

**Chapter 6 Close Reading: Animal Farm**

**Focus:** Today we will be revisiting an important moment from George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. While we read today, you must pay close attention to Orwell's use of **key lines** and **diction** to develop a central idea of this chapter—and of the novel as a whole.

**Key Question:** How does Orwell use key lines in this excerpt to develop a central idea of the chapter?

**Directions:** Actively read the passage and annotate strategically, keeping the key question in mind.

(1) It was about this time that the pigs suddenly moved into the farmhouse and took up their residence there. Again the animals seemed to remember that a resolution against this had been passed in the early days, and again Squealer was able to convince them that this was not the case. It was absolutely necessary, he said, that the pigs, who were the brains of the farm, should have a quiet place to work in. It was also more suited to the dignity of the Leader (for of late he had taken to speaking of Napoleon under the title of `Leader') to live in a house than in a mere sty. Nevertheless, some of the animals were disturbed when they heard that the pigs not only took their meals in the kitchen and used the drawing-room as a recreation room, but also slept in the beds. Boxer passed it off as usual with `Napoleon is always right!', but Clover, who thought she remembered a definite ruling against beds, went to the end of the barn and tried to puzzle out the Seven Commandments which were inscribed there. Finding herself unable to read more than individual letters, she fetched Muriel.

(14) `Muriel,' she said, `read me the Fourth Commandment. Does it not say something about never sleeping in a bed?'

With some difficulty Muriel spelt it out.

`It says, 'No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets,' she announced finally.

(18) Curiously enough, Clover had not remembered that the Fourth Commandment mentioned sheets; but as it was there on the wall, it must have done so. And Squealer, who happened to be passing at this moment, attended by two or three dogs, was able to put the whole matter in its proper perspective.

(22) `You have heard then, comrades,' he said, `that we pigs now sleep in the beds of the farmhouse? And why not? You did not suppose, surely, that there was ever a ruling against beds? A bed merely means a place to sleep in. A pile of straw in a stall is a bed, properly regarded. The rule was against sheets, which are a human invention. We have removed the sheets from the farmhouse beds, and sleep between blankets. And very comfortable beds they are too! But not more comfortable than we need, I can tell you, comrades, with all the brainwork we have to do nowadays. You would not rob us of our repose, would you, comrades? You would not have us too tired to carry out our duties?'

(30) Surely none of you wishes to see Jones back?'

(31) The animals reassured him on this point immediately, and no more was said about the pigs sleeping in the farmhouse beds. And when, some days afterwards, it was announced that from now on the pigs would get up an hour later in the mornings (34) than the other animals, no complaint was made about that either.

**THEME TRACKER**

**MOTIFS:**

**THEME:**

**EVERYBODY WRITES DISCUSSION TRACKER**



**Everybody Writes #1: Explain how Orwell uses the following line to develop a central idea of the chapter:**

*Again the animals seemed to remember that a resolution against this had been passed in the early days, and again Squealer was able to convince them that this was not the case.*

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**Notes from Discussion**

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