

Animal Farm - Ch 2: Seven Commandments *Adapted extract*

After breakfast on the morning after the battle, Napoleon sent for pots of black and white paint. He then led the way down to the five-barred gate that gave on to the main road.

Then Snowball (who was best at writing) painted out MANOR FARM from the top bar of the gate. In its place he painted the new name, ANIMAL FARM.

A ladder was then placed against the end wall of the big barn.

"Our new farm will now live by the Seven Commandments of Animalism, which we pigs have studied closely," said Snowball. "Every animal must obey these new laws."

With some difficulty, Snowball climbed up the ladder and set to work. Squealer was a few rungs below him holding the paint-pot. He wrote in great white letters and then then read the Commandments aloud.

THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.
7. All animals are equal.



All the animals nodded in complete agreement. The cleverer ones at once began to learn the Commandments by heart.

"Now, comrades," cried Snowball, throwing down the paint-brush, "to the hayfield!"

But at this moment the three cows cried out. 'We need milking! It's been over twenty-four hours!'

After a little thought, the pigs sent for buckets and milked the cows. Soon there were five buckets of frothing creamy milk.

"What is going to happen to all that milk?" said someone.

"Jones used sometimes to mix some of it in our mash," said one of the hens.

"Never mind the milk, comrades!" cried Napoleon, placing himself in front of the buckets. "The harvest is more important. Comrade Snowball will lead the way. I shall follow in a few minutes. Forward, comrades! The hay is waiting."

So the animals trooped down to the hayfield to begin the harvest. When they came back in the evening the milk had disappeared.