The power of propaganda

Downloadable Resource

Miss Eden

Who comes up with the Seven Commandments?

Option 1

All of the animals vote together

Option 2

Old Major

Option 3

Farmer Jones

Option 4

Snowball and Napoleon

More, they never lost, even for an instant, their sense of honour and privilege in being members of Animal Farm. They were still the only farm in the whole county--in all England!--owned and operated by animals. Not one of them, not even the youngest, not even the newcomers who had been brought from farms ten or twenty miles away, ever ceased to marvel at that. And when they heard the gun booming and saw the green flag fluttering at the masthead, their hearts swelled with **imperishable** pride, and the talk turned always towards the old heroic days, the expulsion of Jones, the writing of the Seven Commandments, the great battles in which the human invaders had been defeated.

Imperishable - lasting forever

The animals were proud of living on the farm

True

False

One day in early summer Squealer ordered the sheep to follow him, and led them out to a piece of waste ground at the other end of the farm, which had become overgrown with birch saplings. The sheep spent the whole day there browsing at the leaves under Squealer's supervision. In the evening he returned to the farmhouse himself, but, as it was warm weather, told the sheep to stay where they were. It ended by their remaining there for a whole week, during which time the other animals saw nothing of them. Squealer was with them for the greater part of every day. He was, he said, teaching them to sing a new song, for which privacy was needed.

Squealer is spending lots of time with the sheep to make them work harder

True

False

It was just after the sheep had returned, on a pleasant evening when the animals had finished work and were making their way back to the farm buildings, that the terrified neighing of a horse sounded from the yard. Startled, the animals stopped in their tracks. It was Clover's voice. She neighed again, and all the animals broke into a gallop and rushed into the yard. Then they saw what Clover had seen.

It was a pig walking on his hind legs.

Yes, it was Squealer. And a moment later, out from the door of the farmhouse came a long file of pigs, all walking on their hind legs. And finally there was a tremendous baying of dogs and a shrill crowing from the black cockerel, and out came Napoleon himself, majestically upright, casting haughty glances from side to side, and with his dogs gambolling round him.

He carried a whip in his trotter.

But just at that moment, as though at a signal, all the sheep burst out
 into a tremendous bleating of--

"Four legs good, two legs BETTER! Four legs good, two legs BETTER!
Four legs good, two legs BETTER!" It went on for five minutes without stopping.

Benjamin felt a nose nuzzling at his shoulder. He looked round. It was Clover. Her old
eyes looked dimmer than ever. Without saying anything, she tugged gently at his
mane and led him round to the end of the big barn, where the Seven
Commandments were written. For a minute or two they stood gazing at the tatted
wall with its white lettering.
"My sight is failing," she said finally. "But it appears to me that that wall looks different.
Are the Seven Commandments the same as they used to be, Benjamin?"

There was nothing there now except a single Commandment. It ran:
ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL
BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS

Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Why was Squealer spending so much time with the sheep?

2. What did the pigs do which shocked the other animals?

3. What interrupts the animals protesting?

4. What has the Seventh Commandment been changed to?

'All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.'

When the animals see the commandment, they will feel _____ because...

When the animals see the commandment, they will feel _____ but...