Chapter 2

1. Why do the pigs emerge as the natural leaders?
2. Why is the way Squealer whisks his tail "somehow very persuasive"?
3. 'Animalism' is a parody of Communism. What is Mollie told she will have to do without? What do these things represent in human terms?
4. Why do the pigs have difficulty in persuading the other animals?
5. Mollie's reaction to Animalism suggests an important reason for the failure of revolutions. Explain.
6. Moses talks about the 'Sugarcandy Mountain'. What do he and his ideas represent in human terms?
7. What qualities does Moses have that make him the appropriate bearer of this message?
8. What is suggested by the fact that Moses lives in the house with the Joneses?
9. What specifically drives the animals to an act of rebellion?
10. Why do the animals have a bonfire as their first act of freedom?
11. Snowball burns the ribbons and says that "all animals should go naked." What is Boxer's response – and what is Orwell showing by this?
12. Snowball burns the ribbons and establishes a new 'rule'. What does Napoleon do? What does this tell us about these two pigs?
13. What is significant about the fact that the pigs have learned to read and write?
14. In the last few paragraphs of chapter 2, the same verb is used several times, foreshadowing the future dominance of the pigs. Quote it, and explain its effect.
15. What happens to the milk?