






Lesson 4: Work on the Farm

Getting Started

Having successfully rebelled against the farmer, the animals must figure out how to run the farm on their own. In this chapter, you'll explore how they do so, compare work on the farm before and after the rebellion, and learn about business letters and friendly letters.

Stuff You Need

-  "Farm Work after the Rebellion"
-  "Friendly Letters"
-  "Business Letters"
-  "Jumbled Business Letter"
-  "Fixing a Business Letter"
- ✓ *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- ✓ blank white paper* (Activity 2 - Option 1)
- ✓ scissors* (Activity 2 - Option 1)
- ✓ tape or glue* (Activity 2 - Option 1)

Ideas to Think About

- ✓ How do authors use characters, settings, and plots to develop powerful themes in their work?
- ✓ Who should have power in society, and how should it be used?
- ✓ How can citizens and consumers use the power of persuasive writing to share opinions, voice complaints, request information, and encourage change?

Things to Know

- ✓ A business letter format is used when writing to employees of businesses or organizations or to government officials.
- ✓ A friendly letter format is used for correspondence between family members, friends, or acquaintances. It is a less formal type of letter.

Reading and Questions

Read Chapter 3 of *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Then answer the following questions:

1. What work did the pigs do on the farm?

2. What was Boxer's personal motto?

3. Describe the farm's flag and its symbolism.

4. How did the pigs justify having the milk and apples?

Activities

Activity 1: Farm Work After the Rebellion

In this activity, you'll compare how work was done on the farm when Mr. Jones was in charge and how the farm work was done with the animals in charge. On the activity page, "Farm Work after the Rebellion," there is space to write about Manor Farm (under the control of Mr. Jones), about Animal Farm (under the control of the animals), and about what was true of both farms. Write out your thoughts on each of the following topics, using specific examples from the text to support your points:

- ✓ What work needed to be done?
- ✓ Who did the work?

- ✓ How each job was completed (machinery used, amount of effort required)?
- ✓ Who benefited from the work?

Activity 2: Friendly Letters and Business Letters

People need to correspond for a variety of reasons, and there are specific formats and stylistic conventions that are expected in different kinds of letters. Personal correspondence, like letters between friends or family members, uses the friendly letter format. Correspondence written to employees of businesses, organizations, or government agencies follows the business letter format.

Friendly letters follow a relatively informal format. Read over the "Friendly Letters" page for details on the friendly letter format.

In contrast, a business letter is more formal and uses different formatting. The "Business Letters" page illustrates the format.

After studying these two letter formats, ask a parent which option you should complete.

Option 1

Use the "Jumbled Business Letter" activity page to practice placing the parts of a formal business letter in the appropriate places on a blank sheet of paper.

Option 2

For this option, you will find and correct the errors in a letter found on the "Fixing a Business Letter" page. Note that there are no errors in either the sender or recipient address.

Wrapping Up

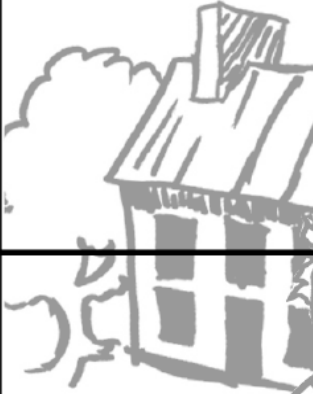


Correspondence can help connect us with friends, get things done in a business setting, or allow us to share ideas with our political representatives. Think about situations in which you might use the formal business letter format and friendly letter format, and consider sending some letters of both varieties while you're working through this unit!

Life Application

If you have the opportunity this week, write a friendly letter to a friend, being sure to use the friendly letter format from Activity 2.

FARM WORK AFTER THE REBELLION

Instructions: On the graphic organizer below, compare the work done on Manor Farm and Animal Farm, noting any things that were in common to both. Be sure to list the work that needed to be done, who did the work, how they did the work, and who benefited.

Question	Manor Farm	Animal Farm	Similarities
What work needed to be done?			
Who did the work?			
How was each job completed (machinery used, amount of effort required)?			
Who benefited from the work?			

Friendly Letters



The **sender's address** is at the top of the page, indented to the right. If you are using letterhead that includes your address, you do not need to include this.

The **date** appears just below the sender's address.

The **greeting** can be informal and is followed by a comma.

The **body** of the letter can also be informal.

The **closing** is indented to the right, in line with the sender's address and date, and is followed by a comma.

The **signature** appears right below the closing.

A **post-script**, or **material** added after the closing, is usually followed by the abbreviation P.S.

*45 Wallowing Mud Trail
Pigton, OH 12345
September 1, 2013*

Dear Cousin Squealer,

Thanks for your recent letter. All of the pigs here at home were excited to hear about what's going on at Animal Farm. I hope you're still finding time to wallow in the mud with all of the hard work you're doing! I also hope you'll be able to come to the family reunion next summer. Best of luck with your harvest!

With love,

Oinker

P.S. I'll bet Farmer Jones was surprised when you kicked him out! I wish I could have seen the look on his face!

Business Letters



The **sender's** address is included at the top left if the letter is not written on letterhead.

The **date** follows the sender's address.

The **recipient's** name and address is listed below the date.

A **salutation** is followed by a colon. Usually, you use a formal term of address (Mr., Ms., Dr., etc.).

The **body** of the letter is usually formal, professional, and concise.

The **closing** is followed by a comma.

The **sender's name** follows a blank space left for a signature.

Any **enclosures** such as a résumé or other documents are listed at the end of the letter.

45 Wallowing Mud Trail
Pigton, OH 12345

September 1, 2013

Senator Hiram W. Fencesitter
123 Main Street
Pigton, OH 12345

Dear Senator Fencesitter:

I am writing to urge you to support legislation granting farm animals the right to make more decisions about labor practices and the sharing of profits on American farms. My cousin is a pig on a farm in England that is entirely run by animals. As you will see in the enclosed newspaper clipping, the animals on his farm gained control by rebelling against the farmer. I think that if humans create laws that can allow animals to make more decisions about their work and treatment in farm settings, it will prevent that kind of violence and make American farms more efficient, happier places for animals and humans. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Oinker T. Pig

Oinker T. Pig

Enclosure: Newspaper clipping about Animal Farm.

JUMbLed BUSiNESS Letter



Instructions: Below you'll find several sections of a business letter. Cut them out and glue-stick or tape them to a sheet of blank printer paper (no lines or holes) in the appropriate locations for a business letter.

Animal Farm
1917 Revolutionary Rd.
North Barningham
NORWICH
NR 14 7PZ

Dear Mr. Hardscrabble:

Cordially,

Enclosure: Barn Blueprint

August 17, 1945

Comrade Squealer
Comrade Squealer

Mr. James T. Hardscrabble
Acme Threshing Machines and Farm Implements, Inc.
1984 Wheatfield Ln.
Farmington, KS 13305

As one of the principal leaders of an animal-run farm, I am writing to inquire whether your threshing machine model number 85902A can be operated without the use of opposable thumbs. We have recently begun our harvest of corn and are finding the process of treading on the grain and blowing away the chaff to be frustratingly slow. It appears that your machine could be operated with hooves, but before placing an expensive international order, I would like confirmation that thumbs are not necessary.

I would also appreciate knowing the dimensions of the threshing machine so that we can be certain that it will fit in our barn when not in use. I have enclosed a blueprint of the barn for your convenience. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to these requests.

Fixing a Business Letter

Instructions: Find and correct the errors in this business letter. The errors may involve punctuation, formatting, or other problems.

Animal Farm
1917 Revolutionary Rd.
North Barningham
NORWICH
NR 14 7PZ

August 17, 1945

Mr. James T. Hardscrabble
Acme Threshing Machines and Farm Implements, Inc.
1984 Wheatfield Ln.
Farmington, KS 13305

Dear James,

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Cordially:

Comrade Squealer

Comrade Squealer

Parent Overview

Lesson 4: Work on the Farm

Getting Started

? Big Ideas

- ✓ How do authors use characters, settings, and plots to develop powerful themes in their work?
- ✓ Who should have power in society, and how should it be used?
- ✓ How can citizens and consumers use the power of persuasive writing to share opinions, voice complaints, request information, and encourage change?



Facts and Definitions

- ✓ A business letter format is used when writing to employees of businesses or organizations or to government officials.
- ✓ A friendly letter format is used for correspondence between family members, friends, or acquaintances. It is a less formal type of letter.

⦿ Skills

- ✓ Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text. (LA)
- ✓ Analyze and evaluate themes and central ideas in literature and other texts in relation to personal and societal issues. (LA)
- ✓ Analyze how the central characters' qualities influence the theme of a fictional work and resolution of the central conflict. (LA)
- ✓ Write a letter that reflects an opinion, registers a complaint, or requests information in a business or friendly context. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

In this chapter, your child will explore how the animals learn to run the farm on their own, compare work on the farm before and after the rebellion, and learn about business letters and friendly letters.

Reading and Questions (Answers)

1. What work did the pigs do on the farm?
 - Directing and supervising others, not doing the actual work.
2. What was Boxer's personal motto?
 - "I will work harder!"
3. Describe the farm's flag and its symbolism.
 - A green tablecloth with a white hoof and horn painted on it. The green represented the fields of England and the hoof and horn represented the Republic of Animals that would rise up once all humans were overthrown.
4. How did the pigs justify having the milk and apples?
 - They said that they required them for their health and the "brainwork" they were doing. They also argued that if the pigs failed in their duties, then Jones would come back and the rebellion would fail.

Outline of Activities and Answer Keys

Activity 1: Farm Work After the Rebellion

In this activity, your child will compare the farm work on Manor Farm/Animal Farm before and after the rebellion. She should cite specific examples. Answers may vary, but these are some examples of what your child may come up with.

Answer Key - Farm Work after the Rebellion			
Question	Manor Farm	Animal Farm	Similarities
What work needed to be done?	Preparing the land (plowing, planting, etc.), weeding, watering, harvesting, taking harvest to market, milking, gathering eggs, etc. (Your child's answers may vary.)	Preparing the land (plowing, planting, etc.), weeding, watering, harvesting, taking harvest to market, milking, gathering eggs, etc. (Your child's answers may vary.)	Preparing the land (plowing, planting, etc.), weeding, watering, harvesting, taking harvest to market, milking, gathering eggs, etc. (Your child's answers may vary.)
Who did the work?	Supervision by Jones. Jones and his men brought in the harvest with labor from the horses. Animals like hens and ducks didn't work (aside from laying eggs).	Supervision by pigs. All the animals, including ducks and hens, helped with the harvest.	Many animals, like the horses, worked hard on the farm no matter who was in charge. The cat didn't do a great deal of work, before or after the rebellion.
How was each job completed (machinery used, amount of effort required)?	Machines that were used were designed to be operated by humans. Horses controlled by bits and reins.	Treaded out grain in the ancient way since there was no threshing machine. No bits or reins used with the horses. Hens and ducks gathered stray grains. Without machinery, more effort was required. Some animals worked harder on Animal Farm who had not been expected to work much at all on Manor Farm.	Some machinery was used on the farm under Jones and under the other animals. The horses did a lot of the work involved with cutting and raking in both versions of the farm.
Who benefited from the work?	Jones benefited from everyone's labor. Your child may mention that his workers were paid wages and the animals were given food, shelter, veterinary care.	The animals benefited (though as the book went on, your child may have noticed that the pigs benefited in some ways more than other animals).	There was no one who clearly benefited from the work under both Jones' and the animals' leadership, although if your child lists something here, you should ask her to explain her thoughts — perhaps she will have come up with an excellent analysis!

Activity 2: Friendly Letters and Business Letters

This activity covered the basics of both friendly and business letters. There are two options for this activity. If your child has not been exposed to business letters before, Option 1 (the easier option) may be more appropriate. If she is already familiar with business letters or is ready for more of a challenge, ask her to complete Option 2.

Option 1

In this option, your child used the activity page to place the parts of a business letter in the appropriate places on a separate sheet of paper. An answer key has been provided.

Option 1 Answer Key

JUMBLed BUSINESS Letter

Answer key

Animal Farm
1917 Revolutionary Rd.
North Barningham
NORWICH
NR 14 7PZ

August 17, 1945

Mr. James T. Hardscrabble
Acme Threshing Machines and Farm Implements, Inc.
1984 Wheatfield Ln.
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Dear Mr. Hardscrabble:

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I would also appreciate knowing the dimensions of the threshing machine so that we can be certain that it will fit in our barn when not in use. I have enclosed a blueprint of the barn for your convenience. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to these requests.

Cordially,



Comrade Squealer

Enclosure: Barn Blueprint

Option 2

For this option, your child corrected the errors in a business letter.

Answer Key

- ✓ the date should be on the left side of the page, in line with the addresses
- ✓ the salutation should read "Dear Mr. Hardscrabble:" [you don't address recipients by their first name in business letters, and the salutation should end with a colon]
- ✓ "Cordially" should be followed by a comma
- ✓ the signature should come before the printed name
- ✓ the letter mentions an enclosure, so the last line should say something like "Enclosure: Blueprint"

Wrapping Up

Questions to Discuss

- ✓ When might you write a business letter? (Answers will vary, but your child might mention a variety of reasons for writing a business letter — work-related correspondence, writing to a company official to ask a question, writing to a politician, etc. Brainstorm some ideas together.)
- ✓ When might you write a friendly letter? (Answers will vary, but your child should know that any informal correspondence between friends, family members, or acquaintances can use the friendly letter format.)
- ✓ At this point in the book, do you think the animals were happier with Mr. Jones running the farm or with the pigs running the farm?

Things to Review

- ✓ Review your child's responses to the reading questions.
- ✓ Review your child's response to Activity 1 about farm work before and after the rebellion.
- ✓ Review your child's business letter page from Activity 2.