S.2 LITERATURE

THE PLOT SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL, ANIMAL FARM by George Orwell

The story in the novel unfolds when the main goal of the animals is to achieve the vision set out by Old Major to come out of exploitation and oppression of man. Old Major tells them of his vision of the better life after all humans have left England. Mr. Jones is defeated and chased away from the management of Animal Farm. Later, Manor Farm becomes Animal Farm.

While animals defeat Mr. Jones easily, they are completely fooled by the pigs' manipulation and deceit. Animals' desire for freedom and equality is not fully achieved as pigs and dogs who are the ruling class steal the cows' milk, eat apples and sell the hens' eggs to raise money for their selfish motives.

Pigs acquire political power when they begin to claim more and more Farm's Resources for themselves. They reserve milk and apples for themselves.

Snowball and Napoleon dispute on how the Animal Farm should be managed and the priorities to take first. The two rival each other and cannot work together. This conflict or rivalry divides the animal in the Animal Farm. Napoleon uses his police dogs to expel Snowball out of the farm so that he gains political control of the Animal Farm.

After the expulsion of Snowball, Napoleon shows his true colours of dictatorship. The pigs, the ruling class, introduce the dog police to enforce law and order. When Napoleon violently seizes power, he quickly justifies his take over by falsely accusing his former ally and fellow revolutionary, Snowball as a human sympathizer, and enemy of Animalism. Napoleon claims that Snowball is a spy and human collaborator. All these lies against Snowball baffle other animals seeing that Snowball participated very aggressively against Jones with his fellow men, and was awarded a medal for his bravery in the battle of the Cowshed.

Squealer convinces animals that Snowball had actually fought alongside Mr. Jones against the animals. However, Boxer finds it hard to believe this tale against Snowball though he is later made to believe so. He says 'Ah, if Comrade Napoleon says it, then it must be right.'

Most of the commandments are amended by Napoleon's regime .In the end; slowly the animals come to realize that their lives are no better than they were before Rebellion. The climax occurs in chapter seven when Napoleon, the dictator decides to sell the hens' eggs. The hens rebelled, but they were punished by execution.

In the novel, Boxer is the only character who still has hope for freedom and good life when he retires. He works tirelessly hard than anybody else in farm. However, it is sad to note that when he gets an accident while on duty, is sold and killed. This brings out the theme of betrayal in the novel .This act leaves the rest of the animals in farm wondering and uncertain of their own future.

As the novel winds up, pigs are seen dining with human farmers. During the party, the pigs and humans become indistinguishable.

QUESTIONS

1. What according to Old Major's speech are the problems faced by animals in Animal Farm under Mr. Jones?

2. Describe the character of the following in Animal Farm;

a)Napoleon……

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b)Boxer……

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c)Squealer……

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d)Snowball……

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SECTION B: POETRY

Poetry is a literary work which involves expression of feelings or emotions with carefully chosen and arranged language and sound [rhythm]. Poetry helps us express our own feelings and enables us to understand the feelings of others.

EXPLAINING SOME KEY ASPECTS IN POETRY

1. Who is the speaker in the poem?

In answering this question, a learner should look at the message, words and feelings of the speaker. Look at the pronouns used for example '**I**' and `**We'** are for the first person point of view. It shows that the speaker is involved in the poem.

2. What is the poem talking about?

Here, the meaning of the poem is required. A learner is expected to give an explanation of what the speaker is talking about in the poem. In short, the subject matter is a summary of the ideas stated in the poem.

Task

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

Lullaby

Someone would like to have you for her child

but you are mine.

Someone would like to rear you on a costly mat

but you are mine.

Someone would like to place you on a camel blanket

but you are mine.

I have you to rear on a torn old mat

Someone would like to have you as her child

but you are mine.

Questions

1. Who is the speaker in the poem?

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2. What is the poem talking about?

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