

Synopsis of Old Major's Speech from Chapter One

- believes he will not be with the animals much longer
- wants to pass on his wisdom before he dies
- believes their lives to be “miserable, laborious, and short”
 - *any irony here???
- reminds the animals that their lives are cut short once they are no longer “useful”
- says, “No animal in England is free.”
- reduces the reason for their present difficult state of life to a single entity: Man
- accuses man of stealing the food the animals labor to produce
- says, “Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished forever.”
- wonders why man is the master of all animals when he doesn't produce anything himself
- offers various examples of how man takes from animals:
 - man takes cows' milk without giving any to the animals
 - man takes the hens' eggs without allowing them to grow into babies
 - Clover's four foals have been sold
 - most of the animals on the farm will be slaughtered before they've lived a full life
 - Boxer will be killed and fed to dogs

- the dogs will be drowned
- proposes that if the animals get rid of Man, their fruits of their labors would be theirs
- calls for “Rebellion!”
- realizes that rebellion may not happen during his life, but encourages his fellows to organize a rebellion or at least “pass the torch” to the younger generations
- warns the animals against falling victim to arguments against revolution
- reminds the animals that “all men are enemies. All animals are comrades.”
- calls for a vote to determine if wild animals (such as rats and rabbits) are friends or enemies
 - majority votes they are friends
 - protestors are the dogs and the cat
- reminds the animals that is their DUTY to hate Man
- says, “Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.”
- lists “rules” the animals should follow:
 - can’t live in a house
 - can’t sleep in a bed
 - can’t wear clothes
 - can’t drink alcohol
 - can’t smoke tobacco
 - can’t use money or trade
 - can’t kill another animal

- ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL
- reveals the details of his dream and the memory it brought back to him:
 - the dream was of a world without Man
 - reminded him of a song his mother used to sing
 - Major knew the song as an infant but had forgotten it
 - the dream reminded him of the words of “Beasts of England”