but continues on  
- Stable-boy down (stunned, not dead)  
- Jones went into a dung pile  
- Other men ran off |
| --- | --- |
| What do the different reactions to the “death” of the stable lad show about the various animals? | Boxer was sorrowful  
- no intention of killing anyone  
- forgot he was wearing iron shoes  
- afraid everyone will think he did it on purpose  
- reinforces his simple-mindedness  
- foreshadows that he will be unable to survive in a harsh place  
Snowball (dripping blood from his own wound)  
- no sentimentality  
- “War is war. The only good human being is a dead one.”  
- cares little for regrets  
- death is an inevitable by-product of revolution |
| List several human rituals that the animals adopt to celebrate their victory in the Battle of the Cowshed. | Creation of military decorations  
Naming of the battle  
Decision to fire Jones’ gun twice a year  
All suggest that the animals love ceremony  
Transformation of Animal Farm into a place governed by martial law more than the Seven Commandments of Animalism |

**CHAPTER 5**
### CORNELL NOTES

**Animal Farm, by George Orwell**

| How do you know Mollie is having trouble coping/that she might run away? | Gets more troublesome  
- Late for work every morning  
- Lots of excuses - overslept, mysterious pains, etc.  
- Excellent appetite  
- Ran away from work whenever possible  
- Stood foolishly gazing at her own reflection at the drinking pool  
- Found lumps of sugar and bunches of ribbon under her hay  
- Clover saw her talking to neighboring farmer as he stroking her nose, but she denied it  
- Couldn’t look Clover in the eye  
- Likes being admired  
- Admires herself  
- Wears pretty ribbons  
- Eats sugar  
- Being stroked by humans  
- Does not like the work on the farm or the hardships she faces there |

| What is the windmill controversy between Snowball and Napoleon? | Snowball  
- Wants the animals to build a windmill  
  - They will have electrical power to make life easier  
  - Light and heat in the stalls  
  - Labor-saving devices such as electrical milking machines  
  - Would only have to work three days a week when it is finished |

| Napoleon  
- Thinks windmill is nonsense  
- Thinks the major problem on the farm is to increase food production  
- Urinates on Snowball’s plans |

| Who wins? | Comes to a head on the Sunday the animals are voting on the windmill plan  
- Napoleon calls out nine ferocious dogs  
- Chase Snowball off the farm  
- Napoleon announces all debates will stop  
- All decisions on farm to be made by a committee of pigs |
(Napoleon to preside over the committee)

- Three weeks after Snowball’s escape, Napoleon announces the windmill will be built
- Squealer explains that the windmill was Napoleon’s idea all along
- Plans were stolen from him by Snowball

What two methods does Squealer now use to gain support from the animals?

1. Skillful doubletalk
   - Makes light of Napoleon’s crimes
   - Says he is more a martyr than a dictator
   - Takeover is a "sacrifice"
   - Leadership is "not a pleasure"
2. Rewrites history
   - Says that Snowball’s part in the Battle of the Cowshed was "much exaggerated"
   - Once Napoleon decides to proceed with the building of the windmill, that the idea for it was Napoleon’s all along
   - Napoleon always presented in the most favorable light
   - If anyone objects, the three dogs serve as a deterrent

CHAPTER 6

What is happening to the quality of life on Animal Farm?

- The animals are working like "slaves," but...
  - "Everything they do is for the benefit of themselves not for a pack of idle, thieving human beings"
- Napoleon says animals can volunteer to work on Sunday afternoons
  - Any animal who does not volunteer will have his rations cut in half
- 60 hours a week in spring and summer

How many hours a week are they already working?

Why does Napoleon decide to engage in

- Certain items such as paraffin oil and dog biscuits are in short supply
- Napoleon sells a stack of hay and part of the wheat crop
### CORNELL NOTES

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>trade with neighboring farms?</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| How does Squealer convince the animals that engaging in trade is allowable? | • Squealer *figuratively* rewrites history  
- explains there was never a resolution against using money or trading  
- *literally* rewrites history - changing the 4th Commandment from "No animal shall sleep in a bed" to "No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets"  
- Clover is suspicious, but concludes that she was mistaken  
• Squealer's explanation of why the pigs sleep in beds is *semantics*  
  - "A bed merely means a place to sleep in"  
  - "A pile of straw is a bed"  
  - His most powerful word is "Jones"  
  - When he asks, "Surely, none of you wishes to see Jones Back," all of the animals' questions are dispelled |

| Why does the windmill really collapse? | • A violent November storm blows it down  
  - walls not thick enough to support it against a strong wind |

| Why does Napoleon blame the collapse of the windmill on Snowball? | • Snowball is used as a scapegoat for all of Napoleon’s failings  
  - Blames Snowball for blowing it up  
• Napoleon is afraid of seeming indecisive and a failure |

### CHAPTER 7

| Why does Napoleon insist the windmill must be rebuilt immediately? | • prevent animals from becoming too discouraged  
• keep the animals busy building to help them forget how miserably cold and hungry they are during the hard winter |

| Why does Napoleon order that the hens’ eggs be sold? | • animals are nearly starving  
• almost no food left  
• hens must give up their eggs for sale |
### CORNELL NOTES

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| How does Napoleon react when the hens’ rebel against his orders? | orders the hens’ food rations cut off  
any animal giving any food to the chickens will be killed  
dogs enforce his orders  
Nine hens die of starvation before the hens give up their five-day protest |
| --- | --- |

| Why does Napoleon revive the threat of the farm being sabotaged by Snowball? | Snowball is the perfect scapegoat - blamed when something goes wrong  
not the pigs’ fault when a storage-shed key is lost  
not cows’ fault when they don’t give much milk  
it is Snowball’s fault  
need an outside enemy to hate  
Snowball is totally discredited through lies and false accusations  
other animals want to disagree, but can’t  
finally give in and agree with Boxer  
if Napoleon says it is so, it is  
“Napoleon is always right.” |
| --- | --- |

| Why did the animals confess to being traitors? | four pigs previously disagreed with Napoleon’s decisions  
probably are guilty of not wholeheartedly supporting Napoleon’s policies  
do not expect to be killed for it  
resolution against animals killing one another  
However death is the punishment  
three hens had led the egg rebellion confess (as do many others)  
crimes against the state  
all are killed on the spot  
most of them did not support one or more of Napoleon’s policies  
They undoubtedly expected forgiveness  
death was a release for these poor animals  
mass hysteria contributed to the large number of confessions |
| --- | --- |
### CORNELL NOTES

*Animal Farm*, by George Orwell

| What is the REAL reason for outlawing of "Beasts of England"? | • Rebellion is over  
• Pigs are in control of the farm  
• Rest of the animals too dull-witted to realize that the pigs are just as bad as Mr. Jones  
• Might realize that one Rebellion was not enough - another rebellion is needed against the pigs. |

### CHAPTER 8

| What purpose is served by the production figures Squealer reads to the animals? | • To fool the other animals  
• Manipulate facts and figures to show producing more and better off than they have ever been before  
• Facts cannot be disputed |

| How is Napoleon becoming more and more like a typical dictator? | • Rarely seen in public  
• Always surrounded by his guard dogs  
• Has an entourage that attends him whenever he goes out  
• Has his own apartment in the house  
• Has a taster for his food, and eats alone off fine china  
• Gun is fired on his birthday  
• Added many titles to his name, including “Terror of Mankind” |

| Describe the sale of the stack of lumber. | • Lumber first sold to Mr. Pilkington then to Mr. Frederick  
• Napoleon plays men against each other - to get price he wants  
• Insists on being paid in banknotes - turn out to be forgeries  
• Frederick attacks farm - Pilkington refuses to help Napoleon. |

| How does Napoleon outwit himself? | • No strategic defense planned for the farm  
• Men are better prepared and have more weapons  
• Leaderless animals quickly hide |

| What makes the battle against Frederick’s men different from the Battle of the Cowshed? |
## Animal Farm, by George Orwell

### Why do the men blow up the windmill?
- Humans see it as a symbol of the pigs' ability to run the farm.
- Men think they will give up and Mr. Jones will regain his farm.

### The animals celebrate a victory, but at what cost?
- Windmill is destroyed.
- Boxer has a split hoof, bleeding knees, and buckshot in his hind leg.
- Several animals are killed.
- All of the animals are injured except Squealer who hid.

## CHAPTER 9

### Why are the animals so easily fooled, even when they find Squealer with a ladder and white paint beside the barn at night?
- Most of the animals cannot read.
  - No connection made between incident and commandments written on the wall.
  - Very naive, except for Benjamin, who refuses to say anything.
- Dogs hustle Squealer away.
  - No one can ask him anything.
- Muriel reads the commandments.
  - She forgot one said, "No animal shall drink alcohol to excess."

### What is happening to Boxer?
- Working himself to death.
- Not recovering from his injuries as quickly as he should.
- Practices his motto, "I will work harder."

### What are the living conditions like for all animals except the pigs and dogs?
- Animals are working harder than ever.
  - Given less food.
  - Rations cut repeatedly.
- "Readjustment" according to Squealer.
  - Uses facts and figures prove how well off the animals are.
  - Animals believe it.

### Why does Napoleon allow Moses to return to tell his stories about Sugarcandy Mountain?
- Animals' physical condition is so miserable.
  - Need hope for a better life after death.
- Promise they will put up with more privation (things essential for human well-being such as food and warmth are scarce or lacking).
| **What happens to Boxer?** | • Boxer injures himself dragging stone for the windmill  
| | - taken away to the knacker to be made into glue, dog food,  
| | - fertilizer, etc.  
| | • Squealer tells animals Boxer died in the hospital  
| | - repeats Boxer’s final words  
| | • animals want to believe what they are told  
| | • only Benjamin understands what really happened  
| | - tried to stop them from taking Boxer  
| | • money pigs get for the dead Boxer is spend on whiskey  
| **How do the animals accept it?** | • Most of the animals who were alive during the Rebellion are dead  
| | • farm is prosperous  
| | • Other animals have been bought to replace the dead ones  
| | • windmill was finished  
| | - instead of generating electricity to help all the animals, it is used to mill corn to make money for the pigs  
| | • Napoleon tells the animals that true happiness “lay in working hard and living frugally.”  
| **CHAPTER 10** | • pigs now spend hours typing up reports, minutes, and memos  
| | - papers are burned in the furnace  
| | • pigs and dogs accomplish nothing productive  
| | - but always have good appetites  
| **How does Orwell make fun of bureaucracy?** | • animals are proud to be a part of the only farm in England run by animals  
| | • still believe there will be a time when man will be defeated and only animals will tread English soil  
| | • pleased that on their farm no beings walk upon two legs  
| **How do the animals feel about their social order, their farm?** | • will eventually be rewarded  
| | • Boxer injures himself dragging stone for the windmill  
| | - taken away to the knacker to be made into glue, dog food, fertilizer, etc.  
| | • Squealer tells animals Boxer died in the hospital  
| | - repeats Boxer’s final words  
| | • animals want to believe what they are told  
| | • only Benjamin understands what really happened  
| | - tried to stop them from taking Boxer  
| | • money pigs get for the dead Boxer is spend on whiskey  
| **What changes have the years brought to the farm?** | • Most of the animals who were alive during the Rebellion are dead  
| | • farm is prosperous  
| | • Other animals have been bought to replace the dead ones  
| | • windmill was finished  
| | - instead of generating electricity to help all the animals, it is used to mill corn to make money for the pigs  
| | • Napoleon tells the animals that true happiness “lay in working hard and living frugally.”  
|
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What drastic actions do the pigs use to shatter the animals’ complacency?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• pigs walk upright on two legs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Napoleon carries a whip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• pigs wear Jones’s clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• telephone is installed</td>
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<tr>
<td>• pigs subscribe to newspapers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• sheep are taught a new motto</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All seven commandments are erased. What is the new commandment and how has it been true from the beginning?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• new commandment: “ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• been true from the beginning when Napoleon drank the milk,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- pigs had already taught themselves to read and write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- pigs merely supervised while other animals worked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• pigs openly state what has always been true</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At the conference with neighboring farmers, what new changes does Napoleon point out?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• farm is cooperatively owned by the pigs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• animals will no longer call each other “Comrade”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• no more marches by Major’s skull</td>
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<tr>
<td>• flag is now a field of green with the no horn or hoof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• farm has been changed back to The Manor Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All traces of the Rebellion have been erased</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What happens to the pigs’ appearance?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• pigs resemble the humans</td>
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<tr>
<td>- no longer any differences between them</td>
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<tr>
<td>• animals can finally see their true situation</td>
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<tr>
<td>- too late to do anything about it.</td>
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