

Finding the Main Idea**Black Beauty**

In 1877, Anna Sewell wrote Black Beauty. In the story, Black Beauty, a black horse, tells of his life among many masters. In this passage, Black Beauty tells of his time as a horse that pulls a cab in London.

45. Jerry's New Year

For some people Christmas and the New Year are very merry times; but for cabmen and cabmen's horses it is no holiday, though it may be a harvest. There are so many parties, balls, and places of amusement open that the work is hard and often late. Sometimes driver and horse have to wait for hours in the rain or frost, shivering with the cold, while the merry people within are dancing away to the music. I wonder if the beautiful ladies ever think of the weary cabman waiting on his box, and his patient beast standing, till his legs get stiff with cold.

The Main Idea and Supporting Ideas

Write the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

Write two supporting ideas for the main idea.

1. _____

2. _____

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Black Beauty

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The Main Idea and Supporting Ideas

Actual wording and supporting ideas will vary. Example of correct answers:

Write the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

Christmas and the New Year are difficult times for a cabmen and their horses.

Write two supporting ideas for the main idea.

- There are parties and balls that go late into the night and the cab must wait a long time.**
- The weather is often cold and wet and the cabman and his horse must wait outside for hours.**