Name: _____

# Paradox and Oxymoron

**Part I.**

Below is a collection of paradoxes and oxymorons. Identify each by writing *paradox* or *oxymoron* in the blank.

1) It's a definite maybe that Talia will come to the party.      _____

2) I must be cruel to be kind.      _____

3) There was a deafening silence in the stadium.      _____

4) Robin Hood was an honest thief.      _____

5) No one goes to that store because it is too crowded.      _____

6) She was busy doing nothing.      _____

**Part II.**

The following quotation from George Orwell's "Animal Farm" is a paradox that contains an oxymoron. Identify the oxymoron and explain why it is a paradox.

All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

Oxymoron: _____

Name: _____**Key**_____

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1) It's a definite maybe that Talia will come to the party.          _____**oxymoron**_____

2) I must be cruel to be kind.          _____**paradox**_____

3) There was a deafening silence in the stadium.          _____**oxymoron**_____

4) Robin Hood was an honest thief.          _____**oxymoron**_____

5) No one goes to that store because it is too crowded.          _____**paradox**_____

6) She was busy doing nothing.          _____**paradox**_____

**Part II.**

The following quotation from George Orwell's "Animal Farm" is a paradox that contains an oxymoron. Identify the oxymoron and explain why it is a paradox.

All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

Oxymoron: _____**more equal**_____

**Actual student answers will vary. Answers should include references to the following:**

**Equal by definition means an identical amount. Therefore one equal thing cannot have more than a thing that is equal to it.**