```
barn, on a sort of raised platform, Major was already ensconced on his bed of straw, under a lantern which hung from a beam. He was twelve years old and had lately grown rather stout, but ne was still a pelay of the fact trak his tusees and cowey eyears old and had lately grown rather stout, but ne was still a pelay of the heatform, was already even under a lantern which hung from a beam. He was twelve years old and had lately grown rather stout, but ne the pigs, who settled down in the straw in front of the platform, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw in front of the platform, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw in front of the platform, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw in front of the platform, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw in front of the platform, and the some small animal concealed in the straw in the pigs and began to che who settle down in the straw in the pigs and began to che who settle down in the straw in the pigs and began to che some small animal concealed in the straw in the pigs, who settled down in the straw in the pigs and began to the platform, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw in the pigs and began to che who set straw in the pigs and began to the platform, and then in the pigs, who settled down in the straw in the pigs and began to the platform, and then in the pigs, who settled down in the straw in the pigs and began to the platform, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw in the pigs and began to the platform, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw platform, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw platform, and then the pigs, who settled down in the straw platform. It is also all given him the straw in the pigs and began to the platform, and then the pigs and began to the platform, and then the pigs and began to the platform, and then the pigs and began to the platform, and then the pigs and the platform pl
  ton a perch bening the back door. When Major saw that they had all made themselves comfortable and were waiting attentively, ne cleared his throat and began: "Comrades, that I shall be with you for his last higher. I have had a long life, I feel it my duty to pass on to you such wisdom as I have had a long life, I ha
 kin. You cows that I see before me, how many thousands of gallons of milk have you given during this last year? And what has happened to that milk which should have been breeding up sturdy calves? Every drop of it has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid in this last year, and how many of those eggs ever hatched into
hen 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: Rebellion will come, it might be in a week or in a hundred years, but I know, as surely as I see thi nat, comrades, throughout the short remainder of your lives! And above all, pass on this message of mine to those who come after you, so that future generations shall carry on the struggle until it is victorious. "And remember, comrades, your resolution must nev
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   s straw beneath my feet, that sooner or later justice will be done. Fix your eyes
an and the animals have a common interest, that the prosperity of the one is the prosperity of the others. It is all lies. Man serves the interests of no creature except himself. And among us animals let there be perfect unity, perfect comradeship in the struggle. All m
a tremendous uproar. While Major was speaking four large rats had crept out of their holes and were sitting on their hindquarters, listening to him. The dogs had suddenly caught sight of them, and it was only by a swift dash for their holes that the rats saved the "here is a point that must be settled. The wild creatures, such as rats and rabbits — are they our friends or our enemies? Let us put it to the vote. I propose this question to the meeting: Are rats comrades?" The vote was taken at once, and it was agreed by an
only four dissentients, the three dogs and the cat, who was afterwards discovered to have voted on both sides. Major continued: "I have little more to say. I merely repeat, remember always your duty of enmity towards Man and all his ways. Whatever goes u or has wings, is a friend. And remember also that in fighting against Man, we must not come to resemble him. Even when you have conquered him, do not adopt his vices. No animal must ever live in a house, or sleep in a bed, or wear clothes, or drink alco
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                pon two legs
 All the habits of Man are evil. And, above all, no animal must ever tyrannise over his own kind. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers. No animal must ever kill any other animals are equal. "And now, comrades, I will tell you abo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            last nig
t was a dream of the earth as it will be when Man has vanished. But it reminded me of 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 of which they knew only the tun ut it had long since passed out of my mind. Last night, however, it came back to me in my dream. And what is more, the words of the song also came back-words, I am certain, which were sung by the animals of long ago and have been lost to memo old and my voice is hoarse, but when I have taught you the tune, you can sing it better for yourselves. It is called 'Beasts of England'." Old Major cleared his throat and began to sing. As he had said, his voice was hoarse, but he sang well enough,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            e and the first
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           three word
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ations. I wil
a Cucaracha'. The words ran: Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland, Beasts of every land and clime, Hearken to my joyful tidings Of the golden future time. Soon or late the day is coming, Tyrant Man shall be o'erthrown, And the fruitful fields of Engla
our noses, And the harness from our back, Bit and spur shall rust forever, Cruel whips no more shall crack. Riches more than mind can picture, Wheat and barley, oats and hay, Clover, beans, and mangel-wurzels Shall be ours upon that day. Bright wi eeter yet shall blow its breezes On the day that sets us free. For that day we all must labour, Though we die before it break; Cows and horses, geese and turkeys, All must toil for freedom's sake. Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland, Beasts of every land future time. The singing of this song threw the animals into the wildest excitement. Almost before Major had reached the end, they had begun singing it for themselves. Even the stupidest of them had already picked up the tune and a few of the words, and song by heart within a few minutes. And then, after a few preliminary tries, the whole farm burst out into 'Beasts of England' in tremendous unison. The cows lowed it, the dogs whined it, the sheep bleated it, the horses whinnied it, the ducks quacked it. The
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    er ones, s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ed with the song that the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          y sang it right through five times in succes
sion, and might have continued singing it all night if they had not been interrupted. Unfortunately, the uproar awoke Mr. Jones, who sprang out of bed, making sure that there was a fox in the yard. He seized the gun which always stood in a corner of his bedroom, and let fly a charge s 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, and the whole farm was asleep in a moment. Chapter 2 Three nights later old Major died peacefully in his s early in March. During the next three months there was much secret activity. Major's speech had given to the more intelligent animals on the farm a completely new outlook on life. They did not know when the Rebellion predicted by Major would take place, they had no reason for thinkin rly that it was their duty to prepare for it. The work of teaching and organising the others fell naturally upon the pigs, who were generally recognised as being the cleverest of the animals. Pre-eminent among the pigs were two young boars named Snowball and Napoleon, whom Mr. Jones w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ep. His body was b
ce-looking Berkshire boar, the only Berkshire on the farm, not much of a talker, but with a reputation for getting his own way. Snowball was a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive, but was not considered to have the same depth of character. All the other mong them was a small fat pig named Squealer, with very round cheeks, twinkling eyes, nimble movements, and a shrill voice. He was a brilliant talker, and when he was arguing some difficult point he had a way of skipping from side to side and whisking his tail which was somehow very pers n black into white. These three had elaborated old Major's teachings into a complete system of thought, to which they gave the name of Animalism. Several nights a week, after Mr. Jones was asleep, they held secret meetings in the barn and expounded the principles of Animalism to the others. Some of the animals talked of the duty of loyalty to Mr. Jones, whom they referred to as "Master," or made elementary remarks such as "Will there elementary to the spirit of Animalism. The work of the white mare. The very first questions of the dead of the still be set and beyond the very single page of the still be set and beyond the very single page of the still be set and beyond the very single page of the still be set and beyond the very single page of the still be allowed to very the still be allowe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             male pigs on
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        he others said of Squealer that he could tur
all firmly. "We have no means of making sugar on this farm. Besides, you do not need sugar. You will have all the oats and hay you want." "And shall I still be allowed to wear ridge of slavery. Can you not understand that liberty is worth more than ribbons?" Mollie agreed, but she did not sound very convinced. The pigs had an even hard
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ribbons that you are so devoted to are the ba
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       bbons in my mane?" asked Mollie. "Comrade," said Snowball, "thos
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       er struggle to counteract the lies put about by Moses, the ta
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ntain, to which all animals went w
    t, was a spy and a tale-bearer, but he was also a clever talker. He claimed to know of the existence of a mysterious country called Sugarcandy Mou
      e beyond the clouds, Moses said. In Sugarcandy Mountain it was Sunday seven days a week, clover was in season all the year round, a
ed Moses because he told tales and did no work, but some of them believed in Sugarcandy Mountain, and the pigs had to argue v
eir most faithful disciples were the two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover. These two had great difficulty in thinking anything
 pigs as their teacher's, they absorbed everything that they were told, and passed it on to the other animals by sim
      endance at the secret meetings in the barn, and led the singing of 'Beasts of England', with which the me
llion was achieved much earlier and more easily than anyone had expected. In past years Mr. Jon
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            es, although a hard master, had been
allen on evil days. He had become much disheartened after losing money in a lawsuit, and had t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  s got back he immediately went to sleep on the drawin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      elves from the bins. It was just then that Mr. Jones woke up. The next moment he and his four me
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        en planned beforehand, they flung themselves upon their tormentors. Jones and his men sudde
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ed from all sides. The situation was quite out of their control. They had never seen animals bel
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          of creatures whom they were used to thrashing and maltreating just as they chose, frightened
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          nt or two they gave up trying to defend themselves and took to their heels. A minute later all fiv
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           t led to the main road, with the animals pursuing them in triumph. Mrs. Jones looked out of the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           y flung a few possessions into a carpet bag, and slipped out of the farm by another way. Mose
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           dly. Meanwhile the animals had chased Jones and his men out on to the road and slammed th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           s the animals could hardly believe in their good fortune. Their first act was to gallop in a body
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          uite sure that no human being was hiding anywhere upon it; then they raced back to the farm b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           The harness-room at the end of the stables was broken open; the bits, the nose-rings, the dog
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        en used to castrate the pigs and lambs, were all flung down the well. The reins, the halters, the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       n on to the rubbish fire which was burning in the yard. So were the whips. All the animals cape
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       in flames. Snowball also threw on to the fire the ribbons with which the horses' manes and tails
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     'Ribbons," he said, "should be considered as clothes, which are the mark of a human being. All a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ouble ration of corn to everybodý, with two biscuits for each dog. Then they sang 'Beasts of England
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              that they settled down for the night and slept as they had never slept before. But they woke at dawn as
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       thing that had happened, they all raced out into the pasture together. A little way down the pasture there
arm. The animals rushed to the top of it and gazed round them in the clear morning light. Yes, it was theirs
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             asy of that thought they gambolled round and round, they hurled themselves into the air in great leaps of exci
f the sweet summer grass, they kicked up clods of the black earth and snuffed its rich scent. Then they made a
   ment. They rolled in the dew, they cropped mouthfuls o
tour of inspection of the whole farm and surveyed with speechless admiration the p
efore, and even now they could hardly believe that it was all their own. Then they filed back to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             loughland, the hayfield, the orchard, the pool, the spinney. It was as though they had never seen these things
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             he farm buildings and halted in silence outside the door of the farmhouse. That was theirs too, but they were fri
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             he animals entered in single file, walking with the utmost care for fear of disturbing anything. They tiptoed from
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                r feather mattresses, the looking-glasses, the horsehair sofa, the Brussels carpet, the lithograph of Queen Vic
 room to room, afraid to speak above a whisper and gazing with a kind of awe at the unbelievable luxury, at the beds
on from Mrs. Jones's dressing-table, and was holding it against her shoulder and admiring herself in the glass in a ver
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  others reproached her sharply, and they went outside. Some hams hanging in the kitchen were taken out for
 burial, and the barrel of beer in the scullery was stove in with a kick from Boxer's hoof, otherwise nothing in the house
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               n was passed on the spot that the farmhouse should be preserved as a museum. All were agreed that no anim
al must ever live there. The animals had their breakfast, and then Snowball and Napoleon called them together again. "Co
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             mrades," said Snowball, "it is half-past six and we have a long day be
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              us. Today we begin the hay harvest. But there is another matter that must be attended to first." The pigs now ا
evealed that during the past three months they had taught themselves to read and write from an old spelling book which hon to the main road. Then Snowball (for it was Snowball who was best at writing) took a brush between the two knuckles of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  e rubbi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ad belonged to Mr. Jones's children and which had been thrown on th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            sh heap. Napoleon sent for pots of black and white paint and led the way down to the five-barred gate that gave
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           s trotter, painted out MANOR FARM from the top bar of the gate and i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                n its pla
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ce painted ANIMAL FARM. This was to be the name of the farm from now onwards. After this they went back to t
now be inscribed on the wall; they would form an unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live for ever
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              a ladder)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          With some difficulty (for it is not easy for a pig to balance himself on
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Snowball climbed up and set to work, with Squealer a few rungs below him holding the paint-pot. The Command
ents were written on the tarred wall in great white letters that could be read thirty yards away. They ran thus: THE SEVEN COM
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        MAND
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       MENTS Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes up
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           on four legs
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     , or has wings, is a friend. No animal shall wear clothes. No animal shall sleep in a bed. No animal shall drink alcol
ol. No animal shall kill any other animal. All animals are equal. It was very neatly written, and except that "friend" was written
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        freind'
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        and one of the "S's" was the wrong way round, the spelling was cor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          rect all the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    way through. Snowball read it aloud for the benefit of the others. All the animals nodded in complete agreement, and
the cleverer ones at once began to learn the Commandments by heart. "Now, comrades," cried Snowball, throwing down the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        paint-br
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ush, "to the hayfield! Let us make it a point of honour to get in the h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         arvest more
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  quickly than Jones and his men could do." But at this moment the three cows, who had seemed uneasy for some ti
me past, set up a loud lowing. They had not been milked for twenty-four hours, and their udders were almost bursting. After a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        little tho
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ught, the pigs sent for buckets and milked the cows fairly success
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       fully, their tr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  otters being well adapted to this task. Soon there were five buckets of frothing creamy milk at which many of the ani
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        me of it in our mash," said one of the hens. "Never mind the milk
mals looked with considerable interest. "What is going to happen to all that milk?" said someone. "Jones used sometimes to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  cried Napoleon, placing himself in front of the buckets. "That will be attended to. The harvest is more important. Con
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       mix so
rade Snowball will lead the way. I shall follow in a few minutes. Forward, comrades! The hay is waiting." So the animals troop
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ed do
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        wn to the hayfield to begin the harvest, and when they came back
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       in the even
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ing it was noticed that the milk had disappeared. Chapter 3 How they toiled and sweated to get the hay in! But their e
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  reat drawback that no animal was able to use any tool that involved standing on his hind legs. But the pigs were so cl
fforts were rewarded, for the harvest was an even bigger success than they had hoped. Sometimes the work was hard; the im
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        nts had been designed for human beings and not for animals, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        pleme
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  nd it was a g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                e business of mowing and raking far better than Jones and his men
ever that they could think of a way round every difficulty. As for the horses, they knew every inch of the field, and in fact und
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                pigs did not actually work, but directed and supervised the others. With their superior knowledge it was natural that the
ey should assume the leadership. Boxer and Clover would harness themselves to the cutter or the horse-rake (no bits or reins w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       and calling out "Gee up, comrade!" or "Whoa back, comrade!" as the case might be. And every animal down to the humb
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               these days, of course) and tramp steadily round and round the field with a pig walking behind
st worked at turning the hay and gathering it. Even the ducks and hens toiled to and fro all day in the sun, carrying tiny wisps of hay in their beaks. In the end they finished the harvest in the farm had ever seen. There was no wastage whatever; the hens and ducks with their sharp eyes had gathered up the very last stalk. And not an animal on the farm had rough that summer the work of the farm went like clockwork. The animals were happy as they had never conceived by themselves
and for themselves, not doled out to them by a grudging master. With the worthless parasitical human beings gone, there was more for everyone to eat. There was more leisure too, inexperienced though the animals were. They met with many difficulties — for instance, later in the year, when they have to them by a grudging master. With the worthless parasitical human beings gone, there was more leisure too, inexperienced though the animals were.
the chaff with their breath, since the farm possessed no threshing machine — but the pigs with their cleverness and Boxer with his tremendous muscles always pulled them through. Boxer was the admiration of everybody. He had been a hard worker even in Jones's time, but now he seemed more like three horses than one; there were days when the entire work of the farm seemed to rest on his mighty shoulders. From morning to night he was pushing and pulling, always at the spot where the work was hardest. He had made an arrangement with one of the cockerels to call him in the mornings half an hour earlier than anyone else, and would put in some volunteer labour at whatever seemed to be most needed, before the regular day's work be
egan. His answer to every problem, every setback, was "I will work harder!"— which he had adopted as his personal motto. But everyone worked according to his capacity. The hens and ducks, for instance, saved five bushels of corn at the harvest by gathering up the stray grains. Nobody grumbled over his rations, the quarrelling and biting and jealousy wh ch had been normal features of life in the old days had almost disappeared. Nobody shirked — or almost nobody. Mollie, it was true, was not good at getting up in the mornings, and had a way of leaving work early on the ground that there was a stone in her hoof. And the behaviour of the cat was somewhat peculiar. It was soon noticed that when there was work to be done
the cat could never be found. She would vanish for hours on end, and then reappear at meal-times, or in the evening after work was over, as though nothing had happened. But she always made such excellent excuses, and purred so affectionately, that it was impossible not to believe in her good intentions. Old Benjamin, the donkey, seemed quite unchanged since the Recellion. He did his work in the same slow obstinate way as he had done it in Jones's time, never shirking and never volunteering for extra work either. About the Rebellion and its results he would express no opinion. When asked whether he was not happier now that Jones was gone, he would say only "Donkeys live a long time. None of you has ever seen a dead donkey," as though nothing had happened. But she would vanish for hours on end, and then reappear at meal-times, or in the evening after work was over, as though nothing had happened. But she donkey, as the content of the conte
d the others had to be content with this cryptic answer. On Sundays there was no work. Breakfast was an hour later than usual, and after breakfast there was a ceremony which was observed every week without fail. First came the hoisting of the flag. Snowball had found in the harness-room an old green tablectoth of Mrs. Jones's and painted on it a hoof and a horr in white. This was run up the flagstaff in the farmhouse garden every Sunday morning. The flag was green, Snowball explained, to represent the present the future Republic of the Animals which would arise when the human race had been finally overthrown. After the hoisting of the flag all the animals trooped into the big barr
for a general assembly which was known as the Meeting. Here the work of the coming week was planned out and resolutions were put forward and debated. It was always the pigs who put forward the resolutions. The other animals understood how to vote, but could never think of any resolutions of their own. Snowball and Napoleon were by far the most active in the debat s. But it was noticed that these two were never in agreement: whatever suggestion either of them made, the other could be counted on to oppose it. Even when it was resolved — a thing no one could object to in itself — to set aside the small paddock behind the orchard as a home of rest for animals who were past work, there was a stormy debate over the correct retiring a ge for each class of animal. The Meeting always ended with the singing of 'Beasts of England', and the afternoon was given up to recreation. The pigs had set aside the harness-room as a headquarters for themselves. Here, in the evenings, they studied blacksmithing, carpentering, and other necessary arts from books which they had brought out of the farmhouse. Snowball also busied himself with organising the other animals into what he called Animal Committees. He was indefatigable at this. He formed the Egg Production Committee (the object of this was to tame the rats and rabbits), the Whiter Wool Movement for the sheep, and various other
s, besides instituting classes in reading and writing. On the whole, these projects were a failure. The attempt to tame the wild creatures, for instance, broke down almost immediately. They continued to behave very much as before, and when treated with generosity, simply took advantage of it. The cat joined the Re-education Committee and was very active in it for some days. She was seen one day sitting on a roof and talking to some sparrows who were just out of her reach. She was telling them that all animals were now comrades and that any sparrow who chose could come and perch on her paw; but the sparrows kept their distance. The reading and writing classes, however, were a great success. By the autumn almost every animal on the paw their distance.
he farm was literate in some degree. As for the pigs, they could already read and write perfectly. The dogs learned to read fairly well, but were not interested in reading anything except the Seven Commandments. Muriel, the goat, could read somewhat better than the dogs, and sometimes used to read to the others in the evenings from scraps of newspaper which she found on the faculty. So far as he knew, he said, there was nothing worth reading. Clover learnt the whole alphabet, but could not put words together. Boxer could not get beyond the letter D. He would trace out A, B, C, D, in the dust with his great hoof, and then would stand staring at the letters with he sears back, sometimes shaking his forelock, trying with all his might to remember what came next and never succeeding. On several occasions, indeed, he did learn E, F, G, H, but by the time he knew them, it was always discovered that he had forgotten A, B, C, and D. Finally he decided to be content with the first four letters, and used to write them out once or twice ever
day to refresh his memory. Mollie refused to learn any but the six letters which spelt her own name. She would form these very neatly out of pieces of twig, and would then decorate them with a flower or two and walk round them admiring them. None of the other animals on the farm could get further than the letter A. It was also found that the stupider animals, such as the
sheep, hens, and ducks, were unable to learn the Seven Commandments by heart. After much thought Snowball declared that the Seven Commandments could in effect be reduced to a single maxim, namely: "Four legs good, two legs bad." This, he said, contained the essential principle of Animalism. Whoever had thoroughly grasped it would be safe from human influence so. "The birds at first objected, since it seemed to them that they also had two legs, but Snowball proved to them that this was not so. "A bird's wing, comrades," he said, "is an organ of propulsion and not of manipulation. It should therefore be regarded as a leg. The distinguishing mark of man is the HAND, the instrument with which he does all his mischief." The birds did n
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