



Animal Farm The Language of Struggle

Much of the action in *Animal Farm* focuses on rebellion, revolution, battle, and division – all elements of struggle. Examining some of the terms Orwell uses in relation to struggle will help you better comprehend the novel.

Read the sentences in the left column, paying attention to the boldfaced word. In each quote, underline the word(s), phrase(s), sentence, or group of sentences that provides context that helps you understand the meaning of the boldfaced word.

Then, write a synonym for the boldfaced word in the right column. As you read *Animal Farm*, jot down other words you come across that express the animals' struggles.

Sentence from Animal Farm	Synonym for Boldfaced Word
[“]Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever.[“] (p. 7)	<i>ended</i>
[“]No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery : that is the plain truth.[“] (p. 7)	
[“]Why, work night and day, body and soul, for the overthrow of the human race! That is my message to you, comrades: Rebellion![“] (p. 9)	
[“]Is it not crystal clear, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings?[“] (p. 9)	
[“]I merely repeat, remember always your duty of enmity towards Man and all his ways. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.[“] (p. 11)	
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. (p. 20)	
He ordered the hens' rations to be stopped, and decreed that any animal giving so much as a grain of corn to a hen should be punished by death. The dogs saw to it that these orders were carried out. For five days the hens held out; then they capitulated and went back to their nesting boxes. (p. 76)	

The three hens who had been the ringleaders in the attempted rebellion over the eggs now came forward and stated that Snowball had appeared to them in a dream and incited them to disobey Napoleon's orders. (p. 84)	
A few days later, when the terror caused by the executions had died down, some of the animals remembered—or thought they remembered—that the Sixth Commandment decreed "No animal shall kill any other animal." (p. 91)	
As the summer wore on, and the windmill neared completion, the rumours of an impending treacherous attack grew stronger and stronger. Frederick, it was said, intended to bring against them twenty men all armed with guns, and he had already bribed the magistrates and police, so that if he could once get hold of the title-deeds of Animal Farm they would ask no questions. (p. 96)	
But the luxuries of which Snowball had once taught the animals to dream, the stalls with electric light and hot and cold water, and the three-day week, were no longer talked about. Napoleon had denounced such ideas as contrary to the spirit of Animalism. (p. 129)	
For a long time there had been rumours—circulated, he had reason to think, by some malignant enemy—that there was something subversive and even revolutionary in the outlook of himself and his colleagues. (p. 139)	

RL.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

L.9-10.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grades 9–10 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Answer Key

Sentence from Animal Farm	Synonym for Boldfaced Word
[<u>"Remove Man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished for ever."</u> "] (p. 7)	ended
[<u>"No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth."</u> "] (p. 7)	captivity
[<u>"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: <u>Rebellion!</u>"</u> "] (p. 9)	defeat
[<u>"Is it not crystal clear, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings? Only get rid of Man, and the produce of our labour would be our own."</u> "] (p. 9)	cruelty
[<u>"I merely repeat, remember always your duty of enmity towards Man and all his ways. Whatever goes upon two legs is an <u>enemy</u>."</u> "] (p. 10)	hatred
And so, almost before they knew what was happening, the Rebellion had been successfully carried through: Jones was expelled , and <u>the Manor Farm was theirs</u> . (p. 20)	driven out
He ordered the hens' rations to be stopped, and decreed that any animal giving so much as a grain of corn to a hen should be punished by death. The dogs saw to it that these orders were carried out. For five days the hens held out; then they capitulated and <u>went back to their nesting boxes</u> . (p. 76)	submitted
The three hens who had been the ringleaders in the attempted rebellion over the eggs now came forward and stated that Snowball had appeared to them in a dream and incited them to disobey <u>Napoleon's orders</u> . (p. 84)	encouraged
A few days later, when the terror <u>caused by the executions</u> had died down, some of the animals remembered—or thought they remembered—that the Sixth Commandment decreed "No animal shall kill any other animal." (p. 91)	dread
As the summer wore on, and the windmill neared completion, the rumours of an impending treacherous attack grew stronger and stronger. <u>Frederick, it was said, intended to bring against them twenty men all armed with guns</u> , and he had already bribed the magistrates and police, so that if he could once get hold of the title-deeds of Animal Farm they would ask no questions. (p. 96)	betraying

<u>But the luxuries of which Snowball had once taught the animals to dream, the stalls with electric light and hot and cold water, and the three-day week, were no longer talked about. Napoleon had denounced such ideas as contrary to the spirit of Animalism.</u> (p. 129)	attacked
For a long time there had been rumours—circulated, he had reason to think, by some <u>malignant enemy</u>—that there was something subversive and even <u>revolutionary</u> in the outlook of himself and his colleagues. <u>They had been credited with attempting to stir up rebellion</u> among the animals on neighbouring farms. (p. 139)	rebellious