

PAP English I Summer Reading Assignment

Novels: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
Lord of the Flies by William Golding

You will need to buy a copy of each of these books. They are available at local bookstores or online. You will also need to purchase a Blue Book in which to record your answers. Blue books are available at the Highlander Bookstore on N. 9th @ Lake Shore.

The second part of your summer reading assignment is to write several responses to questions about these novels.

- Write your responses on college ruled notebook paper.
- Please write ANIMAL FARM or LORD OF THE FLIES at the top of the page. Skip a line and in the left margin, write the date that you write the lesson. At the margin, write the prompt, and then begin your response.
- **Each response should be two complete paragraphs** in which you respond to the prompt then support your response by using text to support your ideas.
- Please skip a line between lessons, date the new lesson and continue.
- When you turn in these responses, you will receive two grades: one for the number of answered prompts, and one grade for one of the prompts. You will never know which prompt I will grade, so be sure to address every prompt, even when you are absent.

Animal Farm is an **allegory**, which is a simple, straightforward story that has another, deeper meaning and is rich with many layers of thought. Allegories are written in the form of fables, parables, poems, stories, and almost any other style or genre. An allegory is a literary work in which characters, events, objects, and ideas have secondary or symbolic meanings. The difference between an allegory and a symbol is that an allegory is a complete narrative that conveys abstract ideas to get a point across, while a symbol is a representation of an idea or concept that can have a different meaning throughout a literary work.

Lord of the Flies is an allegorical novel. The theme is an attempt to trace the defects of society back to the defects of human nature. The moral is that the shape of a society must depend on the ethical nature of the individual and not on any political system. The whole book is symbolic in nature.

Writing Assignments:

In responding to each prompt, please be sure your ideas are original. Classic Notes, Cliff's Notes, etc. can help you understand difficult ideas, but your thoughts and Blue Book responses must be your own. I don't care what anybody else thinks about the literature we read, I only care what you think. If you read it, think it, write it, and prove it with textual support, then you are right. Always.

Your responses are due on the first day of class.

Assignments: Write a short essay discussing each of the following.

Animal Farm

#1 – The literal level

What is *Animal Farm* about at its simplest level? This is a simple plot summary; nothing is intended to be profound, but textual proof is needed.

#2 – The allegorical level

Every character in the novel has a double significance. Choose two of the characters in the novel and analyze who they really represent. Use text to support your ideas. Read the handouts about the Russian Revolution before writing your response.

#3 – The moral level

What does *Animal Farm* say about human morality? What makes some of the animals "bad" and some of them "good"? Do you agree with the system that the animals (mostly the pigs) developed? Prove your thoughts.

#4 – The spiritual level

What happens to the Boxers of the world? Does corruption and pride overwhelm them or does their sacrifice allow them to rise above the hearts and minds of ordinary humans? Use real-world experiences to go side-by-side with Boxer's faithfulness to his dream. Again, use text to prove your ideas.

Lord of the Flies

- #1 Which character in the story do you most admire and why?
- #2 Identify and analyze an external conflict in the novel. External conflict pits a person against another human or against an animal, an object, the forces of nature, or any other thing or things outside of him.
- #3 Identify and analyze an internal conflict in the novel. Internal conflict involves a struggle between a person and his emotions or negative attributes.

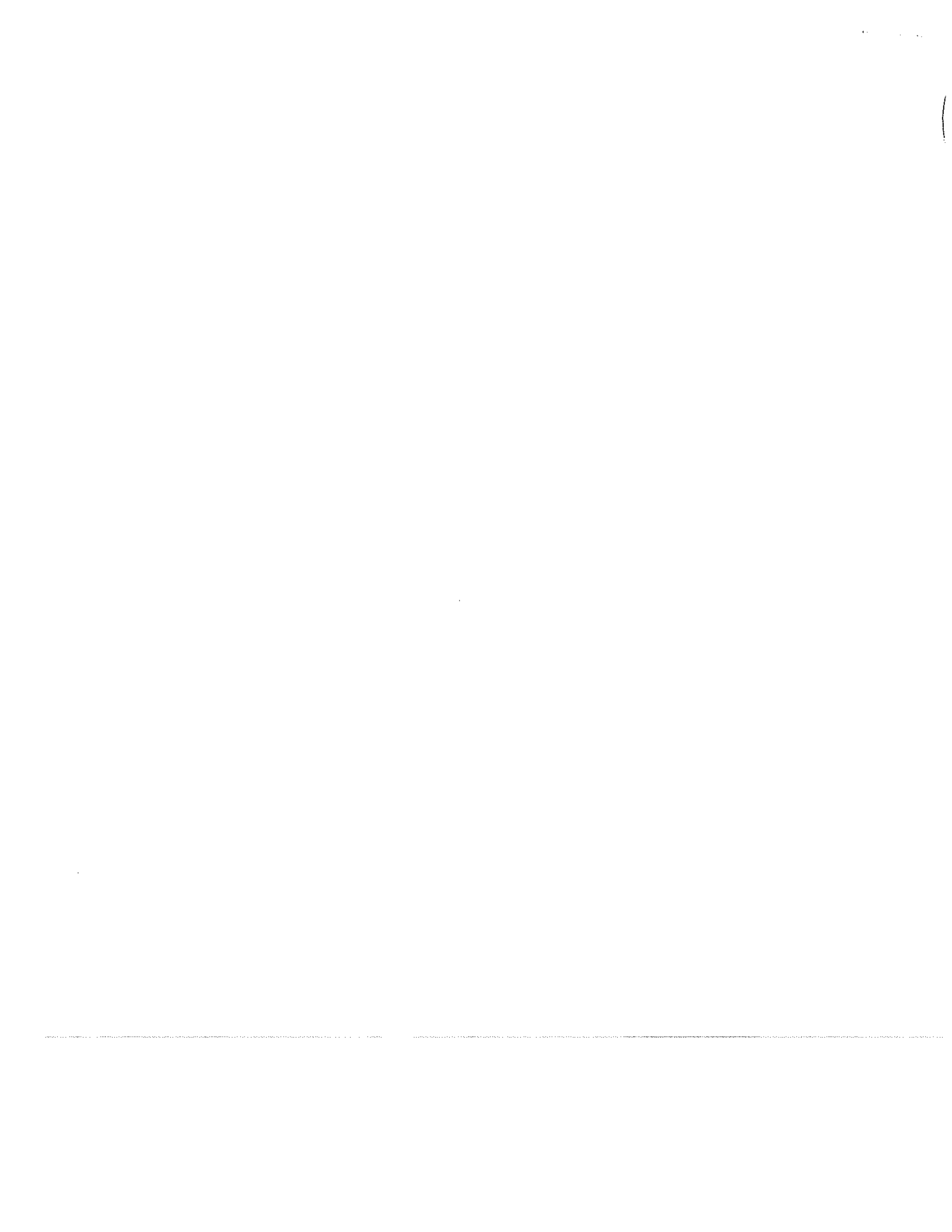
Taken from:
<http://pages.citenet.net/users/charles/af-comp.html>
 [main site <http://www.netcharles.com/orwell>]

Animal Farm

Comparison of characters to Russian Revolution

Animal Farm	Russian Revolution
<p>Mr. Jones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • irresponsible to his animals (lets them starve) • sometimes cruel - beats them with whip • sometimes kind - mixes milk in animal mash 	<p>Czar Nicholas II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a poor leader at best, compared to western kings • cruel - sometimes brutal with opponents • Sometimes kind - hired students as spies to make \$
<p>Old Major</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taught Animalism • workers do the work, rich keep the \$, animals revolt • dies before revolution 	<p>Karl Marx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invented Communism • "workers of the world unite", take over gov't • dies before Russian Revolution
<p>Animalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no owners, no rich, but no poor • workers get a better life, all animals equal • everyone owns the farm 	<p>Communism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • same • all people equal • gov't owns everything, people own gov't
<p>Snowball</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • young, smart, good speaker, idealistic • really wants to make life better for all • one of leaders of revolution • chased away into exile by Napoleon's dogs 	<p>Leon Trotsky</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other leader of "October Revolution" • pure communist, followed Marx • wanted to improve life for all in Russia • chased away by Lenin's KGB (Lenin's secret police)

<p>Napoleon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not a good speaker, not as clever like Snowball • cruel, brutal, selfish, devious, corrupt • his ambition is for power, killed opponents • used dogs, moses, and Squealer to control animals 	<p>Joseph Stalin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not a good speaker, not educated like Trotsky • same as Napoleon, didn't follow Marx's ideas • cared for power, killed all that opposed him • used KGB, allowed church, and propagandized
<p>Squealer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • big mouth, talks a lot • convinces animals to believe and follow Napoleon • Changes and manipulates the commandments 	<p>Propaganda department of Lenin's government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • worked for Stalin to support his image • used any lie to convince the people to follow Stalin • benefited from the fact that education was controlled
<p>The Dogs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a private army that used fear to force animals to work • killed or intimidated any opponent of Napoleon • another part of Napoleon's strategy to control animals 	<p>KGB - Secret Police</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not really police, but forced support for Stalin • used force, often killed entire families for disobedience • totally loyal, part of Lenin's power, even over army
<p>Moses the Raven</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tells animals about SugarCandy mountain - Heaven • animals can go there if they work hard • Snowball and Major were against him • they though Heaven was a lie to make animals work • Napoleon let him stay because he taught animals to • work and not complain 	<p>Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marx said "Opiate of the people" a lie • used to make people not complain and do their work • Religion was tolerared because people would work • Stalin knew religion would stop violent revolutions



<p>Mollie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • was vain - loved her beauty and self • didn't think about the animal farm • went with anyone who gave her what she wanted 	<p>Vain, selfish people in Russia and world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some people didn't care about revolution • only thought about themselves • went to other countries that offered more for them
<p>Boxer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong, hard working horse, believes in Animal Farm • "Napoleon is always right", "I must work harder" • gives his all, is betrayed by Napoleon, who sells him 	<p>Dedicated, but tricked communist supporters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people believed Stalin because he was "Communist" • many stayed loyal after it was obvious Stalin a tyrant • betrayed by Stalin who ignored and killed them
<p>Benjamin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • old, wise donkey who is suspicious of revolution • thinks "nothing ever changes", is right • his suspicions are true, about Boxer and sign changes 	<p>Skeptical people in Russia and outside Russia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weren't sure revolution would change anything • realized that a crazy leader can call himself communist • knew that communism wouldn't work with power • hungry leaders
<p>Overall details about revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it was supposed to make life better for all • life was worse at the end • The leaders became the same as, or worse than, • the other farmers (humans) they rebelled against 	<p>Overall details of Russian Revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supposed to fix problems from Czar • life was even worse long after revolution • Stalin made Czar look like a nice guy

