

## CHAPTER 2

### Comprehension

- 1** Decide if the following statements are True or False. Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Squire Gordon lived alone at Birtwick Park. ☐
2. Everyone seemed to like Merrylegs. ☐
3. The groom had put Darkie into the wrong stall. ☐
4. The children believed that Ginger was dangerous. ☐
5. Squire Gordon was very pleased with his new horse. ☐
6. Mr Gordon gave Darkie a new name. ☐

**2** Choose the best answer.

1. Birtwick Park was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. a stable  
 b. a house  
 c. a garden
4. Ginger's colour was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. grey  
 b. black  
 c. red
2. Merrylegs was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. a mare  
 b. a colt  
 c. a pony
5. Black Beauty had to work with \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Ginger  
 b. Merrylegs  
 c. James
3. John Manly was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. a squire  
 b. a groom  
 c. a stable boy

### Vocabulary

- 3** Find the words in Chapter 2 to match the definitions below. The first letter has been given.

1. Person who takes care of horses      g \_\_\_\_\_ (page 8)
2. A building/place where horses live      s \_\_\_\_\_ (page 8)
3. Female horse      m \_\_\_\_\_ (page 8)

4. Somebody who follows commands and orders, and listens to others      o \_\_\_\_\_ (page 10)
5. Thinking and caring about others      t \_\_\_\_\_ (page 10)

**4** Complete the sentences using the prepositions in the box.

from   off   away   of   by   about   for   around   up   at

1. The garden is surrounded \_\_\_\_\_ tall trees.
2. The farmers are hoping \_\_\_\_\_ rain soon.
3. Kay is worried \_\_\_\_\_ her maths exam.
4. Let's go to the city centre and look \_\_\_\_\_ the shops.
5. The boy jumped \_\_\_\_\_ the wall and ran down the street.
6. I heard a noise but I didn't know where it came \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Most people are scared \_\_\_\_\_ snakes; they can be dangerous.
8. 'Go \_\_\_\_\_! I'm busy and cannot talk to you at the moment,' Robin said to his sister.
9. We arrived \_\_\_\_\_ the station just as the train was leaving.
10. The horses aren't tied \_\_\_\_\_; they're running freely in the field.

### Follow-up activities

**5** Discuss.

1. How do you think Darkie felt when he first arrived at his new home? How do you feel when you do or start something new?
  2. Do you think Merrylegs and Darkie will become good friends? Why/Why not?
  3. Is it easy for you to make new friends? Why/Why not?
  4. What is your opinion of Squire and Mrs Gordon? Why?
  5. Merrylegs says that Ginger has a bad habit – biting. What bad habits can you think of that some people have? What annoys you the most?
- 6** Imagine that you are Mrs Gordon. Write a page in your diary about the day you saw Black Beauty. Describe him and say what made you give him that name. (60-80 words)