

***The Omnivore's Dilemma Test Corrections*** . Rev March '21

Directions. On a *separate sheet*, answer the questions you got wrong. **Label** your answers.

1. Food companies make food more convenient or more fun to eat. They make the food healthier by adding vitamins or minerals. These practices illustrate the concept of
2. What is the main idea of the chart on p86.
3. What is the main idea of the sidebar on p106?
4. p108-113. *Claim*: Food knowledge has over the years helped people solve the omnivore's dilemma. How do the French solve this problem?
5. p126. Pollan compares fast food and real food using an analogy or complex comparison. Complete the following analogy.  
real food : fast food :: feeling satisfied : feeling \_\_\_\_\_
6. Write a three-sentence summary of chapter 12. (Do **not** say, This chapter talks about ...)
7. What conclusion can you draw from the chart on p169?
8. p169-170. Why does Pollan compare Joel Salatin ("the grass farmer") to a choreographer?
9. p 184-185. Why is this section called "Restoring the Land"?
10. **factory-like, annuals, monoculture, fossil fuels, global market, imported fertility**. These terms are most closely associated with what important concept?
11. p191. Read this passage from the book: **But Joel knows that if he added a lot more chickens to the farm it would throw the system off balance .... A mouse is the size of a mouse for a very good reason, and a mouse that was the size of an elephant wouldn't do very well.**  
This passage illustrates the concept of
12. Write a three-sentence summary of chapter 14.
13. p203-206. Why is the section beginning on p204 called "My Meat Eater's Duty"?

14. Why is the section beginning on p208 called “Grass from Chicken Guts”?
15. p211-212. Read “Greetings from the Non-barcode People”. Then explain what this saying means: “Shake the hand that feeds you.”
16. p229-231. What is the main idea of “Grass, Not Grain”?
17. Re-read p233-234. Explain how conversation and magic are important features of Pollan’s special meal.

**CRQ’s.** Recopy Response A if you scored a 15/20 or less.

A. Cows and grass have over thousands of years developed a close partnership. It is a symbiotic relationship. Cows benefit from eating grass by getting food, the sun’s energy stored in the grass. For this purpose, the cow has developed a special stomach for digesting grass. Grass, likewise, benefits by being eaten by cows. When a cow takes a bite of grass, the grass even kills off part of its root system. These decaying roots become humus, which further enriches the soil. Cows eat “young trees and shrubs that might compete with the grasses.” Cows also spread grass seeds, plant the seeds with their hooves, and fertilize the soil with their manure. This partnership works best if cows do not overgraze a pasture and eat too much of the grass. To avoid this problem, thoughtful farmers such as Joel Salatin have developed “the law of the second bite.” A farmer will move the cows each day so that they cannot take a second bite of the same grass, in other words, graze too much in one place. This movement gives the grass time (about 14 days) to regrow and recover. By treating this practice as a strict government regulation (law), farmers can preserve the marvelous partnership that has evolved between cows and grass.

B. The title “Trees Grow Grass” means that the forest actually helps the grass on the farm to grow. You might think that trees would compete with grass for space and soil, but the forest on Joel Salatin’s farm helps the grass and the animals on the farm to flourish. The forest holds the water supply so that the grass does not dry out and die. It provides comfortable shade for the animals that will help fertilize the grass. The trees create a wind break that helps the grass grow taller. The forest is a habitat for insect-eating birds and for the chipmunks and voles. Without this habitat, the insects would bother the cattle, and the coyotes would look for food among the farm animals instead of eating the chipmunks and voles. Lastly, the forest gives Salatin the wood chips he uses to create more fertilizer. The “trees [help] the grass to grow and the forest [feeds] the farm.” The forest then is a vital part in this complex dance or symphony between animals and plants on Polyface Farm.