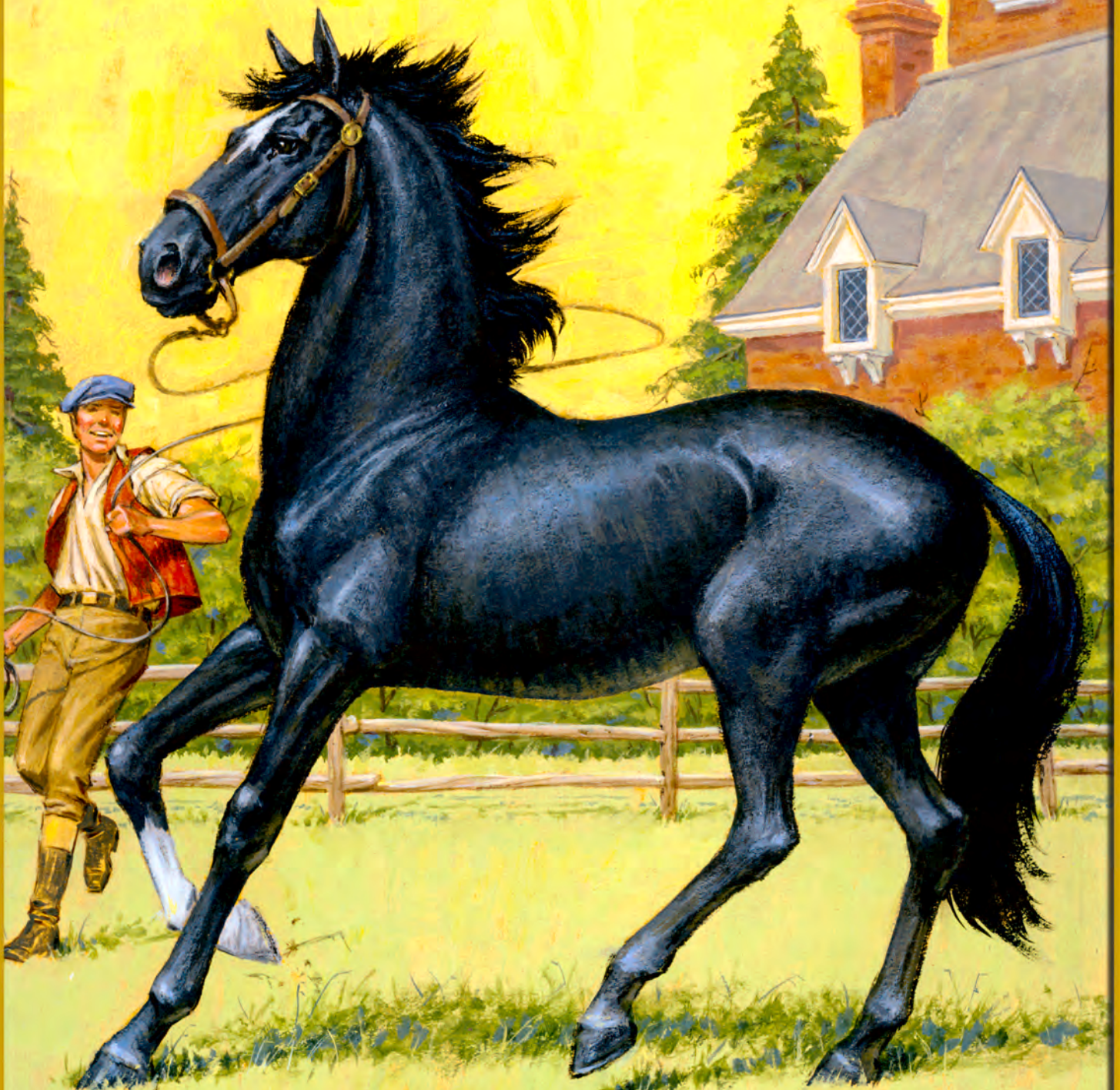


EDCON PUBLISHING

Level 2

Anna Sewell

Black Beauty



CONTENTS

Words Used	4,5
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NO.	TITLE	SYNOPSIS	PAGE
1	My First Home	Black Beauty remembers his early years with a loving mother and a kind master.	6
2	Birtwick Park	Black Beauty makes new friends and finds that his master is a fine man.	12
3	The Fire	Black Beauty is well taken care of. In return, he shows how smart he is and how much he cares.	18
4	The Doctor	Black Beauty saves Mrs. Gordon's life, but almost loses his own.	24
5	My New Home	Black Beauty finds that all people are not as nice as those he knew before. He must now carry the mark of people's foolish ways.	30
6	My Life as a Job Horse	As a job horse, Black Beauty meets all kinds of drivers. He finds that most of them do not care about the horse as a living thing. Few are kind.	36
7	The Thief	Even though Black Beauty's new master is a kind man, he does not know much about horses. Because of this, he is taken in by two bad barn masters.	42
8	The Horse Fair	A kind man named Jerry Barker brings Black Beauty home from the horse fair. It is the start of happy days for Black Beauty and the Barker family.	48
9	My Life as a Cab Horse	Black Beauty meets an old friend and sees what bad days will do to a horse's body and feelings. Sad news changes Black Beauty's happy life.	54
10	My Last Home	Life gets so bad for Black Beauty that he wishes he were dead. Then a happy surprise changes his feelings and the days ahead.	60
 Comprehension Check Answer Key			 67
Vocabulary Check Answer Key			69

WORDS USED

Story 1	Story 2	Story 3	Story 4	Story 5
KEY WORDS				
brother	cage	family	drink	band
carry	done	reach	face	crawl
drop	drive	stand	foot	listen
land	follow	threw	kind	visit
sent	fox	wait	king	whale
wear	knock	write	love	world

NECESSARY WORDS				
dead	bite	bridge	blanket	bar
manners	free	job	doctor	whip
master	short	smoke	felt	
saddle	carriage		rub	
star			sick	

MY FIRST HOME

Necessary Words

dead	(ded)	no longer living <i>When the cold winter came, the flowers were all <u>dead</u>.</i>
manners	(man ' ərs)	way of acting <i>The children showed their good <u>manners</u> by sitting quietly during the show.</i>
master	(mas ' tər)	a person who is the head of something <i>The <u>master</u> of the school liked to talk to all the children.</i>
saddle	(sad ' l)	seat for a rider on a horse's back <i>The man put a fine <u>saddle</u> on his horse and got ready for a long ride.</i>
star	(stär)	a shape with five or six points <i>The teacher put a <u>star</u> on my paper to show that I had done good work.</i>

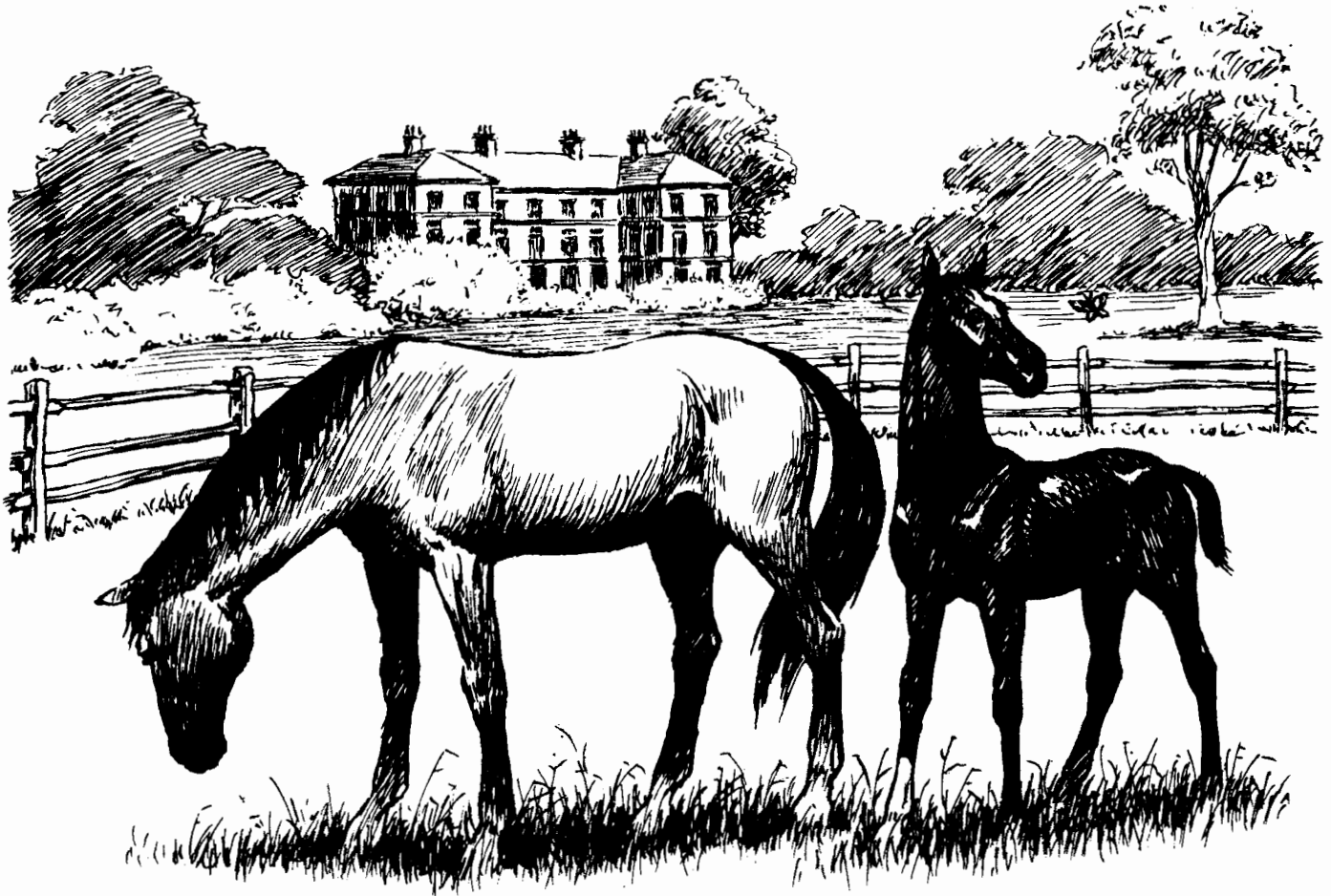
Animals

Darkie	is a young horse who is growing up on a farm with his mother. He is the horse that this story is mostly about.
Pet	is Darkie's mother and a fine horse.

People

Squire Gordon	is the master of a nearby farm who wants to own Darkie.
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MY FIRST HOME



My mother and I would run around the farm all day.

Preview:

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first two paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that the story is being told by

- ☐ a. a horse.
- ☐ b. a man.
- ☐ c. a child.
- ☐ d. a mother.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out how the young horse's life will change.

MY FIRST HOME

My first home was a farm on a land of green grass and high trees. My master lived in a big house near the road.

At first I lived on my mother's milk. We ran around the field all day. When I got a little older, I could eat grass. Then my mother went out to work. Because I had no brother, I would run with the other horses. What fun we had!

My mother told me of my father's good name. Most of the people in this part of the land had heard of him. She said I must carry my head high and keep my good manners.

My master was a good man and a friend to all his horses. He called my mother Pet. I was called Darkie. He liked us best of all his horses.

Just before I was two years old, I saw something that was most surprising. It was in the spring. We heard the cry of many dogs.

"They have found a rabbit," my mother said. "Soon we will see them running by."

A rabbit went past us. Many dogs and men on horses were on her tail. The rabbit could not get out of the garden. The dogs were all over her. I saw her head drop. A man picked up the prize—a dead rabbit.

Suddenly, some men went running over to a boy in the

grass. It was Squire Gordon's boy. He was dead when his head met the hard ground.

Soon after, I saw that a horse had dropped to the ground. It had a broken leg. We heard a big bang and the horse was gone too. So much had been lost over one little rabbit and the games men played.

My mother was very sad. I was to find out later that the fallen horse had been my brother.

As time went by, my coat began to get blacker. One of my feet was white and I had a pretty star on my head.

Squire Gordon came to look me over when I was four years old. He wanted me for his farm. My master said he would train me for Squire Gordon.

Training is when a horse must get used to carrying a man on his back and wearing a saddle. I also had to wear horse shoes on my feet. In time, I would get used to all the things a horse must do.

My master was my friend and he took his time with me. At last the day came when he got on my back. At first I did not like it. But I wanted to please him so I went well.

Another part of my training was to get used to loud trains. I was sent to a farm where the train ran close to the field. I did

not like the loud noise, but I soon got used to it and did not mind.

The time came to say goodbye to my mother and my master. My mother told me to do my best and please my new master. She told me to carry my head high and keep up our good name.

MY FIRST HOME

VOCABULARY CHECK

brother	carry	drop	land	sent	wear
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I. Sentences to Finish

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.

1. Please _____ this plate over to the table.
2. My _____ and I love to play baseball in the park.
3. Maria comes from a far away _____.
4. If you _____ that box of dishes, they will break.
5. Can I _____ my new dress to the party?
6. Peter _____ away for a free toy.

II. Mixed-up Words

First, unscramble the letters in Column A to spell out the key words. Then, match the key words with the right meaning in column B by drawing a line.

Column A		Column B	
1. racyr	_____	a.	a boy who has the same mother or father as another boy or girl
2. tsen	_____	b.	to take from one place to another
3. raew	_____	c.	to put on
4. rpod	_____	d.	a country or place
5. adnl	_____	e.	to let something fall
6. trehrob	_____	f.	to have someone or something go somewhere

Check your answers with the key on page 69.

Bring the Classics to Life

Titles in this Series

Reading Level 1.0 – 2.0

White Fang
Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm
Little Women
Swiss Family Robinson
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Rip Van Winkle
Heidi
Uncle Tom's Cabin
The Jungle Book
A Christmas Carol

Reading Level 2.0 – 3.0

Black Beauty
Tom Sawyer
The Call of the Wild
Treasure Island
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood
The Prince and the Pauper
The Man Without a Country
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
Silas Marner
Around the World in 80 Days

Reading Level 3.0 – 4.0

Robinson Crusoe
The Red Badge of Courage
Kidnapped
The Invisible Man
The Man in the Iron Mask
The War of the Worlds
Sea Wolf
Oliver Twist

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
Frankenstein

Reading Level 4.0 – 5.0

Captains Courageous
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde
The Time Machine
Gulliver's Travels
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
The Pathfinder
From the Earth To the Moon
David Copperfield
The Pioneers
The Picture of Dorian Gray

Reading Level 5.0 – 6.0

Metropolis
The Hound of the Baskervilles
Kim
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
A Journey to the Center of the Earth
Ivanhoe
Last of the Mohicans
Moby Dick
The Count of Monte Cristo
A Tale of Two Cities

