

KS3 Extension Tasks – Black Beauty (Years 7 and 8)

To help you think through and remember the details and characters in your Home Learning reading book, you will need to complete the following tasks:

Task 1: Answer the comprehension questions for each chapter in a complete sentence.

Task 2: Write a list of characters (horses & people) from the book, then write a short description of each character beside their name.

Chapter 1

1. Sometimes writers tell their stories as though a certain person or animal is talking to the reader. Who is telling us about his early home in the first chapter of Black Beauty?
2. Why did Black Beauty's master fire the plowboy?

Chapter 2

1. Why were the dogs and men running after the hare?
2. What caused two of the horses and riders to fall?

Chapter 3

1. Black Beauty was four years old when his master began to train him. How do horse years compare to people years? (Try a Google search to help you find the answer.)
2. List the steps in Black Beauty's breaking-in process. Was his training slow or fast? Simple or complicated?
3. What does the Bible say about a bit and bridle? (Hint: Look up Psalm 32:9)
4. Black Beauty and his mother often trotted alongside each other in a double harness. Who are we supposed to be harnessed with? (Hint: Look up Mathew 11:30)

Chapter 4

1. How did Black Beauty's training prepare him for his new home at Birtwick Park?
2. What kind of home did Black Beauty have with Squire Gordon?
3. Why did Merrylegs care so much about Black Beauty's attitude and behavior?
4. What caused Ginger to be such an ill-tempered horse?
5. What made Merrylegs hopeful Ginger would change?

Chapter 5

1. What did you learn in this chapter about the coachman John Manly?
2. How could John tell that Black Beauty had been treated well by his first master?
3. Why did Black Beauty enjoy pulling the carriage with Ginger?

Chapter 6

1. What did Black Beauty dislike about his life at Birtwick Park?
2. How did John help Black Beauty to obey?

Chapter 8

1. How does God want human beings to treat animals? Here are some Scriptures to read that will help you decide: Genesis 1:28-30; Deuteronomy 22:1-4, 6-7; Proverbs 12:10.
2. The English have a wise saying or proverb: "Show me your horse and I will tell you what you are." If you didn't know anything about the training of Black Beauty and Ginger, what could you tell about their owners just by watching the horses?

Chapter 9

1. What did Merrylegs mean when he said that older boys must be "broken in"?
2. What kept Merrylegs from kicking the boys when they mistreated him?

Chapter 10

1. What makes a horse able to tell what his rider wants him to do?
2. Why was Black Beauty better than Ginger at understanding his rider's directions?
3. Why did Sir Oliver say that people thought they knew more than God?
4. When Merrylegs talked about the horses' masters and then invited his friends to run to the orchard, was he being negative or positive? How did what he said and did make a difference?

Chapters 12 – 13

1. Was it wrong for Black Beauty to disobey his master at the bridge? Why or why not?
2. What made John decide to leave Bill Bushby in the thorn hedge instead of coming to his rescue?
3. Why did John go to see Mr. and Mrs. Bushby?

KS3 Extension Tasks – Black Beauty (Years 7 and 8)**Chapter 14**

1. What trick did John's master play on him?
2. How did James feel when he heard what John said to the master?
3. If the master and John liked James and thought he was a good worker, why did they want him to take the job Sir Clifford offered?

Chapter 15

1. What surprised James about the old hostler?

Chapter 16

1. The old hostler and his assistant (called "second hostler") both tried to rescue the horse. Which one was successful? Why?
2. What was Squire Gordon probably thinking when he called for James Howard? Did he care more about James or about the horses? How can we tell?

Chapter 17

1. Why did James think that Joseph Green was a bad choice as his replacement?
2. Why did John disagree with James?
3. How had John's experience help him become a kind man?

Chapter 18

1. Was it wrong for John to let the doctor ride Black Beauty back to Birtwick Park? Explain your answer.
2. What mistakes did Joe make in taking care of Black Beauty?

Chapter 19

1. Why was Thomas Green helping John instead of Mr. Green's son, Joe?
2. Was John angry with Joe? How can you tell?

Chapters 20 – 21

1. How can you tell John Manly forgave Joe Green's mistakes in taking care of Black Beauty?
2. The cart driver at the brickyard was a cruel man. What was making him even more cruel?
3. Would Joe have shown more courage if he fought with the cart driver instead of telling on him? What did his actions show besides courage?
4. What guided John in his decision about a new job?

Chapter 22

1. Why did Earl and his wife insist that their horses wear bearing reins?
2. What attitude did Black Beauty and Ginger have about their new home?

Chapter 23

1. What was it about Lady W's trip to the duchess's party that made her want the horses' head extra high?
2. How did Mr. York excuse his bad treatment of Black Beauty and Ginger?
3. What could the Earl and Mr. York have done about the horses' mistreatment?

Chapter 24

1. What made it more dangerous for Lady Anne to ride Lizzie than for Colonel Blantyre to ride him?
2. What mistake did the Colonel and Lady Anne make when they reached the doctor's house?

Chapter 25

1. What kept Reuben Smith from being a trustworthy employee?
2. What did the Earl do that tempted Reuben to break his promise?

Chapter 26

1. What evidence did the men who investigated Reuben Smith's death find to show that he was responsible?
2. Who did Susan Smith blame for her husband's death?

Chapter 27

1. Why did the Earl say he couldn't have knees like Black Beauty's in his stable?

Chapters 28-29

1. How did Black Beauty feel about his new life at the livery stable?
2. Which driver caused the accident that injured Rory?

Chapter 30

1. What mistake did Mr. Barry make as Black Beauty's owner?
2. What was the worst part of Mr. Filcher's wrongdoing?

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Chapters 31 – 32

1. How does the groom's name in this chapter fit the kind of person he was?
2. List three ways that people at the horse fair judged Black Beauty. List three ways Black Beauty judged them.

Chapter 33

1. Who was the most respected man at the cabstand where Jeremiah Barker waited for work?
2. What was extra special for Black Beauty about being owned by Mr. Barker?

Chapters 34 – 35

1. You'll find an interesting description of warhorses in Job 39:19-25. Make a list of the things in these verses that are the same as what Captain, the old warhorse, told about.
2. Jerry Barker lived his life in a way that makes us think he read and understood the Bible. Look up the verses and write down how Jerry applied them.
 - Proverbs 6:9-11; 20:13
 - Proverbs 15:15-17
 - Proverbs 23:4-5

Chapter 36

1. What reasons did Jerry give for refusing to work on Sunday?
2. Why did Jerry ask his wife Polly what she thought about Mr. Briggs's request?

Chapter 37

1. Why did Jerry choose to have his dinner in the meadow?
2. Why is this chapter titled "The Golden Rule"?

Chapters 38 - 42

1. How did the gentleman stand up for what was right? (Hint: There are at least three ways.)
2. Who was to blame for Seedy Sam's death?
3. How did the love of money cause Ginger to suffer?
4. What did Black Beauty say that a friend's hand and voice could make easy?
5. How did Jerry want to see people's attitudes change about elections and voting?

Chapter 43

1. How did Jerry Barker outsmart the men who insisted on riding in his cab?
2. Why did Polly worry about Jerry?

Chapter 44

1. What problem do we have today that is much like the problem that caused Captain's injury?
2. Jerry had never been a soldier, but he had fought a battle and won. What battle was it?

Chapter 45

1. How were the holidays a time of harvest for cab drivers like Jerry?
2. Why did Jerry wait so long in the stormy weather for the men who had asked for a ride?
3. In what ways did the Governor show he had a kind heart even though he drank too much?
4. Why didn't Polly mention school for Harry in Fairstowe?

Chapters 46 – 47

1. What kept Jakes from following the lady's advice and leaving the bearing rein off of Black Beauty all the time?
2. Did Nicholas Skinner treat his horses like creatures or things?

Chapter 48

1. What did the author want us to learn from the name she gave Black Beauty's new owner?
2. How could Mr. Thoroughgood afford to buy horses that couldn't work? Do you think he did what he did mainly for money?

Chapter 49

1. What did Mr. Thoroughgood mean when he said, "Handsome is as handsome does"?
2. What wonderful surprise about Mrs. Gordon did you learn in this chapter?