

RESPONSE PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Source

Foer, Jonathan Safran. *Eating Animals*. New York: Back Bay Books, 2009.

Instructions

Read *Eating Animals* in its entirety, and reflect on prompt questions below. Then write a “response paper” that discusses the opening chapter (on the author’s background and his reasons for writing the book) and addresses questions from each of the three sets of questions below (I, II, and III). In other words, you must answer, at minimum, three questions: (I) question 1 or 2; (II) question 3, 4, or 5; and (III) question 6.

Format

3-5 typed pages, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, single-line spacing or 1.5-line spacing

Submission

(i) Please submit the paper via Canvas by no later than 10 p.m. on (Sun) November 10.

(ii) Also bring a print out of your paper to class on November 12.

I. “Hiding / Seeking” (pp. 81-115)

- 1) What do you think are the key themes and insights in these pages (as opposed to just interesting information)?
- 2) What did you learn from the four sections “I Am Not the Kind of Person (81-89), “I Am the Kind of Person Who Finds Herself on a Stranger’s Farm in the Middle of the Night” (90-94), “I Am a Factory Farmer” (94-97) and “I Am the Last Poultry Farmer” (110-115)? Which of these characters did you find most compelling? Why?

II. “Pieces of...” (pp. 174-199)

- 3) Why is the passage from page 174 to 181 entitled “Pieces of Shit”? What does the author mean by the phrases “scale of the costs they externalize” and “illusion of Smithfield’s profitability” (p. 176)? Why does Smithfield operate as it does?
- 4) “Our New Sadism” (pp. 181-188): What have undercover investigations revealed? What are “gestation crates” and farrowing crates” and their consequences for animals? What about the fate of piglets (especially the smallest ones)? How does “modern” farming compare with “traditional” farming, in Foer’s view?
- 5) Discuss your thoughts on the questions in the last two paragraphs of page 199. While examples from other books/experiences may be helpful here, do your best to consider specific passages from *Eating Animals* to support your answers.

III. “Story Telling” (pp. 247-267)

- 6) In this closing section of *Eating Animals*, what does Jonathan Safran Foer urge readers to consider? How does he try to persuade the reader? Please be specific. How did the book affect you?