

English 9

2017 Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

All 9th grade students will read *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

Overview:

Animal Farm is an **allegorical** novel in which the author uses animals to represent political figures. The book addresses the corruption that often goes along with power in political systems. Although the book was first published more than 70 years ago, its message is relevant today.

*(An **allegorical novel** is one in which symbolic figures, actions, and/or imagery create meaning.)*

Objectives:

- A. Students will enhance reading skills by monitoring understanding through effective annotation.

- B. Students will relate current knowledge and opinions of government systems and leaders to characters and situations in the novel.

Assignment:

1. Students will read and annotate the novel. (**Annotation instructions are in the summer reading folder.**) Be consistent in the use of marks and symbols (*for example: circle unfamiliar words, underline or highlight important points, place a star by interesting passages, etc.*)

2. Answer the following questions in complete sentences as you read:
 - a. What does Old Major believe is the cause of the animals' problems?
 - b. What effect does Major's death have on the idea of rebelling against man?
 - c. What do the animals do first after chasing the humans from the farm?
 - d. What happens at the Battle of the Cowshed?
 - e. Where is Napoleon during the battle?
 - f. What changes does Napoleon make after Snowball is chased away?
 - g. Why does Napoleon blame Snowball for the destruction of the windmill?
 - h. Discuss the imagery and message of the song "Beasts of England."
 - i. What happens to Boxer?
 - j. Describe the changes in the pigs since the beginning.
 - k. What happens to the pigs' appearance at the end of the novel?

3. Write 1-2 paragraphs (at least five sentences per paragraph) about the following question: *If you were a character in the novel, which would you be and why?*