

# BLACK BEAUTY

Anna Sewell

LEVEL 2



## WORDS USED

Story 1

Story 2

Story 3

Story 4

Story 5

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### KEY WORDS

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brother  
carry  
drop  
land  
sent  
wear

cage  
done  
drive  
follow  
fox  
knock

family  
reach  
stand  
threw  
wait  
write

drink  
face  
foot  
kind  
king  
love

band  
crawl  
listen  
visit  
whale  
world

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### NECESSARY WORDS

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dead  
manners  
master  
saddle  
star

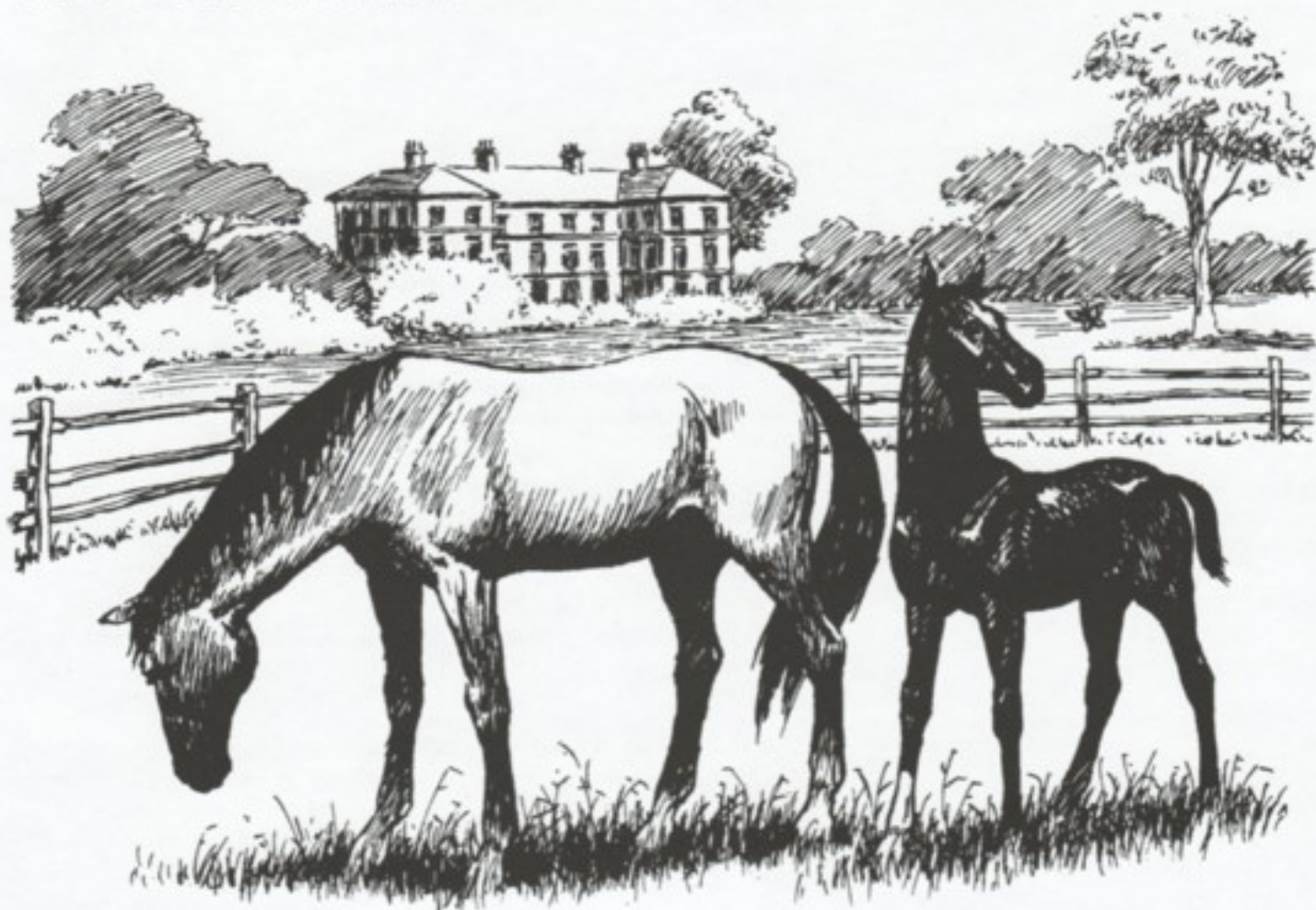
bite  
free  
short  
carriage

bridge  
job  
smoke

blanket  
doctor  
felt  
rub  
sick

bar  
whip



*MY FIRST HOME*

*My mother and I would run around the farm all day.*

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
  2. Look at the picture.
  3. Read the sentence under the picture.
  4. Read the first two paragraphs of the story.
  5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that the story is being told by

- a. a horse.  
 b. a man.  
 c. a child.  
 d. a mother.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

Read to find out how the young horse's life will change.

## MY FIRST HOME

My first home was a farm on a land of green grass and high trees. My master lived in a big house near the road.

At first I lived on my mother's milk. We ran around the field all day. When I got a little older, I could eat grass. Then my mother went out to work. Because I had no brother, I would run with the other horses. What fun we had!

My mother told me of my father's good name. Most of the people in this part of the land had heard of him. She said I must carry my head high and keep my good manners.

My master was a good man and a friend to all his horses. He called my mother Pet. I was called Darkie. He liked us best of all his horses.

Just before I was two years old, I saw something that was most surprising. It was in the spring. We heard the cry of many dogs.

"They have found a rabbit," my mother said. "Soon we will see them running by."

A rabbit went past us. Many dogs and men on horses were on her tail. The rabbit could not get out of the garden. The dogs were all over her. I saw her head drop. A man picked up the prize—a dead rabbit.

Suddenly, some men went running over to a boy in the

grass. It was Squire Gordon's boy. He was dead when his head met the hard ground.

Soon after, I saw that a horse had dropped to the ground. It had a broken leg. We heard a big bang and the horse was gone too. So much had been lost over one little rabbit and the games men played.

My mother was very sad. I was to find out later that the fallen horse had been my brother.

As time went by, my coat began to get blacker. One of my feet was white and I had a pretty star on my head.

Squire Gordon came to look me over when I was four years old. He wanted me for his farm. My master said he would train me for Squire Gordon.

Training is when a horse must get used to carrying a man on his back and wearing a saddle. I also had to wear horse shoes on my feet. In time, I would get used to all the things a horse must do.

My master was my friend and he took his time with me. At last the day came when he got on my back. At first I did not like it. But I wanted to please him so I went well.

Another part of my training was to get used to loud trains. I was sent to a farm where the train ran close to the field. I did

not like the loud noise, but I soon got used to it and did not mind.

The time came to say good-bye to my mother and my master. My mother told me to do my best and please my new master. She told me to carry my head high and keep up our good name.

**MY FIRST HOME****COMPREHENSION CHECK***Choose the best answer.*

1. The name of the young horse is  
 a. Pet.  
 b. Squire Gordon.  
 c. Darkie.  
 d. Rabbit.
2. Darkie's mother  
 a. was Squire Gordon's newest horse.  
 b. did not like running with the other horses.  
 c. liked to hunt rabbits.  
 d. cared for Darkie very much.
3. Darkie and Pet's master  
 a. was a good and kind man.  
 b. treated them very badly.  
 c. wanted to get rid of them.  
 d. did not have much money.
4. Rabbit hunting  
 a. was fun for horses and rabbits.  
 b. was a safe thing to do.  
 c. was dangerous for men and horses.  
 d. was stopped after the horse fell.
5. Darkie  
 a. was all black.  
 b. had a star on his head.  
 c. broke his leg in a race.  
 d. was not happy on the farm.
6. Darkie was sent to a farm where a train ran by  
 a. so he would learn to run faster.  
 b. because it was easier to get places.  
 c. so he would get used to the loud noise.  
 d. because he was being sent away.
7. Wearing a saddle  
 a. was fun for Darkie.  
 b. made Darkie hold his head high.  
 c. made Darkie very sad.  
 d. was something Darkie had to get used to.
8. Darkie was told by his mother  
 a. to carry his head high and keep his good name.  
 b. to stay far away from Squire Gordon.  
 c. not to carry men on his back.  
 d. to wear his shoes and saddle at all times.
9. Another name for this story could be  
 a. "A New Beginning."  
 b. "Home Sweet Home."  
 c. "Training Horses."  
 d. "Chasing Rabbits."
10. This story is mainly about  
 a. two horses and a rabbit.  
 b. a young horse growing up.  
 c. how to run after rabbits.  
 d. living on a farm.

**Preview Answer:**

- a. a horse.

*Check your answers with the key on page 67.*