

SMALL GROUP ASSIGNMENT

Identifying Themes in *Animal Farm*

A theme is a broad idea, message or moral underlying a literary work. **Themes often explore timeless and universal ideas and are either stated or implied.** Theme differs from the subject or topic of a literary work.

- **Themes are broad and teach us universal truths that anyone can relate to. They address universal truths about human experience.** (i.e. Hard work pays off or we should treat others the way we want to be treated or we can overcome great obstacles.)
- Themes are **NEVER** just one word like love or perseverance. (That is too broad. What exactly is the story teaching us about love or perseverance? One story might teach love is the most important thing while another one might teach us that love can be painful.)
- Themes are **NEVER** too specific. They do NOT mention specific characters or plot events. (i.e. Romeo should have waited to hear from the Friar instead of jumping to conclusions is NOT a theme. Don't act impulsively is a theme)

1. Identify a THEME in *Animal Farm*. (Again as indicated above the theme should be stated in GENERAL terms)

THEN provide TEXTUAL SUPPORT to support your theme. (Use specifics from the book to back up your theme.)

- USE at least one **direct quote** (any passage that is word for word is a quote – it does NOT need to be something that someone said)
- Use proper a **PARENTHETICAL CITATION** (Orwell 101). – period AFTER ()
- **SET up and EXPLAIN** the quote don't just plop it

USE THE BACK to complete the answer! Proof. Write Neatly!

Groups that are off task may have to identify a second theme and provide textual support for that theme too so stay on task!