

# English 9

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Students read three novels, explore poetry from a variety of authors, read a play and enact a scene, strengthen grammar skills, and develop a variety of writing skills (expository, interpretive, satire, and character portraits). Students are encouraged to read actively, ask questions, look deeply, and make discoveries. The following books are required for this course:

- The Oak Meadow English 9 Syllabus
- *The Least You Should Know About English*, 8th Edition Form B, by Paige Wilson and Teresa Ferster Glazier, Harcourt College Publishers, 2001
- *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. LeGuin
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder

## Outline of the English 9 Syllabus:

- Lesson 1:** *A Wizard of Earthsea*, Chapters 1-2
- Lesson 2:** *A Wizard of Earthsea*, Chapters 3-4
- Lesson 3:** *A Wizard of Earthsea*, Chapters 5-7
- Lesson 4:** *A Wizard of Earthsea*,  
Chapters 8-10
- Lesson 5:** *A Wizard of Earthsea*  
Essay Writing
- Lesson 6:** Contractions  
Possessives
- Lesson 7:** Correcting Run-On Sentences
- Lesson 8:** *Animal Farm*, Chapters 1-3
- Lesson 9:** *Animal Farm*, Chapters 4-6
- Lesson 10:** *Animal Farm*, Chapters 7-10
- Lesson 11:** *Animal Farm*  
Essay Writing
- Lesson 12:** Poetry  
Introduction  
Studying Tips  
The Sonnet  
William Wordsworth, *The  
World is Too Much With Us*  
Edmund Spenser, *From Amoretti*  
William Shakespeare, *Sonnet 18*
- Lesson 13:** Fragments and Dependent Clauses
- Lesson 14:** More About Fragments
- Lesson 15:** *Our Town*, Act I  
Introduction  
Before You Begin  
Theatre and Staging  
Stage Directions
- Lesson 16:** *Our Town*, Act II
- Lesson 17:** *Our Town*, Act III
- Lesson 18:** *Our Town*  
Performing a Scene  
Watch the Video of *Our Town*
- Lesson 19:** Making Subjects and Verbs Agree
- Lesson 20:** Choosing the Right Pronoun
- Lesson 21:** Poetry  
Blank Verse  
Robert Frost, *Mending Wall*
- Lesson 22:** Writing a Summary
- Lesson 23:** Correcting Misplaced or  
Dangling Modifiers
- Lesson 24:** Using Parallel Construction
- Lesson 25:** *To Kill a Mockingbird*,  
Chapters 1-5
- Lesson 26:** *To Kill a Mockingbird*,  
Chapters 6-11
- Lesson 27:** *To Kill a Mockingbird*,  
Chapters 12-17
- Lesson 28:** *To Kill a Mockingbird*,  
Chapters 18-22
- Lesson 29:** *To Kill a Mockingbird*,  
Chapters 23-30
- Lesson 30:** *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
Essay Writing
- Lesson 31:** Commas (Rules 1, 2, and 3)
- Lesson 32:** Commas (Rules 4, 5, and 6)
- Lesson 33:** Poetry  
Free Verse  
Walt Whitman, *There Was  
a Child Went Forth*
- Lesson 34:** Correcting Shifts in Time
- Lesson 35:** Correcting Shifts in Person
- Lesson 36:** Quotation Marks  
Capital Letters

# English 9 ~~~~~ Lesson 8

## *ANIMAL FARM*

### *INTRODUCTION*

The second book we will read in this course is *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. *Animal Farm* is considered a masterpiece of twentieth century literature. It offers a bleak view of the future, exposing the cruelty of political power. And yet this book is very funny. Set in the English countryside, its main characters are quirky farm animals - you will remember the fortitude of Boxer the horse, and the antics of Mollie the horse.

There is a much you can learn from reading this book closely. Orwell's writing is witty and precise, capable of humor in one sentence and deep tragedy in the next. There is also a great deal you can discover about the politics of power. Therefore, as we move through the book, we will take a few detours into politics and history.

We approach this novel in the same manner as we did *A Wizard of Earthsea*. Although a few of the assignments will vary, each lesson will again consist of reading, vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking. If you need to review how to approach these areas, return to the Introduction for *A Wizard of Earthsea*.

### *OUTLINE OF READING ASSIGNMENTS*

**Lesson 8:** Chapters 1-3

**Lesson 9:** Chapters 4-6

**Lesson 10:** Chapters 7-10

**Lesson 11:** You will be asked to write an essay about *Animal Farm*. Keep this in mind as you read and respond to the questions, since you will choose the topic yourself.

## *BEFORE YOU BEGIN*

The creatures in *Animal Farm* are many, each with a distinct personality. In the beginning of the book especially, it takes some time to remember who is who. “Is Mollie a horse or a pig?” you might find yourself asking. To make this remembering easier, keep a list identifying each animal as he or she is introduced. When you feel that most of the animals have been identified, place your character roster above your place of study. Feel free to decorate it!

## *ASSIGNMENTS*

1. Read chapters 1, 2 and 3.
2. Answer the “Comprehension” questions in full sentences.
3. Respond to the “Critical Thinking” questions. Write at least a full paragraph, using supporting details from the assigned chapters.
4. Learn the vocabulary. Remember to familiarize yourself with the word list before your reading. Also, add three of your own words.
5. Remember to keep a chart of the animals’ identities.

## *VOCABULARY*

benevolent	cynical	confinement	enmity
unison	shrill	indefatigable	disciple

## *COMPREHENSION*

1. Who is Major? How old is he? How many children does he have?
2. What is Major’s dream?
3. To what tune is “The Beasts of England” sung? Try singing it!

4. Moses, the tame raven, always had something to say about “Sugarcandy Mountain.” Explain.
5. What do we know about Mr. Jones? Describe his living situation.
6. What specific episode springs the Rebellion?
7. What do the animals do with the whips, chains, halters and reins they find in the farm buildings?
8. When the animals tour the farmhouse, they notice Mollie is missing. She is found behaving inappropriately. What is she doing?
9. What does Napoleon do with Jessie’s and Bluebell’s puppies?
10. The Seven Commandments are distilled into what essential phrase?

### *CRITICAL THINKING*

1. *Animal Farm* opens with a riveting speech by Major. The crux of his message is “summed up in a single word—Man. Man is the only real enemy we have. Remove man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished forever.” First, write this quote down and keep it somewhere visible; later, we must ask ourselves if Major’s prophecy is proven true. Next, outline the main points in Major’s oration. What does he envision?
2. Another of Major’s basic tenets is 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 alcohol, or smoke tobacco, or touch money, or engage in trade. And, above all, no animal must ever tyrannize over his own kind. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are all brothers. No animal must ever kill any other animal. All animals are equal.”*

These proclamations inspire the animals; in fact, they are the basis of the “Seven Commandments.” In these first chapters, can you find instances when Major’s declarations have already been trespassed? Have any animals been exploited?

3. Explain the actions of the pigs so far in the book. What are they like? What have they succeeded in doing?
4. Discuss the tone of the novel so far. Try to find precise words to describe the flavor of the writing. Use direct quotes for support.
5. In *Animal Farm*, George Orwell uses personification to bring his characters to life. Personification occurs when an animal or an object takes on human attributes, such as speech. Sometimes this device is used simply for storytelling purposes. For instance, if animals are on a journey, they might have people's voices. However, in our book, the line between animals and humans is blurred. Begin a list of the animals' actions that have human equivalents. For example, "The Seven Commandments" mirror the "Ten Commandments." In what other ways do the animals adopt human behavior? (We will return to this question)