

CHAPTER 7

JERRY KNEW THAT THE MORE HE TOOK CARE OF ME, THE BETTER I would work. So, he covered me with rugs while we waited for customers in the cold, and always made sure that Captain and I had good food and plenty of rest.

Other drivers whipped the poor animals so that they could go faster in order to get more money out of them. One day, a cab driver called Seedy Sam came to the cab stand. Both he and his horse looked very cold and tired.

'Look at your poor horse. He looks so tired!' shouted Governor Grant. 'Don't you care about him at all?'

'I pay eighteen shillings a day to rent the cab and the horse,' said Seedy Sam. 'I have to earn that money and try to make some money for myself. I need to work very hard to pay Skinner, the owner of the horse, before I can make any money to feed my children. I have to work fourteen hours a day. You have your own horse, Grant, so it is easier for you than it is for me.'

I couldn't hear the rest of the conversation because a customer wanted us to drive him home. But the man was right. A cab driver's job wasn't easy and it was even more difficult if he didn't have his own horse.

One day, a dirty old cab stopped beside ours. An old, tired horse with a red coat was pulling the cab. She looked very sick and tired, but also familiar. When she looked at me, her eyes shone with surprise. 'Black Beauty? Is it really you?' she asked.

It was Ginger! Her beautiful neck was now hanging down; her legs were bent from all the hard work, her coat wasn't shiny anymore and her eyes were dull and full of pain.

'What happened to you?' I asked.

'People bought and sold me many times,' she said. 'Each owner was worse than the one before. They all wanted to make as much money from me as they could. They whipped me and mistreated me and didn't care when I suffered.'

'I don't remember you letting people treat you badly,' I said. 'Why didn't you teach them a lesson?'

'I did once,' she said. 'But men are stronger and very cruel. There



is nothing we can do when they make us suffer. All I want now is for my life to end.'

Just as she left, she said, 'You are the only friend I ever had.'

I was sad to see her leave. A few days later a wagon passed by carrying a dead horse with a red coat that looked like Ginger. 'If it is her,' I thought, 'I am happy her pain is over.'

One cold afternoon, two men asked us to take them to a party in a large, beautiful house. 'Wait here,' they said and went in. It was very cold and windy that day and after a while it began to snow. Jerry put a rug over me and he walked around to keep himself warm.

After midnight the men were still in the house. Jerry knocked on the door and a servant told him to wait some more. Finally, hours later, the men came out of the house.

When we went home, Jerry was ill and could hardly speak. He could not stop coughing. In the morning, Harry came to the stables to feed us. He was very quiet that morning and didn't say a word to us. I knew that something was wrong, because we did not go to work that day even though it was Wednesday.

In the afternoon, Harry and Dolly came to the stables to clean and feed us. 'Do you think father will die, Harry?' asked Dolly.

'I don't know, Dolly,' said the boy quietly. 'The doctor said that we will know tonight or tomorrow.'

Three days later, the doctor told Jerry that he was out of danger but he should not work as a cab driver anymore.

Then, one morning, Dolly came to the stables with news. 'Harry, mother received a letter from Mrs Fowler, her old mistress. Her coachman is leaving,' she said. 'It's the perfect job for father, Harry! We're all going to live in the country! They've got a good school for me there, and you can work as a stable boy!'

I was happy that Jerry was feeling better, but I was very sad because I loved the family very much; now they would have to sell me. And so it was.

The day came for going away and the family came to see me and say goodbye.

'Poor Jack,' said Polly and kissed me. 'I'm sorry we can't take you with us!'

Little Dolly was crying and kissed me too. Harry and Jerry said nothing; they only looked very sad.



CHAPTER 7

Comprehension

1 Correct the following statements.

1. Jerry was not kind to Black Beauty and Captain.

2. Seedy Sam rented his horse from Grant.

3. Ginger had not changed since Black Beauty last saw her.

4. Jerry put a rug on himself to keep warm.

5. When Harry went to the stables to feed the horses he couldn't stop talking.

6. Dolly told Harry that he was going to school in the country.

2 Choose a, b or c.

1. Black Beauty worked better when _____.
a. he had enough food and sleep
b. he was covered with a rug
c. Captain was working with him
2. Seedy Sam needed to earn eighteen shillings a day _____.
a. to pay the rent for the cab and horse
b. to feed his family
c. to pay the rent and feed his family
3. Why was Ginger so unhappy?
a. Her owners wanted to sell her
b. Her owners did not treat her well
c. Her owners did not have enough money to look after her
4. How did Black Beauty feel when he saw the dead horse?
a. He was glad that she was not suffering anymore
b. He was sad that he did not say goodbye
c. He was angry that she died in pain
5. Why did the family have to sell Black Beauty?
a. Because Jerry was ill
b. Because Jerry's wife was going to work for her old mistress
c. Because Jerry was going to change jobs

Vocabulary

3 Complete the sentences with expressions in the box.

out of danger make some money the rest of hanging down and so it was

1. John, you have to find a job. You have to _____.
2. I went to bed early, so I didn't see _____ the film.
3. Peter had a bad accident and is in hospital, but he's _____ now.
4. I knew that without a map I would get lost – _____;
I'm standing here and there's no one to ask for directions.
5. Is Anna all right? Her eyes are closed and her head is _____.

4 Complete the sentences with words from Chapter 7. The first letter has been given.

1. How much did you p_____ for your new bike?
2. Martin, what a nice s_____ to see you!
3. Did you r_____ my email?
4. I had a long c_____ with Alan about his new job.
5. Look at the time! It's nearly m_____. We must go to bed.
6. It's wrong to m_____ animals.
7. Don't walk so fast! We have p_____ of time to catch the bus.
8. Your hands are d_____. Go and wash them.

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. People work so that they can have some money. What other reasons do people have for working?
2. 'A cab driver's job wasn't easy...' Which jobs do you think are easy, and which are hard? Why?
3. 'Jerry knocked on the door and a servant told him to wait some more.' What do you think life was like for a servant in those days?
4. 'It's the perfect job for father, Harry!' says Dolly. What do you think is the perfect job for you, and why?
5. Dolly and Harry are going to move to the country. Which do you prefer, life in the city or life in the country? Why?

6 Imagine that you are either Dolly or Harry. Write a letter to one of your friends back in the city, telling them about your new life in the country. (80-100 words)