

Black Beauty (1877) - Anna Sewell

Lesson 3

Moral Discussion

Read and think about the following extract from the end of the book:

I was led to my new home, placed in a comfortable stable, fed, and left to myself. The next day, when the groom was cleaning my face, he said:

“That is just like the star that 'Black Beauty' had; he is much the same height, too. I wonder where he is now.”

A little further on he came to the place in my neck where I was bled and where a little knot was left in the skin. He almost started, and began to look me over carefully, talking to himself.

“White star in the forehead, one white foot on the off side, this little knot just in that place;” then looking at the middle of my back—“and, as I am alive, there is that little patch of white hair that John used to call 'Beauty's three-penny bit'. It must be 'Black Beauty'! Why, Beauty! Beauty! Do you know me?—little Joe Green, that almost killed you?” And he began patting and patting me as if he was quite overjoyed.

I could not say that I remembered him, for now he was a fine grown young fellow, with black whiskers and a man's voice, but I was sure he knew me, and that he was Joe Green, and I was very glad. I put my nose up to him, and tried to say that we were friends. I never saw a man so pleased.

“Give you a fair trial! I should think so indeed! I wonder who the rascal was that broke your knees, my old Beauty! you must have been badly served out somewhere; well, well, it won't be my fault if you haven't good times of it now. I wish John Manly was here to see you.”

In the afternoon I was put into a low park chair and brought to the door. Miss Ellen was going to try me, and Green went with her. I soon found that she was a good driver, and she seemed pleased with my paces. I heard Joe telling her about me, and that he was sure I was Squire Gordon's old “Black Beauty”.

When we returned the other sisters came out to hear how I had behaved myself. She told them what she had just heard, and said:

“I shall certainly write to Mrs. Gordon, and tell her that her favorite horse has come to us. How pleased she will be!”

After this I was driven every day for a week or so, and as I appeared to be quite safe, Miss Lavinia at last ventured out in the small close carriage. After this it was quite decided to keep me and call me by my old name of "Black Beauty".

I have now lived in this happy place a whole year. Joe is the best and kindest of grooms. My work is easy and pleasant, and I feel my strength and spirits all coming back again. Mr. Thoroughgood said to Joe the other day:

"In your place he will last till he is twenty years old—perhaps more."

Willie always speaks to me when he can, and treats me as his special friend. My ladies have promised that I shall never be sold, and so I have nothing to fear; and here my story ends. My troubles are all over, and I am at home; and often before I am quite awake, I fancy I am still in the orchard at Birtwick, standing with my old friends under the apple-trees.

Comprehension

Part 3

1. Who next buys Beauty?
2. What does Mr Filcher do which is bad?
3. What does Alfred Smirk do which is bad?
4. What kind of master is Jerry?
5. Why does Jerry have to give up Beauty?
6. Why is Beauty somewhat glad when Ginger dies?
7. Is Nicholas Skinner a good owner?
8. How is Farmer Thoroughgood a good owner?
9. Who is Beauty finally reunited with?
10. Is it a happy ending?

Vocabulary

1. Stroked
2. Manager
3. Tender
4. Vice
5. Foul
6. Pity
7. Bottomless
8. Summon
9. Ashmed
10. Defended
11. Rough
12. Unexpectedly
13. Merciful
14. Recall
15. Plainly
16. Bleak
17. Cruelty
18. Guiltless
19. Troublesome
20. Honourable

HOMEWORK

What was your **favourite part of the book** and **why**?

OR

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