

## Stupidity in *Animal Farm*, or The Great Escape

Everyone thinks that Old Major is wise and he agrees, but I disagree. Old Major is obviously kind and is trying to make a better life for all animals by eliminating humans, but I don't think he thought about how Mr. Jones leaving the farm would negatively impact their lives. During a winter, the animals were so hungry they had to sell products to a human called Mr. Whymper. No one liked this idea.

Judging from Old Major's song and speech, the animals only want food and freedom, but these goals are in conflict. With the humans gone, the animals would have to grow food themselves, so they would still have to work. If the animals want to live freely without working, then they would starve. Choosing food would mean the animals wouldn't have freedom, and choosing freedom means that the animals wouldn't have any food. The animals can never achieve both of these goals. Of course, if the animals stay on the farm, they would only eat corn and other farm-grown foods that require much work to produce. They could avoid this, and have both food and freedom, if they choose to live in the wild.

I think the pigs are smart... at tricking the animals. Since word got around that pigs are intelligent animals, everyone respected them, and they became the leaders of the farm. However, they used their smartness as an excuse to take everything for themselves. The pigs are basically repeating Farmer Jones's mistakes. The pigs are the bosses of all animals, they don't have to work, they take most food for themselves and have most of the benefits, such as comfy rooms. The pigs are Mr. Jones in animal form, so the other animals don't realize that they're being used again.

I think the animals' most stupid mistake is not leaving the farm. After they scared Mr. Jones off, they should've left the farm as well, but they stayed there, knowing that humans were going to be back. The animals kept complaining about not having freedom, but when the opportunity came, they chose to stay on the farm. The animals could have escaped into nature, where they could actually have freedom and eat their natural diet, so they wouldn't starve to death. However, the animals decided to stay in the farm and defend themselves against the humans. Snowball even had an animal army. Staying there was everyone's biggest mistake. Not only did the animals miss the opportunity for freedom, Snowball was also hurt, and a sheep died when the creatures were fighting the humans. An even smarter idea would be leaving the farm quietly. Boxer could've kicked the fence down, so everyone could leave.

I think the animals are stupid versions of humans. At the beginning of the book, all animals listened to Old Major, similarly all humans listen to the government. The animals held a rebellion, which is similar to a protest. The animals also learned how to read, write, plant, climb ladders, milk cows, hoist a flag and create a war plan. How did they know all this? The animals always say that they can't use anything a human makes and that they will not follow human ways, but without realizing it, they've already become humans. The animals decided that they would never go inside Mr. Jones's home, but their shelter and their materials were made by humans. Mr. Jones was also the one who started growing the food on the farm, but the animals just continued taking care of their farm crops. If the animals truly detested humans, they would've left the farm and lived with nature, in a place where they were free and no tyrant would go.

In *Animal Farm*, Boxer's beliefs were mentioned many times: "I will work harder" and "Napoleon is always right". They seemed to encourage Boxer, but they are actually foolish. Working harder can't solve all problems, and he worked for someone who treated him like a slave. Near the end of the story, Boxer had a lung disease. Napoleon then thought that he had no need for Boxer and sold him to a horse butcher. Obviously, it's unintelligent for Boxer to think that Napoleon is right without any evidence. But he was not alone in his foolishness. Napoleon treated everyone poorly, and all the animals still listened to him. The animals may have protested, but with the huge dogs protecting the boar, no one dared say a word. Almost everyone believed what Napoleon said, but they were all just lies, which manipulated the animals' minds.

When the animals finally earned enough money selling products, Napoleon decided to start building the windmill instead of buying more seeds. The animals were starving, and a real leader would've bought seeds and asked the animals to help plant them. However, Napoleon just wanted to use the money for himself. The animals were tricked into building the windmill, and it was destroyed twice. Finally, the windmill was successfully built, but the building didn't provide any electricity. Because of their stupidity, the animals suffered from starvation.

I can't believe that the animals were too stupid to realize that the seven commandments had been changed over time. Sometimes, the animals would read the commandments again to find that a few words had been added. They just thought that they had misremembered it. One night, there was a huge crash, and everyone went to investigate what had happened. Right under the commandments, they saw Squealer, a broken ladder, a paint brush and a bucket of white paint. Hmm, what was he doing? The animals had no idea. In the last chapter, Clover and Benjamin finally realized that Napoleon made Squealer change the commandments. The seven commandments became only one.

The animals should've protested when they found out that the pigs and Napoleon were breaking rules. In the real world, many protests happen, and the protesters sometimes make a difference. In history, many people protested so that black people can have the same rights as white people. They succeeded, and slavery ended. In *Animal Farm*, the animals never tried to protest against Napoleon, even though they knew he was breaking rules. For example, the pigs and Napoleon drank alcohol and slept on beds. However, the animals decided not to talk about it, so rules kept being broken until Napoleon and the pigs became humans.