

Due Wednesday, September 7, 2016

## Animal Farm

Choose one of the project options below to complete. All essays must be a minimum of 250 words and typed. Additionally, all essays must include evidence from the text.

1. Compare/contrast the novel with the 1999 or the 1955 movie version of *Animal Farm*. Note similarities and differences, as well as your reaction to the philosophies in both the novel and the movie. Did you like one more than the other? Why or why not? Explain.
2. Compare and contrast the characters of Napoleon and Snowball. Consider their personalities, motivations and relationships. Who was the better leader? What motivated each of them? What kind of relationship did they have with the animals? How were their views on life and leadership similar or different? Use examples from the text to support your response.
3. Write a one-page essay that explains how Orwell uses the technique of irony in *Animal Farm*? Give examples from the text to support your response.
4. Examine the causes and effects of the Rebellion. Explore the reasons the animals felt it was time to revolt, what they hoped to gain from the overthrow of the humans, and the actual outcome.
5. You are a psychologist, and your patient is a character of your choice from *Animal Farm*. He or she has come to you seeking advice. What questions would you ask your patient? What advice would you give? Compose notes and/or a tape recording of your thoughts from 5 "sessions." Also consider dream analysis and role-playing exercises. You must have at least five complete entries, including your advice to the patient.
6. Conduct an interview with one of the animals from *Animal Farm*. For those who died, the interview can be when the character was alive or after his or her death. Write at least 10 questions that will give the character a chance to tell his or her story from his or her point of view. You may ask questions, challenge a situation, express a complaint or make a suggestion. Once you have written the questions, answer the questions in the persona of the character, or characters point of view.
7. Add a new character to *Animal Farm*. Why would the animal be added? What animal would it be? Why? What would this animal contribute to the plot? Would the animal change the plot? If so, how?
8. Create a newspaper about the day the animals took over the farm, the day of the Battle of the Cowshed, the day of the Battle of the Windmill, or the day the animals saw the pigs standing on two feet. Include as many details of the event as possible in the main article. Also include advertisements, horoscopes, photos, gossip and advice columns, letters to the editor, or other newsworthy events to enhance the project. Be sure to write all your articles relative to *Animal Farm*.

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## A Long Way Gone

Choose one of the project options below to complete. All essays must be a minimum of 250 words and typed. Additionally, all essays must include evidence from the text.

1. *A Long Way Gone* has been heralded as “one of the most important war stories of our generation.” The book is a memoir about the children who are trapped in a cycle of brutality and abuse during the Sierra Leone civil war. At its core, however, it is also a story about community, family, and survival. Would you consider *A Long Way Gone* a war story? Why or why not? Why should this be an important story for our generation? What lessons should we learn from this story? Be sure to cite evidence from the novel.
2. Although most of the book’s events occur in Sierra Leone, American culture is a pervasive theme in the memoir and in the author’s life. What positive influences does American culture have on Beah? Negatives?
  - a. What role does rap and hip hop play in Beah’s life? On more than one occasion hip hop saves Beah’s life. How? Consider pages 38, 67, and 169.
  - b. Throughout the book, the children imagine themselves as *Rambo*. *Rambo* is a movie about a Vietnam War veteran who returns to America after the war and is unable to separate his Vietnam War experience from reality. What role do American movies play in child soldiering?
  - c. Why is Shakespeare important to Beah? What plays does he discuss in the story? How are they relevant?
3. What role do parables and storytelling play in the community? Can you identify any themes or messages in the parables that the author included? Consider the following parables and discuss what lessons the author learned from the stories. What lessons can we learn from these stories?
  - a. The wild boar parable (p. 53)
  - b. The Bra spider (p. 72)
  - c. The trickster monkey (p. 217)
4. Throughout the book, Beah discusses the impacts of child soldiering in villages throughout Sierra Leone. What are they? What impacts do you think child soldiering have on the international community? Discuss both the short-term impacts as well as the future consequences.
5. To survive, Beah and the other children must endure the most unimaginable things. Early in the book, Beah hints at what the boys must learn to survive: “It was a typical aspect of being in the war. Things changed rapidly in a matter of seconds and no one had any control over anything. We had yet to learn these things and implement survival tactics, which was

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what it came down to. That night we were so hungry that we stole people's food while they slept. It was the only way to get through the night. Aside from stealing food, what tactics do these boys learn in order to survive? Did they have any choice?

6. Early on, Beah's families are separated from him and later are killed in the war. Along his journey, Ishmael develops relationships with others who are surrogate family members, including his friends: the Lieutenant, Esther, Mohammad, his Uncle, and Laura Simms. What role do these people play in his life? How do they help him along the way? Discuss the ways in which the idea of "family" is configured, re-configured, challenged, and re-affirmed throughout the book.
7. After the children are taken from their units, they are placed in a rehabilitation center in Freetown. What happens upon their arrival? Why do you think that the children are so frustrated at the "civilians"?
  - a. Do you think that the rehabilitation center was helpful to Beah? Why? Why not? Do you think that there could be anything done to improve the rehabilitation process?
  - b. Towards the end of the book, we learn that many of Beah's friends return to soldiering even after living at the rehabilitation center. Why do you think that this happens? Is there anything that can be done? Do you think that if Beah had not been able to move to the United States he would also have returned to soldiering? Why or why not?
8. The structure of the story is in three worlds: past, present, and dreams. Why do you think the author chose to write the book in this manner as opposed to chronologically? How do you think it enhanced the story? What does Beah mean when he writes on page 20 that "these days I live in three worlds: my dreams and the experiences of my new life, which trigger memories from the past"?
9. What have you learned from the book on an historical level? What did Ishmael's personal history communicate to you about the recent history of his homeland? Cite evidence from the book to support your essay.
10. Early in his account, Ishmael laments how "the war had destroyed the enjoyment of the very experience of meeting people" (p. 48). Where else does he express this fact, or else suffer from its consequences? As a class, discuss the book's ongoing struggle between trust and survival. Can these two phenomena coexist?
11. *A Long Way Gone* is a book with much to say on the subject of family: family life, family relationships, and family environment. Discuss the many different families that Ishmael has belonged to over the course of his young life.

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**Student Choice Summer Reading Project**

Power Point Information:

1. Convince me that you have read and understood the novel. You must go beyond book jacket information.
2. Devote three to four slides each to the setting, protagonist, antagonist, and central conflicts of the novel. I do not want a plot summary. Think of your PP as a commercial for the novel that piques my interest. Include information about who will like this book and why. Consider gender, age, personal interests, and such. The entire presentation should be about three minutes and 15 - 20 slides
3. Include music if possible. It will improve your score.
4. Attempt to create a PP the will play itself, meaning that you will not have to talk. However, you are allowed to talk if that works better. Your grade will not suffer as a result.
5. Substitute a video instead of a PP if you wish.
6. Make it interesting.
7. Be sure to include the publication information for your novel: author, date of publication, city, etc.