

Animal Farm - 1.2 Worksheet 'Beasts of England' *Adapted from Chapter 2*

Old Major is addressing the meeting in the barn. He has told the animal they must rebel against the men who treat them like slaves. Now he warns them not to behave like men themselves.

And among us animals let there be perfect unity in the struggle. 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 resemble him.

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. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers. No animal must ever kill any other animal. All animals are equal.

"Finally, comrades, I will tell you about 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. Last night, the words came back to me in my dream. It is called 'Beasts of England'."

Old Major cleared his throat and began to sing:

Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland, Beasts of every land and clime,

Hearken to my joyful tidings Of the golden future time.

The singing of Beasts of England caused the wildest excitement. Before Major had reached the end, the animals began singing it for themselves. The clever ones, such as the pigs and dogs, learned the entire song by heart within a few minutes.

The whole farm sang 'Beasts of England'. The cows lowed it, the sheep bleated it, the horses whinnied it, the ducks quacked it. They sang it right through five times in succession.

The uproar awoke Mr. Jones, who sprang out of bed. He seized the gun which always stood in a corner of his bedroom and shot through the window into the darkness. The bullets 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. The whole farm was asleep in a moment.



Quick Check: True or false

1. Old Major wants birds and animals must join together against humans
2. He wants animals to behave like humans.
3. He does not want any animal to drink or smoke.
4. Old Major dreamt about a song his mother sang
5. The song is only about pigs in England.
6. Beasts of England is a sad song.
7. The other animals did not like the song.
8. The animals pretended to be asleep.