

Key stage 2

Pupil B – Piece A: a balanced argument

Context: after reading 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman, and in connection with learning about the circulatory system, pupils were asked to write a discussion text to inform their parents of the pros and cons of animal organ transplants.

Should pigs' hearts be used in Human transplants?

It is a well known fact that using pig hearts in human transplants have been debated about for a length of time. In the UK heart failure is one of the biggest killers; on the other hand is killing animals the right thing to do? Many die waiting for a suitable donor; however P.E.T.A argue that animals should not be harmed! Patients die waiting for hearts yet the majority of animals can suffer being isolated. Although many need hearts, the chance of rejection is very high, with severe side effects. Do you agree with this? Take your side!

One of the main issues for using pigs' hearts in transplants is that they ^{bring} are specially bred to die. Pigs are intelligent, playful and very social; in addition to this, they have many emotions. P.E.T.A (people for the ethical treatment of animals) state that animals are not ours to experiment on and are not a spare bag of parts for humans to use. Most human diseases come from animals and the chance that your body will reject it is very high with horrific side effects. Pigs are separated from family and friends just to be put in isolation for xenotransplantation (animal organs into human bodies.) Is this fair?

Only 1 in 3 people die in a way that allows this. Another problem is that many die waiting for a suitable organ donor to use. The BHF (British Heart Foundation) have funded to use a pig's heart $\&$ into a baboon's body and it survived for over 6 months meaning that humans can have the ^{operation} ~~operation~~ and possibly live. As well as this, they are used for meat already and are bred especially for this occasion. 67% of people are on the organ donor list but patients need to wait for them to die and in a way that is available to use the organs so using pig hearts is the best solution. What if that was you?

To Sum up this discussion, pig hearts used in transplants is an issue that will continue until it is sorted. Should we consider helping both humans and animals? P.E.T. A vk believe that there is another way from killing the innocent pigs, yet do you want these desperate humans to die? You decide!