

Animal Farm

Chapters 1–4

by George Orwell

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: comrades, disciples, ecstasy, inscribed, produce, spectacle, spur, toil, tyranny, weaned

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–4 · Old Major's dream on Manor Farm

Section 2 · Chapters 5–7 · Rivalry over the windmill plan

Section 3 · Chapters 8–10 · The farm under Napoleon's rule

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. The soldiers trusted their **comrades** to stand beside them in every battle.

- A. companions in a shared cause
- B. commanders who give the orders
- C. rivals seeking the same reward

2. The famous scientist gathered many **disciples** eager to carry on her work.

- A. rivals in the same field
- B. assistants hired for pay
- C. devoted followers of a teacher

3. She jumped and cried out in **ecstasy** when she heard the news.

- A. nervous excitement
- B. sudden relief
- C. overwhelming joy

4. The soldiers' names were **inscribed** on the stone monument.

- A. carved or written onto a surface
- B. painted in bright letters
- C. arranged in a neat list

5. The grocer arranged the **produce** in neat rows near the entrance.

- A. fresh fruits and vegetables
- B. goods shipped from overseas
- C. items on sale this week

6. The parade downtown was a **spectacle** the whole city came to watch.

- A. a solemn public ceremony
- B. a loud, chaotic mess
- C. a striking, dramatic sight

7. The rider polished each **spur** until it gleamed.

- A. metal ring that holds the bridle straps
- B. heel spike used to prod a horse forward
- C. strip of leather that hangs from the saddle

8. The farmers **toil** from dawn to dusk during the harvest.

- A. to work long and hard
- B. to move about in a hurry
- C. to travel from place to place

9. The dictator ruled with such **tyranny** that citizens feared to gather in public.

- A. firm and orderly leadership
- B. cruel and unjust use of power
- C. strict but fair use of power

10. The lambs were **weaned** a few weeks before they were sold.

- A. moved into a larger pen
- B. taken off the mother's milk
- C. branded with the farm's mark

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

trap — light two-wheeled carriage

knacker — buyer of worn-out animals for slaughter

hearken — listen attentively

turn black into white — make lies pass for truth

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	C
4	A
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	A
9	B
10	B

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 "Because nearly the whole of the produce of our labor is stolen from us by human beings."

As used in the passage, the word 'produce' most nearly means...

- A. the strength labor uses up
- B. the crops and goods labor yields
- C. the skill labor requires

2 "Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings?"

According to the passage, all the evils of the animals' lives spring from...

- A. humans' cruel and unjust rule
- B. humans' hunger for richer harvests
- C. humans' careless neglect of the farm

3 "All men are enemies. All animals are comrades."

Taken together, the excerpt's two statements primarily function to...

- A. split the world into enemies and allies
- B. describe the animals' daily hardships
- C. explain how the rebellion will be won

4 "Rings shall vanish from our noses,
And the harness from our back,
Bit and spur shall rust forever,
Cruel whips no more shall crack."

From the line 'Bit and spur shall rust forever,' it can reasonably be inferred that...

- A. no one will ever ride the animals again
- B. the animals will pull lighter loads
- C. the farm's tools will rust from neglect

5 "Their most faithful disciples were the two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover."

In the passage, the word 'disciples' characterizes Boxer and Clover as...

- A. cautious judges of each new idea
- B. gifted teachers of the other animals
- C. devoted followers of a set of teachings

6 "In the ecstasy of that thought they gambolled round and round, they hurled themselves into the air in great leaps of excitement."

According to the passage, the animals gambolled and leapt because they felt...

- A. a joy almost too great to contain
- B. eagerness to begin the day's work
- C. relief that a long danger had passed

7 "These Seven Commandments would now be inscribed on the wall; they would form an unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live for ever after."

The plan to have the Commandments inscribed on the wall primarily functions to...

- A. show off the pigs' new skill at writing
- B. warn the humans never to return
- C. make the new law permanent and public

8 "Even the ducks and hens toiled to and fro all day in the sun, carrying tiny wisps of hay in their beaks."

In the passage, the word 'toiled' characterizes the ducks and hens as...

- A. moving about with playful energy
- B. laboring hard despite their small loads
- C. doing light chores at an easy pace

9 "As soon as they were weaned, Napoleon took them away from their mothers, saying that he would make himself responsible for their education."

From 'as soon as they were weaned,' it can be inferred that Napoleon took the puppies...

- A. once they were old enough to train
- B. when they were fully grown dogs
- C. at the earliest possible moment

10 "But the most terrifying spectacle of all was Boxer, rearing up on his hind legs and striking out with his great iron-shod hoofs like a stallion."

As used in the passage, the word 'spectacle' most nearly means...

- A. a sudden burst of great anger
- B. a striking, dramatic sight
- C. a loud and frightening noise

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	Students may know 'produce' mainly as the verb; here it is the noun — the goods that labor yields — stressed on the first syllable.
2	A	
3	A	'Comrades' is the fraternal address of revolutionary movements — an early signal of the book's Russian Revolution allegory.
4	A	A 'bit' sits in a horse's mouth and a 'spur' on a rider's heel; both are instruments of control, so their rusting away means the end of being ridden and driven.
5	C	
6	A	
7	C	
8	B	
9	C	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–4

Old Major inspires the animals with his dream of rebellion; after his death the pigs organize the others, expel Mr. Jones, rename the farm, and set down the Seven Commandments of Animalism. The section closes with the animals repelling Jones at the Battle of the Cowshed. Groups the four opening chapters of the successful rebellion.