

Black Beauty (1877) - Anna Sewell

Lesson 1

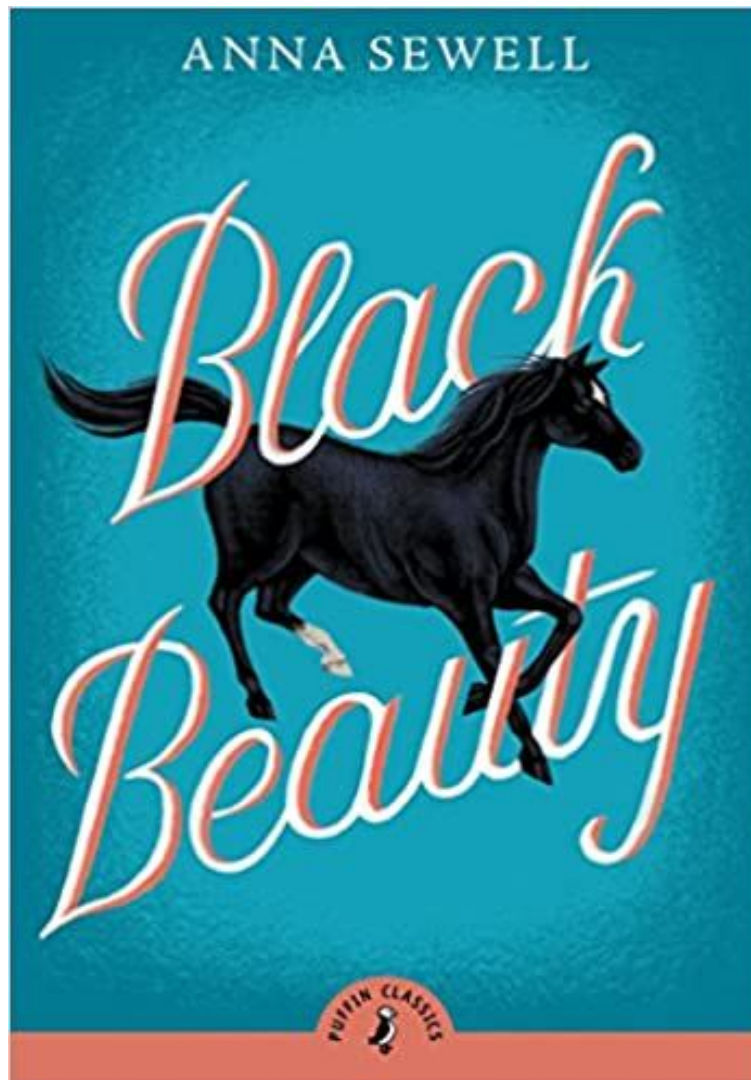
Before reading...

Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb...

- Were any of your predictions correct?



The Opening Lines

Read the first lines of the book (below) and think about the following questions:

- What tone does this set for the book?
- What do we learn from these lines?
- How do we feel when we read these lines?
- Why does the book begin with these lines?

The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it. Some shady trees leaned over it, and rushes and water-lilies grew at the deep end. Over the hedge on one side we looked into a plowed field, and on the other we looked over a gate at our master's house, which stood by the roadside; at the top of the meadow was a grove of fir trees, and at the bottom a running brook overhung by a steep bank.

While I was young I lived upon my mother's milk, as I could not eat grass. In the daytime I ran by her side, and at night I lay down close by her. When it was hot we used to stand by the pond in the shade of the trees, and when it was cold we had a nice warm shed near the grove.

As soon as I was old enough to eat grass my mother used to go out to work in the daytime, and come back in the evening.

Comprehension

Part 1

1. Where is the first place that Beauty can remember?
2. What is the name of Beauty's mother?
3. What are the names of the two horses that Beauty makes friends with?
4. Who is Beauty first sold to?
5. What is the name of the place that Beauty is first taken to?
6. What does Joe do wrong when Beauty is ill?
7. How would you feel if you were Beauty and you had to change homes so frequently?
8. What are your impressions of Joe Green?
9. Why did Beauty have to leave Birtwirk?
10. How does Joe feel when he has to leave Beauty?

Vocabulary

1. Condition
2. Scarce
3. Merciful
4. Deadly
5. Encourage
6. Confidential
7. Willing
8. Ignorance
9. Rumble
10. Crackling
11. Harass
12. Queer
13. Pension
14. Shambles
15. Value
16. Victorious
17. Overturned
18. Blockhead
19. Liberty
20. Determination

HOMEWORK

How do you feel when Beauty is taken away from his mother?

OR

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.