

sparknotes animal farm chapter 10

SparkNotes Animal Farm Chapter 10 serves as a critical conclusion to George Orwell's allegorical novella, where the themes of power, corruption, and the cyclical nature of tyranny culminate. In this chapter, the narrative reaches its climax as the animals find themselves in a situation that starkly contrasts their initial aspirations for a society free from human oppression. This final chapter is pivotal for understanding the overarching message of the novel, making it essential for students, readers, and anyone interested in political allegory.

Summary of Chapter 10

In Chapter 10 of *Animal Farm*, time has passed since the rebellion, and the farm has changed significantly. The once-promising ideals of Animalism have decayed into a regime that closely mirrors the oppression the animals sought to escape. The chapter opens with a bleak depiction of the farm's current state:

- The animals are overworked and underfed, with many of them becoming disillusioned.
- The pigs have taken on more human characteristics, including walking on two legs and engaging in trade with humans.
- Boxer, the loyal cart-horse, has been injured and is ultimately sold to a glue factory, illustrating the betrayal of the working class.

As the pigs indulge in the luxuries of power, they manipulate the other animals into believing that their hardships are necessary sacrifices for the greater good.

The Transformation of the Pigs

The transformation of the pigs is one of the most striking elements in Chapter 10. Orwell illustrates how power corrupts, and the pigs become increasingly indistinguishable from the very humans they once overthrew:

The Seven Commandments

Originally, the principles of Animalism were encapsulated in the Seven

Commandments. However, by the end of the novella, these commandments have been altered to suit the pigs' needs. The final commandment, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others," demonstrates the complete perversion of the original ideals. This shift reflects the broader theme of how revolutionary ideals can be manipulated by those in power.

The Role of Squealer

Squealer, the propagandist pig, plays a crucial role in perpetuating the pigs' lies. He continually reassures the other animals that their suffering is justified and that they are better off than they were under human rule. His ability to twist language and facts serves as a reminder of the power of propaganda in shaping public perception and maintaining control.

The Disillusioned Animals

The animals on the farm, particularly those who were once idealistic about the revolution, face a harsh reality by Chapter 10:

- **Napoleon's Leadership:** Napoleon's dictatorial rule has led to widespread fear and oppression. The animals, once hopeful, now live in a state of despair.
- **Boxer's Fate:** Boxer's tragic fate serves as a symbol of betrayal. His unwavering loyalty and hard work are met with cruelty, highlighting the exploitation of the working class.
- **The Sheep:** The sheep, often used to drown out dissent, remain oblivious to the changes, repeating slogans without understanding their implications.

These elements underscore the theme that, without vigilance and critical thinking, the oppressed can easily become complicit in their own oppression.

The Final Scene: The Banquet

The chapter culminates in a banquet where the pigs entertain the human farmers. This scene is emblematic of the complete reversal of the rebellion's goals:

Symbolism of the Banquet

The banquet symbolizes the ultimate betrayal of the revolutionary ideals. The pigs, now indistinguishable from humans, celebrate their power while the other animals suffer. The sight of pigs and humans toasting together serves as a stark reminder of the cyclical nature of oppression:

- The animals witness the pigs engaging in behaviors they once condemned, such as drinking alcohol and engaging in trade.
- The final moments of the chapter represent a complete loss of identity for the animals, as they can no longer distinguish between their former oppressors and their new rulers.

Thematic Analysis

Chapter 10 encapsulates several key themes that permeate Animal Farm:

Power and Corruption

The chapter serves as a powerful commentary on the corrupting influence of power. The pigs, who were once comrades with the other animals, have evolved into oppressors. Orwell suggests that revolutions can lead to similar forms of tyranny if the new leaders adopt the same oppressive behaviors as their predecessors.

The Betrayal of Ideals

The disillusionment of the animals reflects a broader theme of betrayal. The initial ideals of Animalism – equality, freedom, and unity – have been sacrificed for the sake of power and control. This disillusionment serves as a warning against blindly following leaders without questioning their actions.

The Cycle of Oppression

The closing scenes of Chapter 10 highlight the cyclical nature of oppression. The animals' hope for a better society has been shattered, and they find themselves in a situation that mirrors their previous existence under human rule. This cyclical pattern suggests that without vigilance and accountability, history is doomed to repeat itself.

Conclusion: The Legacy of Animal Farm

SparkNotes Animal Farm Chapter 10 offers a profound insight into the themes of corruption, betrayal, and the cyclical nature of power. The tragic fate of Boxer and the transformation of the pigs serve as reminders of the fragility of revolutionary ideals and the complexities of human nature. Orwell's novella remains a timeless critique of power dynamics, urging readers to remain vigilant and critical in their pursuit of justice and equality. As we reflect on the lessons from Animal Farm, we are reminded of the importance of questioning authority and the responsibility of every individual to uphold the values of freedom and equality in society.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens to the animals' conditions in Chapter 10 of Animal Farm?

In Chapter 10, the animals' conditions deteriorate further, as they face increased hardship and oppression under the pigs' rule, which has become indistinguishable from the human oppression they originally revolted against.

How do the pigs' behaviors change in Chapter 10?

The pigs begin to adopt more human-like behaviors, such as walking on two legs, wearing clothes, and engaging in trade with humans, ultimately blurring the lines between the animals and their former oppressors.

What is the significance of the commandment changes in Chapter 10?

The commandment changes signify the pigs' complete betrayal of the original ideals of Animalism, as they alter the commandments to justify their actions and maintain control over the other animals.

Who is the character that represents the working class in Chapter 10?

Boxer, the hardworking horse, represents the working class in Chapter 10, as he remains loyal to the farm even as he is ultimately betrayed and sent away for slaughter when he can no longer work.

What does the final scene in Chapter 10 reveal about the pigs?

The final scene reveals the complete transformation of the pigs into their

former oppressors, as the animals look through the farmhouse window and cannot tell the difference between the pigs and the humans.

What role does propaganda play in Chapter 10?

Propaganda plays a crucial role in Chapter 10 as the pigs manipulate language and information to maintain their power, convincing the other animals that their situation is better than it was before.

How do the other animals react to the changes on the farm in Chapter 10?

The other animals are confused and disillusioned, struggling to reconcile their memories of the rebellion with the current state of the farm, often feeling helpless against the pigs' increasing tyranny.

What does the song 'Beasts of England' symbolize in Chapter 10?

In Chapter 10, the banning of 'Beasts of England' symbolizes the complete loss of hope and the betrayal of the revolutionary ideals, as the song represented the animals' dreams of freedom and equality.

What is the fate of Boxer in Chapter 10?

Boxer is betrayed and sent to the knacker when he becomes too weak to work, illustrating the exploitation of the working class and the pigs' disregard for their contributions.

How does Chapter 10 of Animal Farm end?

Chapter 10 ends with the chilling realization that the pigs have become indistinguishable from humans, leaving the other animals in despair as they witness the complete corruption of their original ideals.

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