

Name:

ANIMAL FARM

close reading Chapter 7

The animals huddled about Clover....Most of Animal Farm was within their view—the long pasture stretching down...It was a clear spring evening. The grass and the bursting hedges were gilded by the level rays of the sun. Never had the farm—and with a kind of surprise they remembered that it was their own farm, every inch of it their own property—appeared to the animals so desirable a place. As Clover looked down the hillside her eyes filled with tears.

If she could have spoken her thoughts, it would have been to say that this was not what they had aimed at when they had set themselves years ago to work for the overthrow of the human race. The scenes of terror and slaughter were not what they had looked forward to on that night when Old Major first stirred them to rebellion. If she herself had had any picture of the future, it had been of a society of animals set free from hunger and the whip, all equal, each working according to his capacity, the strong protecting the weak, as she had protected the lost brood of ducklings with her foreleg on the night of Major's speech.

Instead—she did not know why—they had come to a time when no one dared speak his mind, when fierce, growling dogs roamed everywhere, and when you had to watch your comrades torn to pieces after confessing to shocking crimes....She knew that, even as things were, they were far better off than they had been in the days of Jones, and that before all else it was needful to prevent the return of the human beings....But still, it was not for this that she and all the other animals had hoped and toiled....Such were her thoughts, though she lacked the words to express them.

At last, feeling this to be in some way a substitute for the words she was unable to find, she began to sing Beasts of England.

1a. What is the grammatical purpose of using dashes?

- A. To replace a comma
- B. To set off parenthetical elements
- C. To fix a fragment
- D. To add sentence length

1b. What is the stylistic purpose of the dash use in this sentence?

2. Why can't Clover speak her thoughts?

3. What did Old Major's speech make them look forward to?

4. To Clover, what does "each working according to his capacity" mean?

- A. Everyone is equal
- B. Everyone does what he or she is able to do for the betterment of the whole
- C. Everyone works to protect everyone else
- D. Everyone is unequal in stature and work

5. Why does Clover believe they are better off?

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Annotate the Beasts of England Song by commenting how each stanza came full circle.

Beasts of England

Beasts of England! Beasts of Ireland!

Beasts of land and sea and skies!

Hear the hoofbeats of tomorrow!

See the golden future rise!

How does the life of an animal pass?

In endless drudgery.

What's the first lesson an animal learns?

To endure its slavery.

How does the life of an animal end?

In cruel butchery.

...

Now the day of beasts is coming,

Tyrant man shall lose his throne

And the shining fields of England

Shall be trod by beasts alone.

Pull the rings from out your noses

Tear the saddle from your back!

Bit and spur must rust forever,

Cruel whips no more shall crack.

Beasts of England, seize the prizes,

Wheat and barley, oats and hay,

Clover, beans and mangel wurzel

Shall be ours upon that day.

Given the nature of the song, why do you think Napoleon decides to abolish "Beasts of England?"