

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

ALL that year the animals worked **like slaves**. But they were happy in their work; they **grudged no effort** or sacrifice, well **aware** that everything that they did was for the benefit of themselves and those of their **kind** who would come after them, and not for a **pack** of **idle**, **thieving** human beings.

**Throughout the** spring and summer they worked a sixty-hour week, and in August Napoleon announced that there would be work on Sunday afternoons as well. This work was **strictly** voluntary, but any animal who absented himself from it would have his rations reduced by half. Even so, it was found necessary to leave certain **tasks undone**. The harvest was a little less successful than in the previous year, and two fields which should have been **sown** with roots in the early summer were not sown because the **ploughing** had not been completed early enough. It was possible to **foresee** that the coming winter would be a **hard** one.

The windmill presented unexpected difficulties. There was a good **quarry of limestone** on the farm, and plenty of sand and cement had been found in one of the outhouses, so that all the materials for building were at hand. But the problem the animals could not at first **solve** was how to break up the stone into pieces **of suitable size**. There seemed no way of doing this except with **picks** and **crowbars**, which no animal could use, because no animal could stand on his **hind legs**. Only after weeks of **vain effort** did the right idea **occur** to somebody - **namely**, to utilise the force of gravity. Huge **boulders**, **far** too big to be used **as** they were, **were lying** all over the bed

*come schiavi*

*non si risparmiavano nessuno sforzo*

*coscienti*

*specie / gruppo*

*oziosi, ladri*

*durante tutta la*

*strettamente*

*compiti non fatti*

*seminati*

*aratura*

*prevedere*

*difficile*

*cava di pietra calcarea*

*risolvere*

*della giusta grandezza*

*picconi / spranghe*

*gambe posteriori / vano sforzo*

*occorse / cioè*

*massi / eccessivamente*

*come / erano sparsi*

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

of the quarry. The animals **lashed ropes** round these, and then all together, cows, horses, sheep, any animal that could **lay hold** of the rope-even the pigs sometimes joined in at critical moments-they dragged them with desperate slowness **up the slope** to the top of the quarry, where they were **toppled over the edge, to shatter** to pieces below.

Transporting the stone when it was once broken was comparatively simple. The horses carried it off in cart-loads, the sheep **dragged** single blocks, even Muriel and Benjamin **yoked themselves** into an old **governess-cart** and did their **share**. By late summer a sufficient **store** of stone had accumulated, and then the building began, under the superintendence of the pigs.

But it was a slow, laborious process. Frequently it took a whole day of **exhausting** effort to drag a single **boulder** to the top of the quarry, and sometimes when it was pushed over the edge it **failed to break**. Nothing could have been **achieved** without Boxer, whose **strength** seemed equal to that of all the rest of the animals put together. When the boulder began to **slip** and the animals cried out in **despair** at finding themselves dragged down the hill, it was always Boxer who **strained** himself **against** the rope and brought the boulder to a stop. To see him **toiling** up the slope **inch by inch**, his **breath** coming fast, the **tips of his hoofs clawing** at the ground, and his great sides **matted with sweat**, filled everyone with admiration. Clover **warned him** sometimes to be careful **not to overstrain himself**, but Boxer **would** never listen to her. His two slogans, "I will work harder" and "Napoleon is always right," seemed to him a sufficient answer to all problems. He had

*legavano corde*

*impugnare*

*su per la china*

*rovesciate sul*

*bordo / per spaccarsi*

*trascinavano*

*si misero il giogo*

*(vedi nota a fine capitolo) parte*

*provvista*

*estenuante*

*masso*

*non si rompeva (falliva di rompersi)*

*ottenuto*

*forza*

*scivolare / disperazione*

*si sforzava / contro*

*lavorare*

*pollice dopo pollice / respiro*

*le punte dei suoi zoccoli afferrandosi*

*inzuppati di sudore*

*lo metteva in guardia*

*di non sforzarsi troppo / soleva*

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

made **arrangements** with the cockerel to call him three-quarters of an hour **earlier** in the mornings instead of half an hour. And in his **spare** moments, of which there were not many nowadays, he **would go** alone to the quarry, collect a load of broken stone, and drag it down to the site of the windmill unassisted.

The animals were **not badly off** throughout that summer, **in spite of** the hardness of their work. If they had no more food than they had had in Jones's day, **at least** they did not have less. The advantage of only having **to feed** themselves, and not having to support five extravagant human beings **as well**, was so great that it would have taken a lot of **failures to outweigh** it. And in many **ways** the animal method of doing things was more efficient and saved labour. Such jobs as **weeding**, for instance, could be done with a **thoroughness** impossible to human beings. And again, **since** no animal now **stole**, it was unnecessary to **fence** off pasture from arable land, which saved a lot of labour on the **upkeep** of hedges and gates. **Nevertheless**, as the summer **wore on**, various **unforeseen shortages** began **to make themselves felt**. There was need of paraffin oil, **nails**, **string**, dog biscuits, and **iron** for the horses' shoes, none of which could be produced on the farm. Later there would also be need for **seeds** and artificial **manures**, besides various **tools** and, finally, the machinery for the windmill. How these **were to be** procured, no one was able to imagine.

One Sunday morning, when the animals assembled to receive their orders, Napoleon announced that he had decided upon a new policy. **From now onwards**

*accordi*

*più presto*

*liberi*

*soleva andare*

*non se la passarono male*

*nonostante*

*per lo meno*

*alimentare (dar da mangiare)*

*pure*

*insuccessi*

*per aver più peso (importanza)*

*togliere le erbacce*

*completezza*

*giacché / rubava*

*recintare*

*mantenimento*

*nonostante ciò / finiva*

*impreviste carenze / farsi sentire*

*chiodi*

*laccio / ferro*

*semi*

*letame / arnesi*

*dovevano essere*

*d'ora in poi*

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

Animal Farm **would engage in trade** with the **neighbouring** farms: not, of course, for any commercial purpose, but simply in order to obtain certain materials which were urgently necessary. The needs of the windmill must **override everything else**, he said. He was **therefore** making arrangements to sell a **stack of hay** and part of the current year's **wheat crop**, and later on, if more money were needed, it would have to be **made up** by the **sale** of eggs, for which there was always a market in Willingdon. The hens, said Napoleon, should welcome this sacrifice as their own special contribution towards the building of the windmill. Once again the animals were conscious of a vague **uneasiness**. Never to have any **dealings** with human beings, never to engage in trade, never to make use of money - had not these been among the earliest resolutions passed at that first triumphant Meeting after Jones was expelled? All the animals remembered passing such resolutions: or at least they thought that they remembered it. The four young pigs who had protested when Napoleon abolished the Meetings raised their voices timidly, but they were promptly silenced by a tremendous growling from the dogs. Then, as usual, the sheep broke into "Four legs good, two legs bad!" and the momentary **awkwardness** was **smoothed** over. Finally Napoleon raised his **trotter** for silence and announced that he had already made all the **arrangements**. There would be no need for any of the animals to come in contact with human beings, which would clearly be most undesirable. He intended to take the whole **burden** upon his own **shoulders**. A Mr. Whympster, a **solicitor** living in

*commercerebbero  
vicine*

*prevalere su ogni altra cosa  
pertanto  
catasta di paglia  
raccolto di grano  
ottenuto  
vendita*

*inquietudine (disagio) / rapporti*

*imbarazzo / calmato  
zampa*

*accordi*

*onere  
spalle / avvocato*

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

Willingdon, had agreed to act as intermediary between Animal Farm and **the outside world**, and would visit the farm every Monday morning to receive his instructions. Napoleon ended his speech with his usual cry of "Long live Animal Farm!" and after the singing of Beasts of England the animals were **dismissed**.

Afterwards Squealer made a round of the farm and **set** the animals' **minds at rest**. He assured them that the resolution against engaging in trade and using money had never been passed, or even suggested. It was pure imagination, probably **traceable** in the beginning to **lies** circulated by Snowball. A few animals still felt **faintly doubtful**, but Squealer asked them **shrewdly**, "Are you certain that this is not something that you have dreamed, comrades? Have you any **record** of such a resolution? Is it written down anywhere?" And **since** it was certainly true that nothing **of the kind** existed in writing, the animals were satisfied that they **had been mistaken**.

Every Monday Mr. Whymper visited the farm as had been **arranged**. He was a **sly-looking** little man with **side whiskers**, a solicitor in a very small way of business, but **sharp** enough to have realised earlier **than anyone else** that Animal Farm would need a **broker** and that the commissions **would be worth** having. The animals watched his coming and going with a kind of **dread**, and avoided him as much as possible. **Nevertheless**, the sight of Napoleon, **on all fours**, **delivering** orders to Whymper, who stood on two legs, **roused** their pride and **partly reconciled** them to the new arrangement. Their relations with the human race were now not **quite** the same as

*il mondo esterno*

*congedati*

*tranquillizzare le menti*

*rintracciabile*

*menzogne*

*leggermente dubbiosi*

*furbescamente*

*documento*

*poiché*

*del genere*

*si erano sbagliati*

*pianificato / dall'aspetto furbo*

*basette*

*acuto (intelligente)*

*di qualsiasi altro*

*intermediario / varrebbero la pena*

*timore*

*nonostante ciò / a 4 piedi*

*dando*

*aumentava / in parte li rassegnava*

*del tutto*

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

they had been before. The human beings did not hate Animal Farm **any less** now that it was prospering; indeed, they hated it **more than ever**. Every human being **held it** as an article of **faith** that the farm would go bankrupt **sooner or later**, and, **above all**, that the windmill would be a failure. They would meet in the **public-houses** and prove to one another **by means** of diagrams that the windmill **was bound to** fall down, or that if it did stand up, then that it **would never work**. And **yet**, against their **will**, they had developed a certain respect for the efficiency with which the animals were managing their own affairs. One symptom of this was that they had begun to call Animal Farm by its proper name and **ceased to pretend** that it was called the Manor Farm. They had also **dropped** their **championship** of Jones, who had **given up hope** of getting his farm back and gone to live in another part of the county. Except **through** Whymper, there was as yet no contact between Animal Farm and the outside world, but there were constant **rumours** that Napoleon was about to enter into a definite business agreement either with Mr. Pilkington of Foxwood or with Mr. Frederick of Pinchfield - but never, it was noticed, with both simultaneously.

It was about this time that the pigs suddenly moved into the farmhouse and **took up** their residence there. Again the animals seemed to remember that a resolution **against** this had been passed in the **early** days, and again Squealer was able to convince them that **this was not the case**. It was absolutely necessary, he said, that the pigs, who were the **brains** of the farm, should have a quiet place to work in. It was also more **suited** to the dignity of the

*di meno**più che mai**lo considerava / fede**prima o poi**soprattutto**pubs**per mezzo / destinato a**non funzionerebbe mai / tuttavia**will = volontà**smesso di fingere**finito / parteggiare**abbandonato le speranze**attraverso**dicerie**presero**contro / primi**non era così**cervelli**adatto*

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

Leader (for of late he had taken to speaking of Napoleon under the title of "Leader") to live in a house than in a mere sty. Nevertheless, some of the animals were disturbed when they heard that the pigs not only took their meals in the kitchen and used the drawing-room as a recreation room, but also slept in the beds. Boxer passed it off as usual with "Napoleon is always right!", but Clover, who thought she remembered a definite ruling against beds, went to the end of the barn and tried to puzzle out the Seven Commandments which were inscribed there. Finding herself unable to read more than individual letters, she fetched Muriel.

"Muriel," she said, "read me the Fourth Commandment. Does it not say something about never sleeping in a bed?"

With some difficulty Muriel spelt it out.

"It says, 'No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets,'" she announced finally.

Curiously enough, Clover had not remembered that the Fourth Commandment mentioned sheets; but as it was there on the wall, it must have done so. And Squealer, who happened to be passing at this moment, attended by two or three dogs, was able to put the whole matter in its proper perspective.

"You have heard then, comrades," he said, "that we pigs now sleep in the beds of the farmhouse? And why not? You did not suppose, surely, that there was ever a ruling against beds? A bed merely means a place to sleep in. A pile of straw in a stall is a bed,

*ultimamente aveva iniziato*

*semplice porcile*

*infastiditi*

*lo scusò come al solito*

*regola*

*decifrare*

*andare a prendere*

*lo lesse*

*lenzuola*

*giacché era lì*

*stava passando per caso*

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

properly regarded. The rule was against sheets, which are a human invention. We have removed the sheets from the farmhouse beds, and sleep between blankets. And very comfortable beds they are too! But not more comfortable than we need, I can tell you, comrades, with all the brainwork we have to do nowadays. You would not rob us of our repose, would you, comrades? You would not have us too tired to carry out our duties? Surely none of you wishes to see Jones back?"

The animals reassured him on this point immediately, and no more was said about the pigs sleeping in the farmhouse beds. And when, some days afterwards, it was announced that from now on the pigs would get up an hour later in the mornings than the other animals, no complaint was made about that either.

By the autumn the animals were tired but happy. They had had a hard year, and after the sale of part of the hay and corn, the stores of food for the winter were none too plentiful, but the windmill compensated for everything. It was almost half built now. After the harvest there was a stretch of clear dry weather, and the animals toiled harder than ever, thinking it well worth while to plod to and fro all day with blocks of stone if by doing so they could raise the walls another foot. Boxer would even come out at nights and work for an hour or two on his own by the light of the harvest moon. In their spare moments the animals would walk round and round the half-finished mill, admiring the strength and perpendicularity of its walls and marvelling that they should ever have been able to build anything so

*adeguatamente considerato*

*coperte*

*rubarci / riposo*

*Non è vero?*

*svolgere i nostri compiti*

*desidera*

*lo rassicurarono*

*lamentela*

*non troppo abbondanti*

*periodo*

*lavoravano più duro che mai*

*valeva la pena camminare*

*innalzare*

*soleva*

*liberi*

*forza*

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

**imposing**. Only old Benjamin refused to **grow** enthusiastic about the windmill, though, as usual, he would **utter** nothing **beyond** the cryptic **remark** that donkeys live a long time.

November came, with **raging** south-west winds. Building had to stop because it was now too **wet** to mix the cement. Finally there came a night when the **gale** was so violent that the farm buildings **rocked** on their **foundations** and several **tiles** were **blown off** the **roof** of the barn. The hens woke up **squawking** with terror because they had all dreamed simultaneously of hearing a gun **go off** in the distance. In the morning the animals came out of their stalls to find that the flagstaff had been blown down and an **elm** tree at the foot of the orchard had been **plucked up** like a **radish**. They had just noticed this when a cry of **despair broke from** every animal's **throat**. A terrible **sight** had met their eyes. The windmill was **in ruins**.

With one accord they **dashed** down to the **spot**. Napoleon, who seldom moved out of a walk, **raced ahead** of them all. Yes, there it **lay**, the fruit of all their **struggles**, **levelled** to its foundations, the stones they had broken and carried so laboriously **scattered** all around. Unable at first to speak, they stood **gazing mournfully** at the litter of fallen stone. Napoleon **paced to and fro** in silence, occasionally **snuffing** at the ground. His tail had grown rigid and **twitched** sharply from side to side, a **sign** in him of intense mental activity. Suddenly he **halted as though** his mind **were made up**.

"Comrades," he said quietly, "do you know who is responsible for this? Do you know the **enemy** who

*imponente / diventare*

*dire / oltre / osservazione*

*furiosi*

*umido*

*temporale / traballavano*

*fondamenta / tegole / soffiati via*

*tetto / starnazzando*

*sparare*

*olmo*

*sradicato*

*ravanello*

*disperazione fuoruscì / gola*

*spettacolo / distrutto*

*ruin = rovina*

*si precipitarono / luogo*

*corse*

*davanti / giaceva*

*lotte / livellato*

*sparpagliate*

*osservando dolorosamente*

*camminava avanti indietro*

*annusando*

*si torceva / segno*

*si fermò come se*

*fosse decisa*

*nemico*

## Chapter 6 Animal Farm - George Orwell

has come in the night and **overthrown** our windmill? SNOWBALL!" he suddenly **roared** in a voice of **thunder**. "Snowball has done this thing! In **sheer** malignity, thinking **to set back** our plans and **avenge** himself for his ignominious expulsion, this **traitor** has **crept** here **under cover of** night and destroyed our work of nearly a year. Comrades, here and now I pronounce the **death** sentence upon Snowball. 'Animal Hero, Second Class,' and half a **bushel** of apples to any animal who brings him to justice. A full bushel to anyone who captures him **alive!**"

The animals were shocked **beyond measure to learn** that even Snowball could be **guilty** of such an action. There was a **cry** of indignation, and everyone began thinking out ways of catching Snowball if he should ever come back. Almost immediately the **footprints** of a pig were discovered in the grass at a little distance from the **knoll**. They could only be traced for a few yards, but appeared to lead to a hole in the hedge. Napoleon snuffed deeply at them and pronounced them to be Snowball's. He gave it as his opinion that Snowball had probably come from the direction of Foxwood Farm.

"No more **delays**, comrades!" cried Napoleon when the footprints had been examined. "There is work to be done. This very morning we begin rebuilding the windmill, and we will build all through the winter, rain or **shine**. We will teach this miserable traitor that he cannot **undo** our work so easily. Remember, comrades, there must be no alteration in our plans: they shall be **carried out** to the day. **Forward**, comrades! Long live the windmill! Long live Animal Farm!"

*abbattuto**ruggì**tuono / pura**portare indietro / vendicarsi**traditore**strisciato / protetto dalla**morte**staio**vivo**oltre misura di apprendere**colpevole**grido**impronte**collinetta**indugi**"sole" ( to shine = splendere)**disfare**eseguiti / avanti*

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**Governess Cart**

The Governess Cart was utilized by a wealthy (*ricca*) family's governess to take the children to the park or for trips (*escursioni*) into the countryside. Given its enclosed shape (*forma*), the cart prevented the children from falling out (*cadere fuori*) or dangling (*fare penzolare*) their toys (*giocattoli*) where they could get caught (*presi*) in the wheels (*ruote*).