**Animal Farm (Please Return to Teacher)**

**Allegory**: a story in which the characters and events represent or symbolize ideas and concepts.

**Introduction**

 Animal Farm is a novel written by George Orwell that was written in 1945. It is an allegory of Stalinist Russia. The book reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917. The book was later made into an animated film.

**Plot Overview of Film**

 Old Major, a prize-winning boar, gathers the animals of the Manor Farm for a meeting in the big barn. He tells them of a dream he has had in which all animals live together with no human beings to oppress or control them. The animals greet Major’s vision with great enthusiasm but Old Major dies during the meeting and does not take part in the revolution. The next morning, the animals manage to defeat the farmer Mr. Jones in a battle, running him off the land. Snowball, one of the pigs, leads them in creating a new society, which they name Animal Farm. They create new rules for the society, the most important being that all animals are equal. They all dedicate themselves to achieving Major’s dream.

 At first, Animal Farm prospers as the animals work together. The cart-horse Boxer devotes himself to the cause with particular zeal, committing his great strength to the prosperity of the farm. Snowball works hard to make Animal Farm a successful place but he is brutally chased off by his fellow pig, Napoleon, who has a different vision for the farm. Napoleon assumes leadership of Animal Farm with Squealer as his dedicated follower and assistant. He declares that there will be no more meetings. From that point on, he will make all of the decisions—for the good of every animal.

 The animals work hard for Napoleon and the other pigs who oversee their efforts. Boxer, the horse, works extra hard and is extremely dedicated to Animal Farm. As the other animals work hard day in and day out the pigs begin to live a life of luxury and begin to change the rules as they see fit. When the hens disagree with some of Napoleon’s policies they have a small uprising. Napoleon deals with the rebellion by having his dogs take care of them. He then convinces the other animals that the hens and others involved in the uprising were traitors who wanted to bring Farmer Jones back.

 As years pass on Animal Farm the pigs become more and more like human beings -walking upright, carrying whips, and wearing clothes. Eventually the rules of Animal Farm are reduced to a single principle reading “all animal are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” The animals start to realize that their lives are no better than they had been with Farmer Jones and they begin to feel angry. Eventually the animals join together again and rise up against the pigs to take back the farm once more.

Name: Period: Date:

**Animal Farm Overview Questions**

1. Who are the main characters discussed in this overview and what do they do?

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2. Summarize the storyline of the film into two sentences.

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3. What are 2 questions you have about the film?

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