

English 11: European Literature

Animal Farm by George Orwell (**English 11 ONLY**)

Read and annotate the novel as you read. You can annotate directly in the book using the margins to make notes, highlighting specific quotes, or using sticky notes to mark important questions and reflections.

Be sure to highlight specific evidence that supports the following themes:

- Language and Meaning
- God and Religion
- Politics
- Human Rights
- Class Conflict
- Truth and Falsehood

Your book will be collected and checked the first day. Please make sure to have it in class.

Animal Farm by George Orwell (**English 11 Honors ONLY**)

Your assignment is to read the novel and annotate. In the first week, you will write an analysis of at least 600 words (approximately 2 double-spaced pages). You may want to take notes to prepare. The prompts are as follows:

1. Propaganda is persuasive speech and misinformation intended to manipulate public opinion. How are various forms of propaganda employed by the pigs, and in what ways is their propaganda effective?
2. Explain how the significance of the title can be interpreted in different ways as the novel begins, progresses, and concludes.
3. Explain how the class status of the pigs changes in the novel. How does their social class compare with that of humans and the other animals at the beginning of the book and at the end? Use examples from the novel in your discussion.
4. *Animal Farm* is an allegory; many of the characters are symbols that reveal some truth about human nature and human existence. Identify at least two characters in the novel that function in this way and explain what they represent and what truths they reveal.

Caution: Students are not to use internet study guides or print study guides (such as Cliff Notes, Shmoop, eNotes, and Sparknotes) to prepare for this writing assignment. To do so is considered a violation of the honor code. Plagiarism will result in an automatic zero and a referral to the Honor Committee.

ANNOTATION GUIDE:

A SUPERPOWER THAT ONLY SMART READERS POSSESS

What can one do with this superpower? Well, it's sort of like having x-ray vision, supersonic hearing, and mind reading abilities all rolled into one. Annotation helps us see beneath the print to meaning, helps us hear the most subtle echoes of the author's voice, and helps us see beyond the obvious to the realm of insightful, creative interpretations. Read on to become one of the few, the brave... the *annotators*.

HOW TO ANNOTATE

***Use symbols...** but only if they work for you. Make your own—they will only hold meaning for you if they make some type of sense in your brain.

***Color-coding** is another option, especially if you are *very* detail-oriented.

***Write in the text**, in the margins. Or, if the book doesn't belong to you, use sticky notes. Either way, use arrows to remind yourself exactly which part of the text you wanted to make a note about.

*Jot things down **the minute you see them**, then also when you revisit.

***Don't worry about perfection.** Figuring out which parts of the text are most important is a job for later. You never know when observing something might be useful.

***Don't be afraid to get aggressive!** Annotate the heck out of that thing... as long as you can do so without interrupting your reading flow.

WHAT TO ANNOTATE

Annotate what you see, with the knowledge that what you see depends on the lens you're looking through. Use all three of the following lenses to elicit a variety of responses as you read:

MIRROR: Connections to you, your mind, and your heart. [Visceral reactions]

*Experiences you can relate to *Emotional reactions to characters, events, or writing

*Strong opinions about a section *Things that are beautiful/notable to you

MICROSCOPE: Nuts and Bolts: noting the rhetoric and methodology of the author. [Mental reactions]

*Figurative language (metaphors, similes, etc.) *Important or difficult words

*Rhetorical choices made by the author *Unconventional/interesting use of language

*Tone/purpose of text *Any "term" that you spot – devices/style elements

TELESCOPE: Looking through textual windows to the human experience. [Synthesis]

*Spotting connections to values, issues, topics, and concerns *What's the point?

*Spots where the author's "big message" is leaking through *Social/ethical commentary/themes

*Relationships to our world, alternative perspectives