

examined my legs and hooves, he found them in bad shape. He gave orders to keep the floor of the stables very clean, to give me special food and take me out for exercise every day. He also told Mr Barry that his groom was not doing a good job.

My hooves were soon well again and I felt strong, but my life was about to change once more; Mr Barry decided to sell me because he didn't want to be tricked by others anymore.



CHAPTER 6

MY NEW OWNER, JERRY BARKER, A CAB DRIVER, BOUGHT ME at a horse fair. Many buyers came to look at me but most of them turned away as soon as they saw my knees. Jerry was different. 'You're a gentle horse, aren't you?' he whispered to me. 'Well, I don't think that your injured knees were really your fault.'

He did not look like a rich man but I could tell that he knew about horses. I, in turn, especially liked him because he looked cheerful and kind, and he smelt nice and clean. However, when the salesman asked him for twenty-three pounds, Jerry said that it was very expensive. A while later, another man came and examined me. He looked hard and strict and I did not like him at all. He told the salesman that he would pay twenty-three pounds.

Jerry was passing by at that very moment. I turned my head to him, and he looked at me and smiled. 'OK, you,' he said. 'I'll give you twenty-four. Not a pound more.' And that's how I became his horse.

He took me home to meet his lovely wife, Polly. She was a very

a large suitcase slipped on the road. Jerry helped the man and took him into a shop so some people could look after him.

Ten minutes later, the man came to Jerry. 'Can you help me? I am in a hurry to get to the South-Eastern Railway station,' he said. 'My accident has made me late and I really need to get to the station in ten minutes; it is very important. I'll pay you twice as much!'

Jerry felt sorry for the man and really wanted to help him. I ran as fast as I could and the man didn't miss his train, but Jerry didn't want the extra money.

'Jack looked like a race horse,' said the other cab drivers when we went back to the cab stand. 'We thought you didn't like speeding for extra money.'

'I didn't get any extra money,' said Jerry.

'You'll never be a rich man,' said Larry again.

'I don't know if he'll ever be rich,' said Governor Grant. 'He deserves to be rich, though!'

Jerry didn't rush, but most customers preferred to use his cab because he was gentle and responsible. One day a gentleman knocked on our door. 'Mrs Briggs would like you to drive her to her daughter's house every Sunday,' said the gentleman.

'I'm sorry,' said Jerry. 'I only work six days a week; I want to spend some time with my family.' The customer left shaking his head.

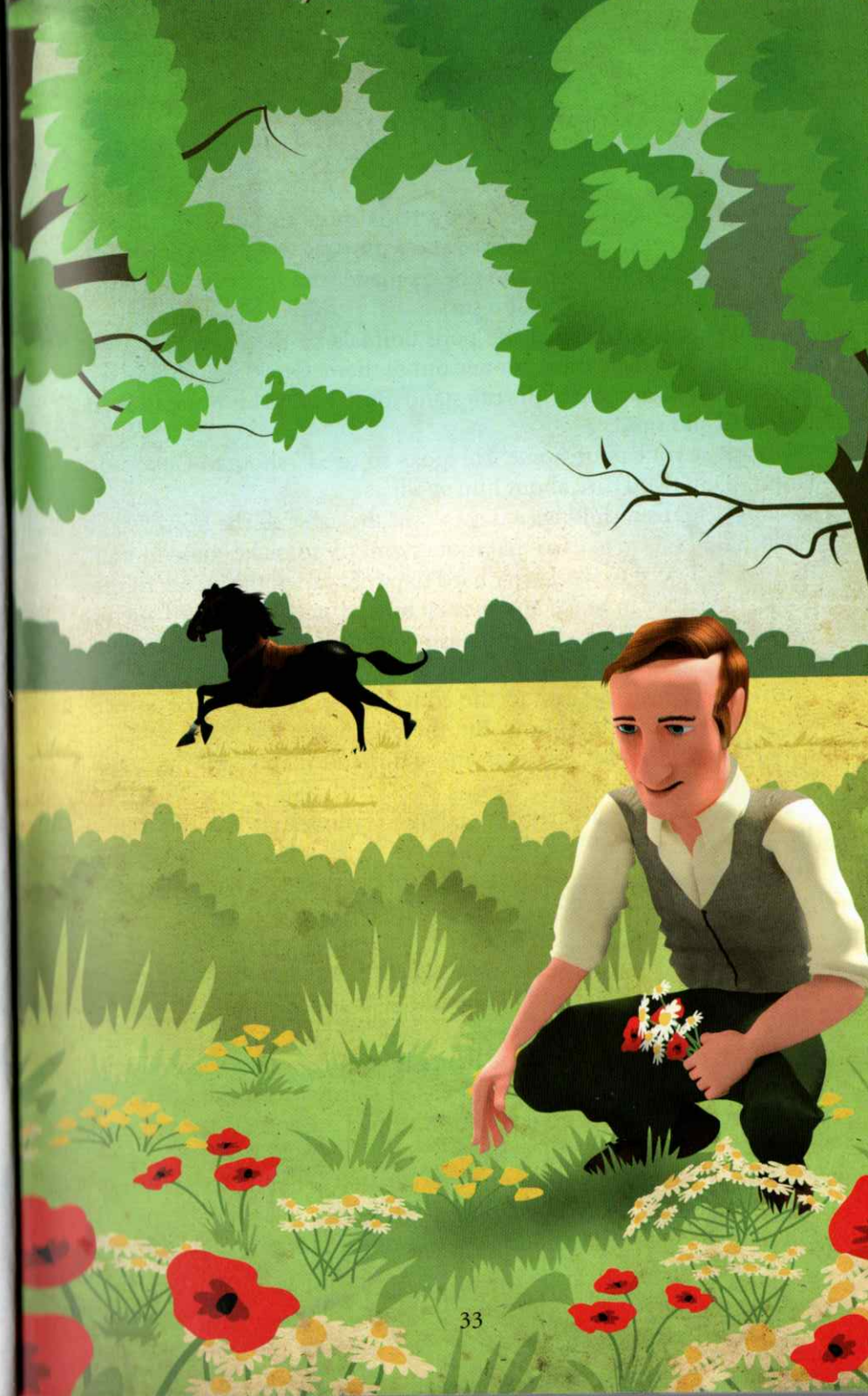
The next Sunday, Polly walked into the stables. 'Poor Dinah Brown's mother is very sick. She must go to her quickly!' she said. 'Will you be able to take her?'

'Of course I will,' said Jerry. 'It is Sunday today, but this is a different thing!'

We rode all day but it was a lovely ride in the country and Jerry stopped on the way back to pick some flowers for Polly.

When we came home at night, Polly was waiting at the door. 'Oh Jerry, you must be so tired!' she said.

Jerry smiled and gave her the flowers. 'Well, Polly, I didn't lose my Sunday, you know; the birds were singing and Jack enjoyed his day,' he said. 'We had a lovely time.'



nice woman with dark hair, dark eyes and a big smile on her face. He had a son called Harry who was twelve years old, and he also had a daughter. Dolly was eight and looked just like her mother.

Dolly gave me an apple and we became friends. 'What shall we call the new horse?' she asked.

'Let's call him Jack, like our old horse,' said Jerry.

'Yes, it's good to keep a good name,' said Polly.

At the stables there was another horse called Captain. He pulled Jerry's cab in the morning and I pulled it in the afternoon. And we were very lucky because we did not have to wear a bearing rein!

On my first afternoon, Jerry tied me to the front of the carriage and took me to the cab stand. We stood at the end of the line and waited for customers. In front of us were the other drivers; some of them laughed at me because they thought I looked too good for a cab horse. Others said that Jerry was silly to buy a horse with knees like mine. 'He's very black,' said another man. 'That's not very cheerful!'

The oldest driver was Grant, but the other drivers called him Governor. They all respected him very much. He looked at me very carefully. 'He's a fine horse, Jerry!' he said. 'I don't care what you paid for him. I can tell he'll be worth it!'

'I think so too!' said Jerry. He was very proud of me and took great care of both me and Captain. Jerry and Harry brushed us every day, gave us good food and made sure we were comfortable in the stables.

Jerry was as good a driver as John Manly. He never used his whip on me and never made me work too much. He made sure that I went at just the right pace and never made me rush for extra money.

One day, two young men ran to Jerry. 'Cabbie! Cabbie! We're late!' one of them said. 'We must be at the station before five. Whip your horse to make him go faster and we'll give you an extra shilling.'

'I will gladly take you to the station,' said Jerry. 'But I will not whip my horse. It is cruel!'

Another cab driver, Larry, heard the young men. 'I will take you to the station quickly for an extra shilling,' he said. The men hopped into his cab and Larry sped off, whipping his horse.

'You'll never be a rich man, Jerry,' called out Larry as he drove off. 'Probably not,' said Jerry, but Larry had already disappeared.

Another day we were waiting at the cab stand when a man with



CHAPTER 6

Comprehension

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

- Only one person wanted to buy Black Beauty at the horse fair. ☐
- Jerry's daughter wanted to give Black Beauty a new name. ☐
- Some drivers at the cab stand laughed at Black Beauty because of his colour. ☐
- Jerry did not want to take the two young men to the station. ☐
- The man with the suitcase gave some extra money to Jerry. ☐
- Jerry decided to go to Dinah Brown's mother because it was a Sunday. ☐

2 Complete the summary of Chapter 6 with words from the box.

wife money afternoon mother children owner

Jerry Barker became Black Beauty's new (1) _____.
 Jerry was a cab driver and Black Beauty pulled the cab every
 (2) _____. Jerry was a kind man and never made Black
 Beauty run faster for more (3) _____. Jerry did not work
 on Sundays, because he wanted to be with Polly and his
 (4) _____. One Sunday, Jerry took someone to see their
 (5) _____, who was not well. When he got home, Jerry
 gave some flowers to his (6) _____ and said that it had
 been a lovely day.

Vocabulary

3 Choose the correct word.

- A: How did you **enjoy** / **injure** your knee?
 B: I **slipped** / **smelt** on the wet road.
- The police stopped the driver because he was **speeding** / **smiling**.

- I **hopped** / **knocked** on the door but nobody was at home.
- Can you **shake** / **smell** something burning?
- I can't find my keys. They've **disappeared** / **examined**!

4 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

fault worth customer extra buyer sorry

- We paid a lot of money for this holiday, but I think it's _____ it.
- Mark wants to sell his house, but he can't find a _____.
- The accident wasn't my _____. The road was very wet.
- I feel so _____ for Amy. She hasn't got any friends.
- The shop wasn't empty; there was one _____.
- If you want a better seat you have to pay _____ money.

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- 'Dolly was eight and looked just like her mother.' Do you look like someone in your family? Who do you look like, and how are you similar?
- The drivers called Grant 'the governor' because they respected him very much. Who do you respect, and why?
- In the story, three men were in a hurry to go somewhere. Are people these days in a hurry? Why? What are their lives like?
- Jerry did not want to take extra money from his customers. How important do you think money is?
- Jerry liked to spend every Sunday with his family. How do you like to spend time with your family?

6 Imagine that you are Jerry's wife, Polly, and that you are writing to your sister to tell her your news. Write your letter, telling her about the new horse and what happened on the Sunday when Jerry took Dinah Brown to see her mother. (80-100 words)