

CHAPTER 10

ONE DAY, DURING SUMMER, I WAS CLEANED AND BRUSHED with extra care. Willie was kinder than usual. I noticed a small tear running down his face. 'Look at you!' said Willie. 'You look so handsome. I hope the ladies like you.'

'If the ladies like him, then he'll have a good home for the rest of his life,' said Farmer Thoroughgood.

They tied me to the front of the carriage and we rode out of the village until we came to a pretty house surrounded by flowers.

The boy rang the doorbell. 'Are the ladies home?' he asked a servant.

'Yes, they are here. I will call them,' said the servant.

We waited for a while until three ladies came to see us. One was tall and pale, and was wearing a white shawl. Her name was Lavinia; the lady next to her had rosy cheeks and a big smile. She was Miss Ellen. The third one was a very serious woman and looked very important. That was Miss Blomefield.

'He is beautiful,' said Miss Ellen. 'I like him!'

'Look at his knees,' said Miss Blomefield.

Then a young man came to look at me. At first, he was as pleased, but then he too saw my knees. 'Farmer Thoroughgood, I don't think this horse is suitable,' he said. 'Look at those knees!'

'Well, many horses have knees like that, but it's not their fault,' said Farmer Thoroughgood. 'Try him for a week and you will see he is as safe as any other horse. You can send him back if you aren't happy.'

They all agreed that I would stay for a week to let the groom decide if I was good enough for the ladies.

The groom took me to my stables and began to brush me. As he did that, he noticed the star on my face. 'I've seen a star like that before,' he said. 'It is like the star that Black Beauty had.'

He looked at me again and examined me more carefully. 'That white foot is like Black Beauty's foot... and the white hairs on his back... Black Beauty? It's you! Isn't it?'

I was surprised that he knew me. I looked at the groom but didn't



recognise him at all.

'Black Beauty! Do you remember me? I'm Joe Green from Birtwick Park!' he said.

He put his arms around my neck and gave me a big hug and I put my nose up to him, to show him I understood. I felt happy to find an old friend and he looked very pleased too.

The next day, Green told the ladies my story. 'There was never a better horse than Black Beauty,' he said.

'I will write to Mrs Gordon and tell her that her favourite horse is with us,' said Miss Blomefield.

I now live with Joe Green. He is the kindest groom I could wish for. Farmer Thoroughgood and Willie visit me too and we are special friends.

I feel stronger than ever thanks to the good food, fresh air and kindness. My work is easy and pleasant and I am very happy with the ladies. They are kind and gentle. My troubles are over and I am at home.

And often, I dream that I am still a young horse at Birtwick, standing with my old friends under the apple trees.



CHAPTER 10

Comprehension

- 1 Put the following events in the order which they happened.**
Write 1-7 in the boxes.

- Miss Lavinia, Miss Ellen and Miss Blomefield came out of the house to see Black Beauty. ☐
- Black Beauty was happy with Joe Green and the ladies. ☐
- Willie was kinder than usual when he cleaned and brushed Black Beauty one day. ☐
- The ladies decided to keep Black Beauty when they heard his story. ☐
- Miss Ellen liked Black Beauty, but Miss Blomefield did not like the horse's knees. ☐
- Farmer Thoroughgood took Black Beauty to a pretty house surrounded by flowers. ☐
- The groom, Joe Green, recognised the star on Black Beauty's forehead. ☐

- 2 Who said what? Complete with the correct name from the box.**

Miss Ellen Joe Green Miss Blomefield Farmer Thoroughgood Willie

- _____ : 'There was never a better horse than Black Beauty.'
- _____ : 'Well, many horses have knees like that, but it's not their fault.'
- _____ : 'Look at you. You look so handsome.'
- _____ : 'He is beautiful. I like him!'
- _____ : 'I will write to Mrs Gordon and tell her that her favourite horse is with us.'

Vocabulary

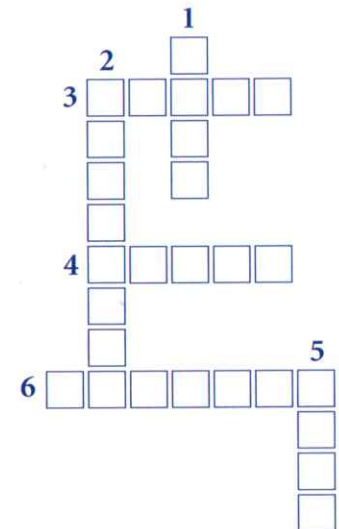
- 3 Match the two columns to make expressions and use these to fill the gaps in the sentences below:**

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. 1. extra | a. cheeks |
| 2. rosy | b. a hug |
| 3. ring | c. air |
| 4. give | d. care |
| 5. fresh | e. the doorbell |

- Did you _____ to see if anybody was at home?
- 'Come here and _____ me _____,' said his grandfather to the little boy.
- The postman took _____ with the letter because he knew it was important.
- We knew Nina was not sick anymore when we saw her _____.
- The _____ in the country will soon make you feel better.

- 4 Complete the crossword puzzle.**

- a light colour
- something that is right and appropriate for a situation
- a piece of cloth that women use to cover their head and shoulders
- to have the same opinion
- a drop of liquid that comes out of your eyes when you are sad or in pain
- a person who is paid to cook, clean and do other jobs in the house.



Follow-up activities

- 5 Discuss.**

- Black Beauty says that he is at home at the ladies' house. What do you think he means by this?
- Why do you think that Farmer Thoroughgood believed that Black Beauty would be suitable for the ladies? Do you agree?
- Why do you think Black Beauty dreams of his old friends?
- Anna Sewell wrote the story to encourage people to treat horses kindly. Can you list ways in which this can be done?
- Does the story end the way you expected it to end? Do you think it is a happy ending? How would you like the story to end?

- 6 Imagine you are Miss Blomefield. Write a letter to Mrs Gordon explaining what has happened to her favourite horse. (80-100 words)**