

As usual, Snowball and Napoleon were in disagreement. According to Napoleon, what the animals must do was to procure firearms and train themselves in the use of them. According to Snowball, they must send out more and more pigeons and stir up rebellion among the animals on the other farms. The one argued that if they could not defend themselves they were bound to be conquered, the other argued

5 that if rebellions happened everywhere they would have no need to defend themselves. The animals listened first to Napoleon, then to Snowball, and could not make up their minds which was right; indeed, they always found themselves in agreement with the one who was speaking at the moment.

At last the day came when Snowball's plans were completed. At the Meeting on the following Sunday the question of whether or not to begin work on the windmill was to be put to the vote. When the

10 animals had assembled in the big barn, Snowball stood up and, though occasionally interrupted by bleating from the sheep, set forth his reasons for advocating the building of the windmill. Then Napoleon stood up to reply. He said very quietly that the windmill was nonsense and that he advised nobody to vote for it, and promptly sat down again; he had spoken for barely thirty seconds, and seemed almost indifferent as to the effect he produced. At this Snowball sprang to his feet, and

15 shouting down the sheep, who had begun bleating again, broke into a passionate appeal in favour of the windmill. Until now the animals had been about equally divided in their sympathies, but in a moment Snowball's eloquence had carried them away. In glowing sentences he painted a picture of Animal Farm as it might be when sordid labour was lifted from the animals' backs. His imagination had now run far beyond chaff-cutters and turnip-slicers. Electricity, he said, could operate threshing

20 machines, ploughs, harrows, rollers, and reapers and binders, besides supplying every stall with its own electric light, hot and cold water, and an electric heater. By the time he had finished speaking, there was no doubt as to which way the vote would go. But just at this moment Napoleon stood up and, casting a peculiar sidelong look at Snowball, uttered a high-pitched whimper of a kind no one had ever heard him utter before.

Annotations: 2 procure firearms – get hold of weapons; 3 stir up rebellion – get a ~ going; 10 assemble – come together; 11 advocate – speak in favour of; 14 indifferent – not caring about; 19 chaff-cutter – Germ: Häckselbank: trennt Spreu vom Weizen; turnip-slicer – machine that slices (cuts) turnips (Germ. Rüben); 19 thresh – [cognate: d~]; 20 plough – [cognate: Pf~]; harrow – Germ. Egge (used to break down earth after farmer has used the plough); reaper – Germ. Mähmaschine; 23 utter a high-pitched whimper – make soft musical noises

Assignments:

Read and make sure you have a clear idea of the events that are described in the extract. (20')

Work on the text

1. What do we learn in this extract about life among the different groups of animals after the rebellion? (10')
2. Use details of the text to say why the windmill project is so important for the animals. (10')
3. Use details of the text to compare the qualities of Napoleon and Snowball as politicians/ (political) speakers. (10')

Consider the context

4. Point out the relationship between Old Major, Snowball and Napoleon. (5')
5. What happens directly after this scene? What is the effect of these follow-up events? (5')
6. How does the conflict between Napoleon and Snowball continue? Give relevant details in your answer. (5')

Analysis

7. In what way can this scene (including the immediate follow-up events) be considered a turning point of the whole story? (10')
8. Do you think there is a message in *Animal Farm* that makes the study of the book or movie worthwhile (Germ. lohnend) today? Give reasons in your answer. 10')

Use the remaining minutes for proofreading. (10')