

## Orwell | Animal Farm

## Fremdsprachentexte | Englisch

George Orwell

Animal Farm

A Fairy Story

Herausgegeben von Johannes Röhrig

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# Chapter I

Mr Jones, of the Manor Farm, had locked the hen-houses for the night, but was too drunk to remember to shut the pop-holes. With the ring of light from his lantern dancing  
5 from side to side, he lurched across the yard, kicked off his boots at the back door, drew himself a last glass of beer from the barrel in the scullery, and made his way up to bed, where Mrs Jones was already snoring.

As soon as the light in the bedroom went out there was a  
10 stirring and a fluttering all through the farm buildings. Word had gone round during the day that old Major, the prize Middle White boar, had had a strange dream on the previous night and wished to communicate it to the other animals. It had been agreed that they should all meet in the  
15 big barn as soon as Mr Jones was safely out of the way. Old Major (so he was always called, though the name under which he had been exhibited was Willingdon Beauty) was so highly regarded on the farm that everyone was quite ready to lose an hour's sleep in order to hear what he had  
20 to say.

At one end of the big barn, on a sort of raised platform, Major was already ensconced on his bed of straw, under a lantern which hung from a beam. He was twelve years old and had lately grown rather stout, but he was still a majes-

2 **hen-house**: Hühnerstall. | 4 **pop-hole**: Schlupfloch. | 5 **to lurch**: taumeln, torkeln. | 7 **barrel**: Fass, Tonne. | **scullery**: Spülküche. |  
10 **fluttering** (n.): Flattern. | 12 **Middle White**: englische Hausschweinsrasse. | **boar**: Eber, Keiler. | 15 **barn**: Scheune, Stall. | 18 **to be highly regarded**: hoch angesehen sein. | 22 **to be ensconced**: sich niedergelassen haben. | 24 **stout**: kräftig, korpulent, stämmig.

tic-looking pig, with a wise and benevolent appearance in spite of the fact that his tusches had never been cut. Before long the other animals began to arrive and make themselves comfortable after their different fashions. First came the three dogs, Bluebell, Jessie, and Pincher, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw immediately in front of the platform. The hens perched themselves on the window-sills, the pigeons fluttered up to the rafters, the sheep and cows lay down behind the pigs and began to chew the cud. The two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover, came in together, walking very slowly and setting down their vast hairy hoofs with great care lest there should be some small animal concealed in the straw. Clover was a stout motherly mare approaching middle life, who had never quite got her figure back after her fourth foal. Boxer was an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, and as strong as any two ordinary horses put together. A white stripe down his nose gave him a somewhat stupid appearance, and in fact he was not of first-rate intelligence, but he was universally respected for his steadiness of character and tremendous powers of work. After the horses came Muriel, the white goat, and Benjamin, the donkey. Benjamin was the oldest animal on the farm, and the worst tempered. He seldom

1 **benevolent**: gütig, wohlwollend. | 2 **tush**: Eckzahn. | 7 **to perch o.s.**: sich hocken, niedersetzen (Vogel). | 7f. **window-sill**: Fensterbank, Fensterbrett. | 8 **rafter**: Dachsparren. | 10 **cud**: wiedergekäutes Gras. | **cart-horse**: Zugpferd, Arbeitspferd. | 12 **lest**: damit nicht ..., aus Furcht, dass ... | 14 **mare**: Stute. | 15 **foal**: Fohlen. | 16 ... **hands high**: hier: ... Handbreit groß. | 20 **steadiness**: Beharrlichkeit, Zuverlässigkeit. | **tremendous** (adj.): gewaltig, enorm, riesig. | 23 **bad-tempered** (adj.): gereizt, misshmutig, schlecht gelaunt.



talked, and when he did it was usually to make some cynical remark – for instance, he would say that God had given him a tail to keep the flies off, but that he would sooner have had no tail and no flies. Alone among the animals on the farm he never laughed. If asked why, he would say that he saw nothing to laugh at. Nevertheless, without openly admitting it, he was devoted to Boxer; the two of them usually spent their Sundays together in the small paddock beyond the orchard, grazing side by side and never speaking.

The two horses had just lain down when a brood of ducklings, which had lost their mother, filed into the barn, cheeping feebly and wandering from side to side to find some place where they would not be trodden on. Clover made a sort of wall round them with her great foreleg, and the ducklings nestled down inside it and promptly fell asleep. At the last moment Mollie, the foolish, pretty white mare who drew Mr Jones's trap, came mincing daintily in, chewing at a lump of sugar. She took a place near the front and began flirting her white mane, hoping to draw attention to the red ribbons it was plaited with. Last of all came the cat, who looked round, as usual, for the warmest place,

1 f. **cynical** (adj.): zynisch, höhnisch. | 7 **to be devoted to s.o./s.th.:** jdm. treu ergeben sein, etwas/jdm. zugetan sein. | 8 **paddock:** Pferde-koppel. | 9 **orchard:** Obstgarten. | 11 **brood:** Brut, Nachwuchs. | 12 **duckling:** Entenküken. | **to file into s.th.:** im Gänsemarsch in etwas hineinmarschieren. | 13 **to cheep:** piepsen, piepen, fiepen. | 15 **foreleg:** Vorderbein, -lauf. | 16 **to nestle:** sich anschmiegen, kuscheln. | 18 **trap** (n.): hier: Pferdewagen. | **to mince:** zerhacken, hier: tänzeln, stöckeln. | **daintily** (adv.): anmutig, zierlich, verwöhnt. | 19 **lump of sugar:** Würfel-zucker, Stück Zucker. | 20 **to flirt s.th.:** hier: mit etwas kokett wedeln. | **mane:** Mähne. | 21 **to plait s.th.:** etwas flechten.

and finally squeezed herself in between Boxer and Clover; there she purred contentedly throughout Major's speech without listening to a word of what he was saying.

All the animals were now present except Moses, the tame raven, who slept on a perch behind the back door. When Major saw that they had all made themselves comfortable and were waiting attentively, he cleared his throat and began:

"Comrades, you have heard already about the strange dream that I had last night. But I will come to the dream later. I have something else to say first. I do not think, comrades, that I shall be with you for many months longer, and before I die, I feel it my duty to pass on to you such wisdom as I have acquired. I have had a long life, I have had much time for thought as I lay alone in my stall, and I think I may say that I understand the nature of life on this earth as well as any animal now living. It is about this that I wish to speak to you.

"Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short. We are born, we are given just so much food as will keep the breath in our bodies, and those of us who are capable of it are forced to work to the last atom of our strength; and

1 **to squeeze o.s.:** sich hineinzwängen. | 2 **to purr:** schnurren. | 4 **Moses:** Anspielung auf den biblischen Moses, dem Gott die Gebotstafeln für das jüdische Volk gab und der es aus der ägyptischen Gefangenschaft ins Gelobte Land führte. | 5 **tame:** zahm. | **raven:** Rabe. | **perch:** Hochsitz, Hühnerstange. | 7 **to clear one's throat:** sich räuspern. | 13 **to pass s.th. on to s.o.:** jdm. etwas weiterreichen, weitergeben. | 14 **to acquire s.th.:** etwas erwerben, erlangen. | 15 **stall:** Stall, Box. | 20 **laborious** (adj.): mühselig, mühevoll.

the very instant that our usefulness has come to an end we are slaughtered with hideous cruelty. No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is  
5 misery and slavery: that is the plain truth.

“But is this simply part of the order of nature? Is it because this land of ours is so poor that it cannot afford a decent life to those who dwell upon it? No, comrades, a thousand times no! The soil of England is fertile, its climate is  
10 good, it is capable of affording food in abundance to an enormously greater number of animals than now inhabit it. This single farm of ours would support a dozen horses, twenty cows, hundreds of sheep – and all of them living in a comfort and a dignity that are now almost beyond our im-  
15 agining. Why then do we continue in this miserable condition? Because nearly the whole of the produce of our labour is stolen from us by human beings. There, comrades, is the answer to all our problems. It is summed up in a single word – Man. Man is the only real enemy we have. Remove  
20 Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever.

“Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to  
25 catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals. He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will

2 **to slaughter s.o.:** jdn. abschlachten. | **hideous** (adj.): abscheulich, grässlich, widerlich. | 8 **to dwell:** wohnen, hausen. | 9 **fertile:** fruchtbar, ertragreich. | 10 **in abundance:** im Überfluss. | 14 f. **beyond imagining:** jenseits der Vorstellungskraft. | 16 **produce:** Ergebnis, Ertrag. | 20 **root cause** (fig.): Hauptursache. | 20 f. **overwork:** Arbeitsüberlastung.

prevent them from starving, and the rest he keeps for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and yet there is not one of us that owns more than his bare skin. You cows that I see before me, how many thousands of gallons of milk have you given during this last year? And what has happened to that milk which should have been breeding up sturdy calves? Every drop of it has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid in this last year, and how many of those eggs ever hatched into chickens? The rest have all gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are those four foals you bore, who should have been the support and pleasure of your old age? Each was sold at a year old – you will never see one of them again. In return for your four confinements and all your labour in the fields, what have you ever had except your bare rations and a stall?

“And even the miserable lives we lead are not allowed to reach their natural span. For myself I do not grumble, for I am one of the lucky ones. I am twelve years old and have had over four hundred children. Such is the natural life of a pig. But no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. You young porkers who are sitting in front of me, every one of you will scream your lives out at the block within a year. To that horror we all must come – cows, pigs, hens, sheep,

2 **to till**: Land bestellen. | **to fertilize (the soil)**: (den Boden) düngen. |  
 5 **gallon**: Gallone, brit. und US-Hohlmaß: 4,54 Liter in GB, 3,78 Liter in den USA. | 7 **sturdy**: robust, kräftig, stämmig. | 10 **to hatch s.th.**: etwas ausbrüten. | 15 **in return for s.th.**: als Dank, Gegenleistung für etwas. |  
**confinement**: hier: Niederkunft. | 19 **span**: Zeitspanne. | 23 **porker**:  
 Mastschwein. | 24 **block**: hier: Schlachtbank.

everyone. Even the horses and the dogs have no better fate. You, Boxer, the very day that those great muscles of yours lose their power, Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will cut your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds.  
5 As for the dogs, when they grow old and toothless, Jones ties a brick round their necks and drowns them in the nearest pond.

“Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings?  
10 Only get rid of Man, and the produce of our labour would be our own. Almost overnight we could become rich and free. What then must we do? Why, work night and day, body and soul, for the overthrow of the human race! That is my message to you, comrades: Rebellion! I do not know  
15 when that Rebellion will come, it might be in a week or in a hundred years, but I know, as surely as I see this straw beneath my feet, that sooner or later justice will be done. Fix your eyes on that, comrades, throughout the short remainder of your lives! And above all, pass on this  
20 message of mine to those who come after you, so that future generations shall carry on the struggle until it is victorious.

“And remember, comrades, your resolution must never falter. No argument must lead you astray. Never listen  
25 when they tell you that Man and the animals have a com-

3 **knacker:** Pferdeschlachter, Abdecker. | 4 **foxhound:** Hetzhund für die Fuchsjagd. | 9 **to spring from s.th.:** aus etwas erwachsen, resultieren. | 13 **overthrow:** Umsturz, Sturz. | 19 **remainder:** Rest(bestand). | 22 **victorious:** siegreich. | 23 **resolution:** Entscheidung, hier: Entschlusskraft. | 24 **to falter:** schwanken, zögern. | **to lead s.o. astray:** jdn. vom rechten Weg abbringen.

mon interest, that the prosperity of the one is the prosperity of the others. It is all lies. Man serves the interests of no creature except himself. And among us animals let there be perfect unity, perfect comradeship in the struggle. All men are enemies. All animals are comrades.”

5

At this moment there was a tremendous uproar. While Major was speaking four large rats had crept out of their holes and were sitting on their hindquarters listening to him. The dogs had suddenly caught sight of them, and it was only by a swift dash for their holes that the rats saved their lives. Major raised his trotter for silence.

10

“Comrades,” he said, “here is a point that must be settled. The wild creatures, such as rats and rabbits – are they our friends or our enemies? Let us put it to the vote. I propose this question to the meeting: Are rats comrades?”

15

The vote was taken at once, and it was agreed by an overwhelming majority that rats were comrades. There were only four dissentients, the three dogs and the cat, who was afterwards discovered to have voted on both sides. Major continued:

20

“I have little more to say. I merely repeat, remember always your duty of enmity towards Man and all his ways. Whatever goes upon two legs, is an enemy. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend. And remember also that in fighting against Man, we must not come to

25

4 **comradeship**: Kameradschaft. | 6 **tremendous**: gewaltig, riesig, sagenhaft. | **uproar**: Aufruhr, Tumult. | 8 **hindquarters** (pl.): Hinterteil. | 10 **dash**: Eile, Schwung, hier: Sprung. | 11 **trotter**: Traber, hier: Schweinehuf. | 14 **to put s.th. to the vote**: über etwas abstimmen lassen. | 16 f. **overwhelming**: überwältigend, erdrückend. | 18 **dissentient**: Andersdenkende(r), Andersgläubige(r). | 22 **enmity**: Feindschaft.

resemble him. Even when you have conquered him, do not adopt his vices. No animal must ever live in a house, or sleep in a bed, or wear clothes, or drink alcohol, or smoke tobacco, or touch money, or engage in trade. All the habits  
5 of Man are evil. And, above all, no animal must ever tyrannize over his own kind. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers. No animal must ever kill any other animal. All animals are equal.

“And now, comrades, I will tell you about my dream of  
10 last night. I cannot describe that dream to you. It was a dream of the earth as it will be when Man has vanished. But it reminded me of something that I had long forgotten. Many years ago, when I was a little pig, my mother and the other sows used to sing an old song of which they knew  
15 only the tune and the three first words. I had known that tune in my infancy, but it had long since passed out of my mind. Last night, however, it came back to me in my dream. And what is more, the words of the song also came back – words, I am certain, which were sung by the animals of  
20 long ago and have been lost to memory for generations. I will sing you that song now, comrades. I am old and my voice is hoarse, but when I have taught you the tune, you can sing it better for yourselves. It is called ‘Beasts of England’.”

25 Old Major cleared his throat and began to sing. As he had said, his voice was hoarse, but he sang well enough, and it

1 to resemble s.o./s.th.: jdm./etwas ähneln. | 2 vice: Laster, Mangel, Fehler. | 5 f. to tyrannize (over) s.o.: jdn. tyrannisieren. | 11 to vanish: verschwinden, weichen. | 15 tune: Melodie. | 18 what is more: überdies, außerdem. | 22 hoarse: heiser.

was a stirring tune, something between ‘Clementine’ and ‘La Cucaracha’. The words ran:

*Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,  
Beasts of every land and clime,  
Hearken to my joyful tidings  
Of the golden future time.*

5

*Soon or late the day is coming,  
Tyrant Man shall be o’erthrown,  
And the fruitful fields of England  
Shall be trod by beasts alone.*

10

*Rings shall vanish from our noses,  
And the harness from our back,  
Bit and spur shall rust forever,  
Cruel whips no more shall crack.*

*Riches more than mind can picture,  
Wheat and barley, oats and hay,  
Clover, beans, and mangel-wurzels  
Shall be ours upon that day.*

15

1 **stirring**: ergreifend, mitreißend. | **Clementine** für **Oh, my darling Clementine**: ein 1884 in den USA entstandenes Volkslied, das auch Eingang in einige Filme fand. | 2 **La Cucaracha**: spanisches Volkslied, das zu einem Revolutionslied in der ab 1910 beginnenden mexikanischen Revolution wurde. | 4 **clime**: Gegend, Landstrich. | 5 **to hearken to s.th./s.o.** (arch.): jdm./etwas Beachtung schenken, lauschen. | **tidings** (pl., lit.): Kunde, Botschaft, Nachricht(en). | 12 **harness**: Gurt(geschirr), Pferdegeschirr. | 13 **bit**: hier: Mundstück des Zaumzeugs. | **spur**: Sporn. | **to rust**: rosten. | 14 **whip**: Peitsche. | 16 **barley**: Gerste. | **oats** (pl.): Hafer. | 17 **clover**: Klee. | **mangel-wurzel**: Mangold.



*Bright will shine the fields of England,  
Purer shall its waters be,  
Sweeter yet shall blow its breezes  
On the day that sets us free.*

5 *For that day we all must labour,  
Though we die before it break;  
Cows and horses, geese and turkeys,  
All must toil for freedom's sake.*

10 *Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,  
Beasts of every land and clime,  
Hearken well and spread my tidings  
Of the golden future time.*

The singing of this song threw the animals into the wildest excitement. Almost before Major had reached the end, they  
15 had begun singing it for themselves. Even the stupidest of them had already picked up the tune and a few of the words, and as for the clever ones, such as the pigs and dogs, they had the entire song by heart within a few minutes. And then, after a few preliminary tries, the whole farm  
20 burst out into 'Beasts of England' in tremendous unison. The cows lowed it, the dogs whined it, the sheep bleated it, the horses whinnied it, the ducks quacked it. They were so

3 **breeze:** Hauch, Lüftchen, Brise. | 7 **turkey:** Truthahn, -henne. |  
8 **to toil:** schuften, sich plagen. | **for s.th.'s sake:** um einer Sache willen. |  
19 **preliminary:** vorbereitend, einleitend, vorläufig. | 20 **in unison:**  
im Gleichklang. | 21 **to low:** muhen, blöken. | **to whine:** winseln,  
jaulen. | **to bleat:** blöken. | 22 **to whinny:** wiehern. | **to quack:** quaken,  
schnattern.

delighted with the song that they sang it right through five times in succession, and might have continued singing it all night if they had not been interrupted.

Unfortunately, the uproar awoke Mr Jones, who sprang out of bed, making sure that there was a fox in the yard. He seized the gun which always stood in a corner of his bedroom, and let fly a charge of number 6 shot into the darkness. The pellets buried themselves in the wall of the barn and the meeting broke up hurriedly. Everyone fled to his own sleeping place. The birds jumped on to their perches, the animals settled down in the straw, and the whole farm was asleep in a moment.

2 **in succession:** nacheinander, in schneller Folge. | 7 **charge:** hier: Ladung. | **Number 6 shot:** Schuss mit einer Schrotkugel von 6,1 Zentimeter Durchmesser. | 8 **pellet:** (Schrot-)Kugel.

## Chapter II

Three nights later old Major died peacefully in his sleep. His body was buried at the foot of the orchard.

This was early in March. During the next three months  
5 there was much secret activity. Major's speech had given to the more intelligent animals on the farm a completely new outlook on life. They did not know when the Rebellion predicted by Major would take place, they had no reason for thinking that it would be within their own lifetime, but  
10 they saw clearly that it was their duty to prepare for it. The work of teaching and organizing the others fell naturally upon the pigs, who were generally recognized as being the cleverest of the animals. Pre-eminent among the pigs were two young boars named Snowball and Napoleon, whom  
15 Mr Jones was breeding up for sale. Napoleon was a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire boar, the only Berkshire on the farm, not much of a talker, but with a reputation for getting his own way. Snowball was a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive, but  
20 was not considered to have the same depth of character. All the other male pigs on the farm were porkers. The best known among them was a small fat pig named Squealer,

7 **outlook:** Einstellung, Anschauung. | 8 **to predict s.th.:** etwas voraussagen. | 11 f. **to fall upon s.o.:** jdm. zufallen. | 13 **pre-eminent:** herausragend, hervorstechend. | 15 **to breed s.th. (up):** etwas züchten. | 16 **fierce-looking:** mit grimmigem Blick. | **Berkshire:** englische Grafschaft, hier: Ursprung einer Hausschweinrasse. | 17 **to have a reputation for s.th.:** für etwas bekannt sein. | 18 **to get one's way:** sich durchsetzen. | **vivacious:** lebhaft, munter. | 19 **inventive:** einfallreich, erfinderisch.

with very round cheeks, twinkling eyes, nimble movements, and a shrill voice. He was a brilliant talker, and when he was arguing some difficult point he had a way of skipping from side to side and whisking his tail which was somehow very persuasive. The others said of Squealer that he could turn black into white.

These three had elaborated old Major's teachings into a complete system of thought, to which they gave the name of Animalism. Several nights a week, after Mr Jones was asleep, they held secret meetings in the barn and expounded the principles of Animalism to the others. At the beginning they met with much stupidity and apathy. Some of the animals talked of the duty of loyalty to Mr Jones, whom they referred to as "Master," or made elementary remarks such as "Mr Jones feeds us. If he were gone, we should starve to death." Others asked such questions as "Why should we care what happens after we are dead?" or "If this rebellion is to happen anyway, what difference does it make whether we work for it or not?", and the pigs had great difficulty in making them see that this was contrary to the spirit of Animalism. The stupidest questions of all were asked by Mollie, the white mare. The very first question she asked Snowball was: "Will there still be sugar after the Rebellion?"

"No," said Snowball firmly. "We have no means of mak-

1 **twinkling:** glitzernd. | **nimble:** flink, wendig, geschickt. | 4 **to whisk one's tail:** mit dem Schwanz schlagen. | 5 **persuasive:** überzeugend. | 7 **to elaborate s.th.:** etwas (sorgfältig) ausarbeiten. | 9 **Animalism:** politisches Glaubenssystem der Farm der Tiere. | 10 f. **to expound s.th.:** etwas erklären. | 12 **to meet with s.th.:** auf etwas stoßen. | **apathy:** Teilnahmslosigkeit, Apathie.

ing sugar on this farm. Besides, you do not need sugar. You will have all the oats and hay you want.”

“And shall I still be allowed to wear ribbons in my mane?” asked Mollie.

5 “Comrade,” said Snowball, “those ribbons that you are so devoted to are the badge of slavery. Can you not understand that liberty is worth more than ribbons?”

Mollie agreed, but she did not sound very convinced.

The pigs had an even harder struggle to counteract the  
10 lies put about by Moses, the tame raven. Moses, who was Mr Jones’s especial pet, was a spy and a tale-bearer, but he was also a clever talker. He claimed to know of the existence of a mysterious country called Sugarcandy Mountain, to which all animals went when they died. It was situated  
15 somewhere up in the sky, a little distance beyond the clouds, Moses said. In Sugarcandy Mountain it was Sunday seven days a week, clover was in season all the year round, and lump sugar and linseed cake grew on the hedges. The animals hated Moses because he told tales and did not  
20 work, but some of them believed in Sugarcandy Mountain, and the pigs had to argue very hard to persuade them that there was no such place.

Their most faithful disciples were the two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover. These two had great difficulty in think-  
25 ing anything out for themselves, but having once accepted

6 **badge:** Anstecknadel, hier: Merkmal. | 9 **to counteract s.th.:** etwas entgegenarbeiten. | 10 **to put about lies:** Lügen in Umlauf bringen. | 11 **tale-bearer:** Schwätzer(in), Zuträger(in). | 13 **Sugarcandy Mountain:** etwa: Paradies im Jenseits. | 17 **to be in season:** Saison haben. | 18 **linseed cake:** Leinsamenkuchen, Futterkuchen. | 23 **disciple:** Jünger(in), Anhänger(in).

the pigs as their teachers, they absorbed everything that they were told, and passed it on to the other animals by simple arguments. They were unfailing in their attendance at the secret meetings in the barn, and led the singing of 'Beasts of England', with which the meetings always ended. 5

Now, as it turned out, the Rebellion was achieved much earlier and more easily than anyone had expected. In past years Mr Jones, although a hard master, had been a capable farmer, but of late he had fallen on evil days. He had become much disheartened after losing money in a lawsuit, and had taken to drinking more than was good for him. For whole days at a time he would lounge in his Windsor chair in the kitchen, reading the newspapers, drinking, and occasionally feeding Moses on crusts of bread soaked in beer. 10 His men were idle and dishonest, the fields were full of weeds, the buildings wanted roofing, the hedges were neglected, and the animals were underfed. 15

June came and the hay was almost ready for cutting. On Midsummer's Eve, which was a Saturday, Mr Jones went into Willingdon and got so drunk at the Red Lion that he did not come back till midday on Sunday. The men had milked the cows in the early morning and then had gone 20

3 f. **to be unfailing in attendance**: zuverlässig anwesend sein. | 10 **of late**: seit kurzem. | **to fall on evil days**: auf Abwege geraten. | 11 **to be disheartened**: verzagt, mutlos sein. | **lawsuit**: Rechtsstreit. | 13 **at a time**: jeweils. | **to lounge**: herumliegen. | **Windsor Chair**: Holzstuhl mit gebogener Lehne und schräggestellten Beinen. | 14 f. **occasionally** (adv.): mitunter, gelegentlich. | 15 **crust**: (Brot-)Rinde, Kruste. | 17 **roofing**: Bedachung. | 18 **to be underfed**: unterernährt sein. | 20 **Midsummer's Eve**: der Abend vor Mittsommernacht, dem 21. Juni.

out rabbiting, without bothering to feed the animals. When Mr Jones got back he immediately went to sleep on the drawing-room sofa with the *News of the World* over his face, so that when evening came, the animals were still unfed. At last they could stand it no longer. One of the cows broke in the door of the store-shed with her horns and all the animals began to help themselves from the bins. It was just then that Mr Jones woke up. The next moment he and his four men were in the store-shed with whips in their hands, lashing out in all directions. This was more than the hungry animals could bear. With one accord, though nothing of the kind had been planned beforehand, they flung themselves upon their tormentors. Jones and his men suddenly found themselves being butted and kicked from all sides. The situation was quite out of their control. They had never seen animals behave like this before, and this sudden uprising of creatures whom they were used to thrashing and maltreating just as they chose, frightened them almost out of their wits. After only a moment or two they gave up trying to defend themselves and took to their heels. A minute later all five of them were in full flight down the cart-track that led to the main road, with the animals pursuing them in triumph.

1 **to rabbit**: auf Kaninchenjagd gehen. | 3 **News of the World**: Boulevard-Wochenzeitung (1843–2011). | 6 **store-shed**: Lagerschuppen. | 7 **bin**: Behälter, Eimer. | 10 **to lash out**: um sich schlagen. | 11 **with one accord**: einmütig. | 13 **tormentor**: Peiniger(in). | 17 **uprising**: Aufstand. | **thrashing** (fig.): Dresche, Tracht Prügel (*to thrash*: dreschen). | 18 **maltreating**: Misshandlung. | 18 f. **to frighten s.o. out of one's wits**: jdn. zu Tode ängstigen. | 20 **to take to one's heels**: die Beine in die Hand nehmen. | 21 f. **cart-track**: Feldweg.

Mrs Jones looked out of the bedroom window, saw what was happening, hurriedly flung a few possessions into a carpet bag, and slipped out of the farm by another way. Moses sprang off his perch and flapped after her, croaking loudly. Meanwhile the animals had chased Jones and his men out on to the road and slammed the five-barred gate behind them. And so, almost before they knew what was happening, the Rebellion had been successfully carried through: Jones was expelled, and the Manor Farm was theirs.

For the first few minutes the animals could hardly believe in their good fortune. Their first act was to gallop in a body right round the boundaries of the farm, as though to make quite sure that no human being was hiding anywhere upon it; then they raced back to the farm buildings to wipe out the last traces of Jones's hated reign. The harness-room at the end of the stables was broken open; the bits, the nose-rings, the dog-chains, the cruel knives with which Mr Jones had been used to castrate the pigs and lambs, were all flung down the well. The reins, the halters, the blinkers, the degrading nosebags, were thrown on to the rubbish fire which was burning in the yard. So were the whips. All the

3 **carpet bag**: Reisetasche. | 4 **to flap**: flattern. | **to croak**: krächzen. | 8 f. **to carry s.th. through**: etwas durchführen, zu Ende führen. | 9 **to expel s.o.**: jdn. vertreiben, verbannen. | 12 f. **in a body**: vereint, alle zusammen. | 13 **boundary**: Grenze, Grenzlinie. | 15 **to race back**: zurückrasen. | 15 f. **to wipe s.th. out**: etwas auslöschen. | 16 **reign** [rein]: Herrschaft, Regierungszeit. | **harness-room**: Zeugkammer. | 18 **nose-ring**: Nasenring. | 19 **to castrate**: kastrieren, sterilisieren. | 20 **rein** [rein]: Zügel. | **halter**: Halfter, Strick. | 20 **blinker**: Scheuklappe. | **degrading**: entwürdigend. | **nosebag**: Futtersack, -beutel.



animals capered with joy when they saw the whips going up in flames. Snowball also threw on to the fire the ribbons with which the horses' manes and tails had usually been decorated on market days.

5 "Ribbons," he said, "should be considered as clothes, which are the mark of a human being. All animals should go naked."

When Boxer heard this he fetched the small straw hat which he wore in summer to keep the flies out of his ears,  
10 and flung it on to the fire with the rest.

In a very little while the animals had destroyed everything that reminded them of Mr Jones. Napoleon then led them back to the store-shed and served out a double ration of corn to everybody, with two biscuits for each dog. Then  
15 they sang 'Beasts of England' from end to end seven times running, and after that they settled down for the night and slept as they had never slept before.

But they woke at dawn as usual, and suddenly remembering the glorious thing that had happened, they all raced  
20 out into the pasture together. A little way down the pasture there was a knoll that commanded a view of most of the farm. The animals rushed to the top of it and gazed round them in the clear morning light. Yes, it was theirs – everything that they could see was theirs! In the ecstasy of  
25 that thought they gambolled round and round, they hurled themselves into the air in great leaps of excitement. They

1 **to caper**: umhertollen. | 16 **running** (adv.): hier: hintereinander, in Folge. | 20 **pasture**: Wiese, Weide(land), Viehweide. | 21 **knoll**: Anhöhe, kleiner Hügel. | **to command a view of s.th.**: einen Ausblick auf etwas gewähren. | 24 **ecstasy**: Verzückung, Rausch. | 25 **to gambol**: herumhüpfen, -tanzen. | **to hurl (o.s.)**: (sich) stürzen, schleudern.