

Animal Farm - Student Guide



Name_____ Period_____

Name _____ Date _____



Study Guide for *Animal Farm*

Questions over Chapters 1 & 2

1. In what ways are the animals behaving like animals? In what ways are they like humans?
2. Review Old Major's speech in the barn. Describe its impact on the animals.
3. Why does Old Major say, "All men are enemies, all animals are comrades"? What assumptions about men and animals does this statement reflect?
4. The pigs began leading the other animals in the second chapter. Why were the animals so easily led?
5. Explain why Snowball says to Mollie, "Those ribbons that you are devoted to are the badge of slavery."
6. Examine the Rebellion and its aftermath. Describe the effect on the animals.
7. Review the seven commandments. There is a strong statement implicit in these concerning mankind. What is it?
8. Examine the relationship between Animalism and Marxism.
9. A utopia is a place of ideal perfection. In what way could the farm have been a perfect place for a utopian community?

Questions over Chapters 3 & 4

1. How is the farm becoming more like a civilized society?
2. Describe the flag for the farm. Analyze the symbolism of it.
3. What foreshadowing is given that Napoleon and Snowball are going into a power struggle?
4. Snowball simplifies the seven commandments. How is this new slogan a good propaganda technique?
5. Explain how the pigs set themselves up to be the elite on the farm.
6. Brainwashing of the animals takes place. Describe Squealer's part in this.

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7. How is the Battle of the Cowshed different from the Rebellion?
8. Snowball and Boxer are both decorated after the battle. Explain the emotions of each concerning this.
9. The animals have risked their lives to create a society in which they hold the power. From what you know about the pigs so far, why is this ironic?

Questions over Chapters 5 & 6

1. Why is Mollie rejected by the other animals?
2. What happens between Snowball and Napoleon over the windmill issue?
3. Compare and contrast the life on the farm under Jones's rule and Napoleon's rule.
4. How has obedience and loyalty come to replace freedom and bravery on the farm?
5. Squealer squelches the animals' arguments about Napoleon's takeover. Describe this technique. Would you consider it propaganda? Explain.
6. Boxer's motto is, "I will work harder." Explain how this shapes his character.
7. The windmill is eventually built. How does Napoleon establish credit for this?
8. Napoleon begins changing the laws to suit his needs. Find examples of this. Describe how the animals are forced to accept these changes.
9. Several euphemisms have been used throughout the novel thus far. Explain what "tactics" means as Napoleon uses it.

Questions over Chapters 7 & 8

1. The economy is collapsing on the farm. How does Napoleon make it seem everything is fine?
2. The hens threaten to thwart Napoleon. What happens to them?
3. How is the memory of Snowball used to keep the animals in line?
4. Napoleon feels the need to show cause and effect. He forces four pigs to confess to rebellious attitudes, then executes them. Explain the meaning of this and how it affects Napoleon's power.
5. Clover is singing *Beasts of England* after the executions. Why? What does this reveal about Clover?
6. Napoleon abolishes the song. What reason does he give? What is the true reason?
7. Napoleon is systematically lying to the animals. Examine Chapter 8 for evidence of this.

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8. How does the poem *Comrade Napoleon* work to build up Napoleon's image?
9. Compare and contrast the Battle of the Windmill to those of the Rebellion and Battle of the Cowshed.

Questions over Chapters 9 & 10

1. Describe the stated purpose and the real purpose of the Spontaneous Demonstration.
2. Explain Napoleon's purpose in allowing Moses to return to the farm. How is this significant for Napoleon?
3. Boxer is admired by the animals on the farm. Why? What are the animals led to believe about where he is sent when he is ill? Where is he really sent? Describe Squealer's coverup of this event.
4. Analyze the symbolism of the knacker.
5. Over the course of events, the society within the farm has portioned itself into two classes. What are they and why/how did they form?

Thought Questions for Animal Farm

1. Although Moses described life on Sugar Candy Mountain in a positive way, the animals were never encouraged to run away with him. How do you explain this?
2. What is the significance of the song, "Beasts of England"? What purpose did it serve in the Rebellion?
3. When Jones had the farm, the animals were a bit resentful of all the hard work they had to do. Once the animals took over the farm, they worked harder than ever. Why did their resentment vanish?
4. Napoleon is against building the windmill. Why? Why does he later change his mind?
5. Snowball and the dogs got into a fight. Explain what prompted this. Why did no other animals step in to break this fight up?
6. Squealer makes a statement about the reason Napoleon has taken over making the decisions on the farm. He says that "sometimes you might make the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where would you be?" Explain the part this philosophy played in life on the farm for the animals.
7. Sometimes a leader has access to more information than his followers. Should he/she then make all the decisions for the followers? Explain.
8. Squealer and his group move into the farmhouse after making an earlier resolution never to inhabit it. How were they able to accomplish this with little fuss?



9. After a period of time, the pigs announced that they would get up one hour later than everyone else. No one complained. Explain.
10. Describe how Napoleon knew that Snowball had destroyed the windmill.
11. Clover does not like the way things are going on the farm, yet she is convinced that things are better than they were when Jones was in charge. Explain.
12. Explain why Boxer works so hard.
13. How does this novel reflect the ideas of utopia and changing ideas of the ideal?

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HANDOUT 1E

Vocabulary from *Animal Farm*

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. enmity | 21. indefatigable |
| 2. vivacious | 22. tractable |
| 3. benevolent | 23. ratify |
| 4. maxim | 24. innovation |
| 5. ignominious | 25. procure |
| 6. posthumously | 26. articulate |
| 7. seclusion | 27. repose |
| 8. pretext | 28. imposing |
| 9. aloof | 29. accord |
| 10. sordid | 30. unscathed |
| 11. capitulate | 31. impending |
| 12. incite | 32. censure |
| 13. conciliatory | 33. diligent |
| 14. taciturn | 34. intimate (v.) |
| 15. frugal | 35. malignant |
| 16. cynical | 36. morose |
| 17. tyranny | 37. tumult |
| 18. eminent/preeminent | 38. collaborate |
| 19. apathy | 39. countenance |
| 20. obstinate | 40. contemplate |

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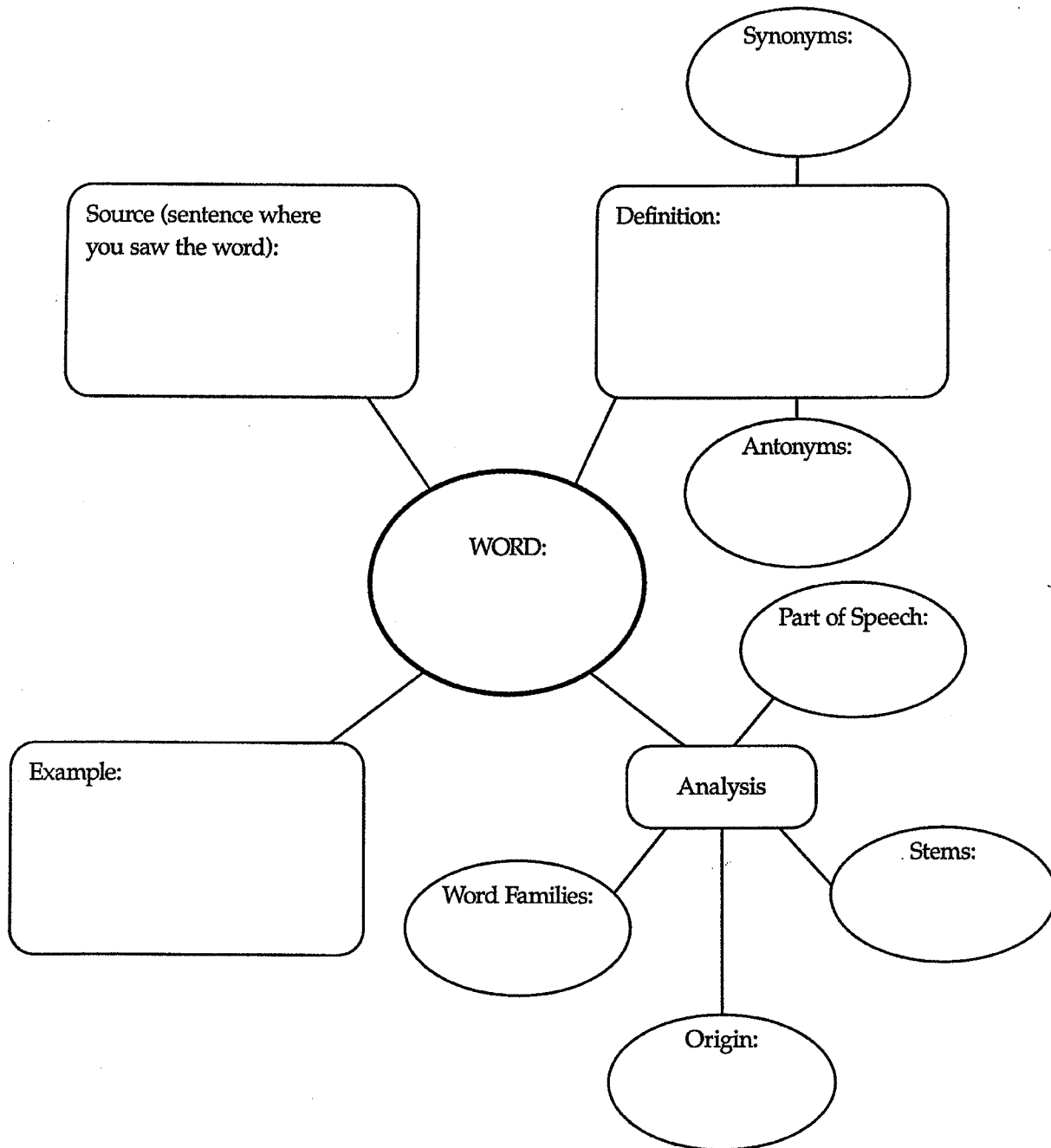


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Vocabulary Web



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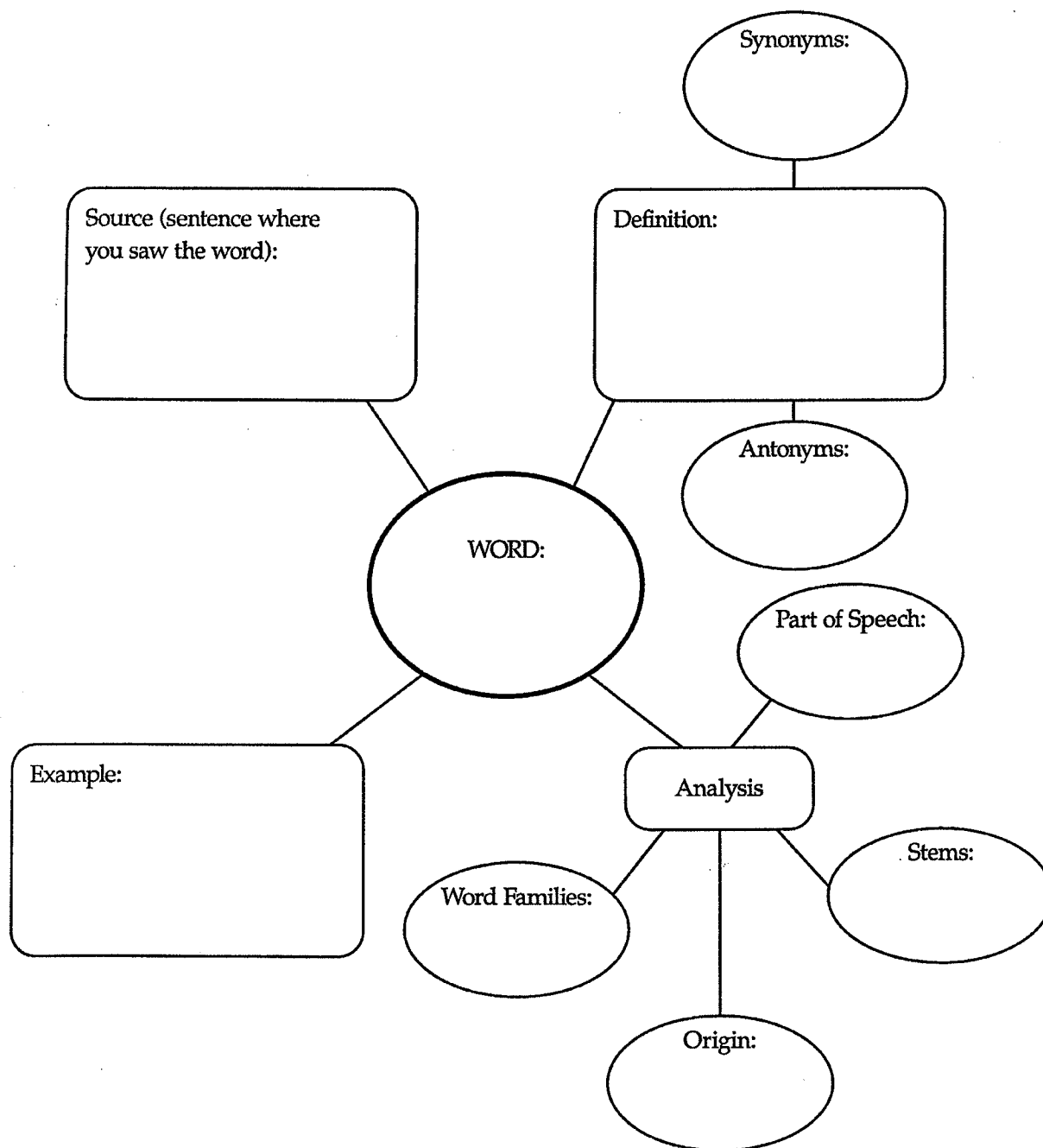


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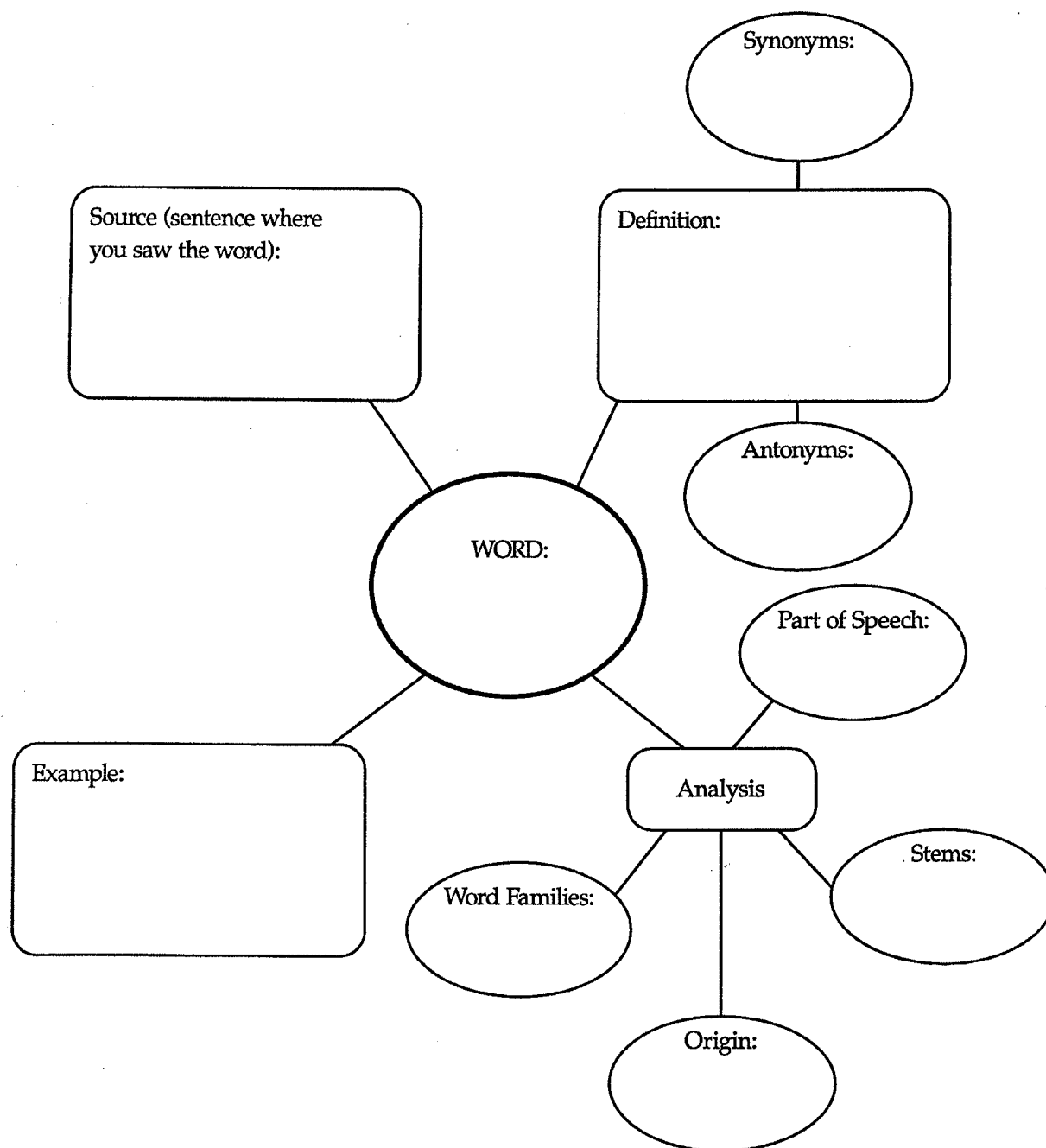
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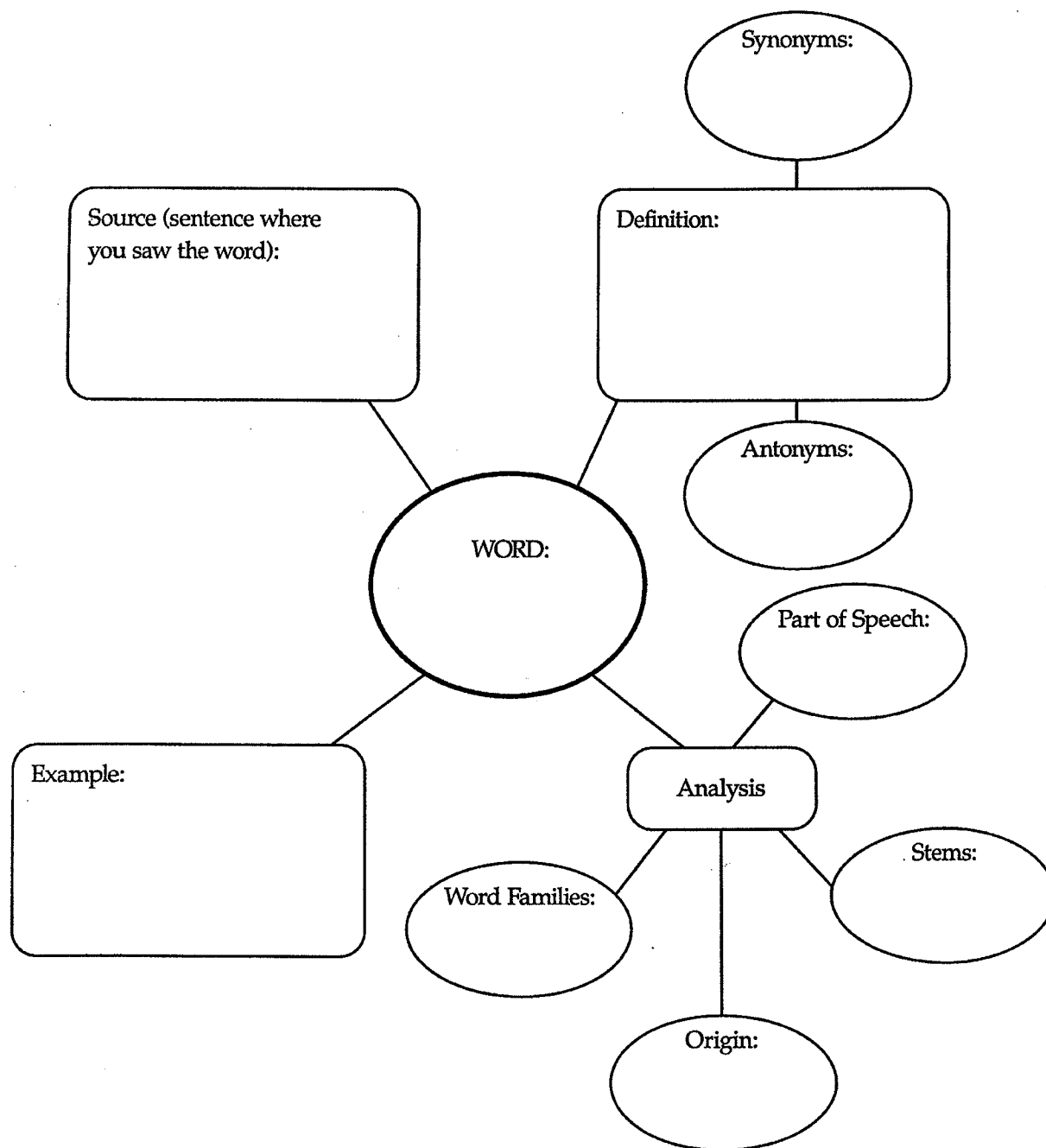
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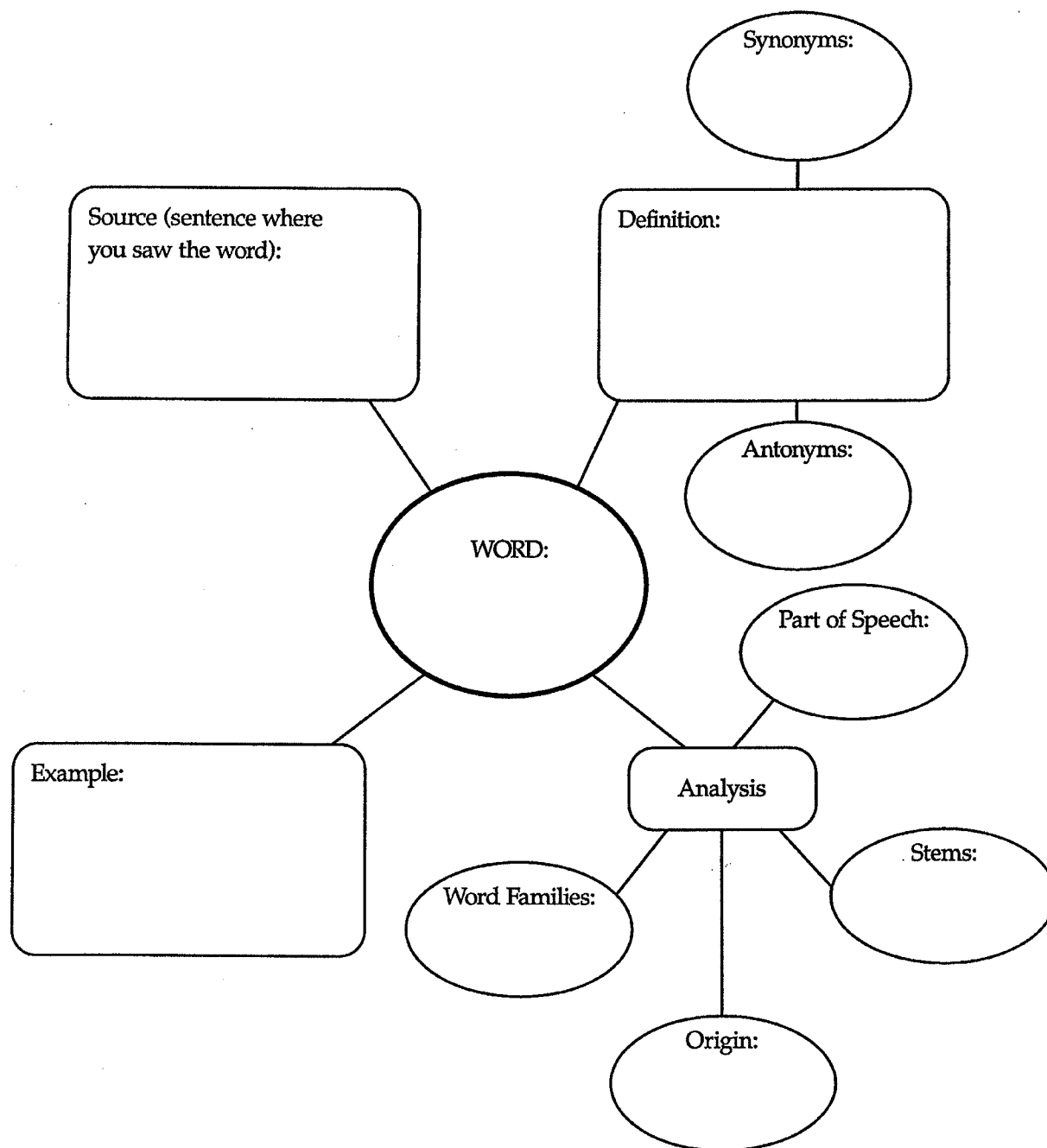


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HANDOUT 7D

Politics and Philosophy

People are governed by a system of beliefs that are known as a **political philosophy**.

Some of the systems are as follows:

Democracy—a government formed to represent the people directly or through elected representatives.

Constitutional monarchy—a government whose head of state is a monarch. The governmental policies are spelled out in a written constitution.

Dictatorship—a government whose leader has absolute authority over all things in the government and under its control.

Totalitarian state—a government whose leader or political party has absolute control over all aspects of its citizens' lives. Opposing ideas are not welcomed.



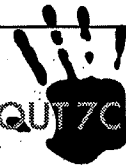
You are to design a graphic organizer or web that shows how the government of the farm evolved from the beginning to the end of the novel. You must use specific examples from the book to support your ideas. You may use the terms above to help you with labels for your organizer.



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HANDOUT 7C



Propaganda

Propaganda is used throughout *Animal Farm*. Napoleon is especially adept at using it to meet his own needs.

Propaganda is the systematic spreading of ideas or beliefs. One of the difficulties with propaganda is that the user usually sprinkles some truth within the framework. Facts that could help support the underlying idea being promoted will be used. Facts that could undermine the idea being promoted will be withheld or possibly distorted.

The denotation and connotation of words becomes very important. The one promoting the ideas will systematically examine the words used to convey the meaning he or she desires. For example, one person may be described as assertive if the speaker desires to paint that person in a positive manner. The same person takes on a subtle but important difference when described as aggressive.

Another aspect of propaganda is the "big lie" technique. This is a form of brainwashing: A lie is told so often and so sincerely that people come to believe it as the truth.



Examine *Animal Farm*, especially Chapter 8. Find at least five examples of propaganda that are used. Try to unravel if there is any truth to the ideas being promoted.



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Post-Reading Activity for *Animal Farm*



The *theme* in a work of fiction is the underlying idea that the plot is trying to promote. In *Animal Farm* several themes are promoted. Choose one of the following and explain how the novel illustrated this idea. Use the five paragraph model or Hamburger Model to write your paper.

1. Man's inhumanity to man may occur for the sake of political gain.
2. People who start out with the best intentions often fall prey to their own evils of pride and hypocrisy.
3. Propaganda can enable governments to bend people to any purpose.
4. If citizens are not constantly aware of what is happening, corruption can overtake a vision of a better society.

or

from a somewhat different perspective . . .

5. *Animal Farm* is a story for children because it portrays talking animals. Discuss your view on this statement and persuade others to agree with you.

or

6. Define your own theme from *Animal Farm* and support it.

