

Black Beauty

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell is a classic novel told from the perspective of a horse, recounting his experiences with both kind and cruel owners while highlighting the importance of kindness and humane treatment of animals.



Summaryer

01 My Early Home

My earliest memories are of a large, serene meadow, the first home I can recall vividly. It was adorned with a clear pond, shaded by trees, bordered by rushes and water-lilies at one end, and overlooked by a grove of fir trees at the other. Beyond its confines, I could glimpse our master's house and a plowed field. In my youth, nourished by my mother's milk, I stayed close to her, frolicking by day and resting by her side at night. The pond was our refuge from the heat, and a cozy shed near the grove offered warmth during colder days.

Once weaned onto grass, my mother would leave during the day, returning each evening. Our meadow was shared with six other colts, older and nearly my size, forming my early companions. We indulged in the joys of youth, racing and playing in the field, although our games could turn rough with kicks and bites exchanged in the heat of the moment.

One particularly rowdy day was punctuated by my mother's call. She imparted wisdom that would shape my character: despite the company I kept, I was urged to uphold the legacy of my lineage—my father's renown, my grandfather's victories at Newmarket, and my grandmother's admirable temperament. My mother, never having resorted to biting or kicking, expected the same gentleness and integrity from me. She stressed the importance of good manners, a strong work ethic, and a kind demeanor,

cautioning against adopting the less savory behaviors of my playmates. This guidance set the foundation for the values I would carry forward, aspiring to embody the virtues cherished by my family.



02 The Hunt

Before I turned two, a memorable event occurred during an early spring morning cloaked in a light mist. Being in the lower field with my fellow colts, we were suddenly attentive to distant dog cries, signaling the beginning of a hunt as acknowledged by the most senior among us. With curiosity, we all moved to a vantage point, where my mother and an elderly horse of our master's possession joined in observing the unfolding scene. The ensuing chase of a hare by a pack of hounds, accompanied by men on horseback clad in green, was intense and frenzied, differing from any sound I had heard before. Their pursuit was relentless, the dogs' vocalizations unique to their kind, as they and their riders vanished and re-emerged, eventually steering towards our meadow.

In a thrilling moment, a desperate hare bolted by, with the hounds in hot pursuit. The encounter culminated tragically for the hare as it failed to escape, succumbing quickly to the hounds before a huntsman intervened. This moment of conquest was received with satisfaction by the huntsmen, a reaction that bewildered me. However, the hunt's toll was significant; two horses and a rider were grievously injured during the commotion. My mother observed that one man's injuries were fatal, prompting a colt to comment on the perceived justice of his fate, a sentiment I silently shared, though my mother cautioned against such judgments. She confessed her inability to comprehend the human appetite for hunting, highlighting its often detrimental outcomes for both men and animals alike.

After this incident, the scene turned somber as attention shifted to the injured young man, identified as George Gordon, the squire's son and a figure of communal pride. The accident mobilized urgent efforts for medical and veterinary assistance, casting a pall over the day's earlier excitement. This chapter left an indelible mark on me, encapsulating the complexities of human pursuits and the stark, sometimes fatal,

realities they impose on all creatures involved.



03 My Breaking In

In this chapter, Black Beauty introduces his early experiences of being "broken in," a term he explains for the benefit of readers unfamiliar with horse training. It involves acclimating a horse to wear a bridle, saddle, and eventually, to bear the weight of humans and pull carts or carriages obediently and quietly. His master, intending to prevent fear or injury, undertakes the task personally, beginning with introducing Black Beauty to a bit and bridle, an experience the horse finds uncomfortable and restrictive, though he gradually acclimates out of trust and affection for his master.

The narrative then details the additional stages of breaking in, including wearing a saddle, which Black Beauty finds less troubling, and the fitting of iron shoes, a novel sensation that he describes as making his feet feel "very stiff and heavy." The horse takes these changes in stride, motivated by the gentleness and patience of his master.

A significant part of Black Beauty's training involves acclimatizing him to the sounds and sights of passing trains, an experience designed to desensitize him to potential frights. Initially terrified, Black Beauty, after repeated exposure and observing the indifference of cows and sheep, learns to ignore the trains entirely. This element of his training underscores the theme of adaptability and the importance of careful, considerate training methods.

Throughout the chapter, the horse reflects on the different types of men he might serve - good, cruel, and thoughtless - emphasizing the impact of human behavior on animal welfare. The story emphasizes the idea that the wellbeing of animals like Black Beauty is closely tied to the behavior and attitudes of their human guardians. Black Beauty's mother's advice serves as a guiding principle for him, highlighting the moral of serving well under good care and the arbitrary nature of animal ownership, which can lead to varying levels of treatment depending on the owner's character.

04 Birtwick Park

At Birtwick Park, under the care of Squire Gordon, Black Beauty begins a new chapter in his life. He leaves his first home with a gentle farewell from his master, entering a world that contrasts with his origins through its grandeur and orderly structure.

Birtwick Park, nestled by the village of Birtwick, is a haven of large old trees, smooth roads, and a series of lodges leading to the squire's stately house and its gardens. The stables, a domain of comfort and companionship for horses, becomes Black Beauty's new residence. Here, Beauty is placed in a spacious and airy loose box, a luxury for any horse, offering freedom and a clear view of the surroundings through its iron-railed top.

Black Beauty's arrival is met with curiosity by his stablemates, Merrylegs, a jovial gray pony and a favorite among the young ladies and their mistress for his docility and charm, and Ginger, a chestnut mare with a beautiful exterior masked by her ill temper and biting habit. Merrylegs, through his affable nature, quickly becomes an informative friend, explaining to Black Beauty the dynamics of their stable life. He shares Ginger's backstory of snapping and biting, a behavior that earned her the name Ginger, led to her isolation, and resulted in a lack of gentle human interactions.

This introduction to his new companions sets the stage for Black Beauty's experience at Birtwick. Merrylegs's hope that the return of Miss Flora and Miss Jessie to the stable, now hindered by Ginger's aggressive behavior, symbolizes a desire for harmony and kindness within their environment. Black Beauty, with his peaceful disposition and lack of understanding towards Ginger's bitterness, embodies the theme of gentleness against adversity. The chapter not only depicts the physical transition of Black Beauty to a new home but also introduces the social dynamics and personalities within the horse community at Birtwick Park, setting a foundation for the unfolding of relationships and lessons learned amidst humans and horses.

05 A Fair Start

Chapter 5 of "Black Beauty," titled "A Fair Start," introduces John Manly, the coachman, who lives near the stables with his wife and child. The morning after Beauty's arrival, John gives him a thorough grooming, which pleases the Squire, the owner of Beauty. The Squire instructs John to test Beauty's paces by taking him on a specific route around the estate. John carefully fits Beauty with a comfortable bridle and saddle, and the two set out, starting slow before moving to a trot and then a canter. They enjoy a splendid gallop on the common, and Beauty impresses John with his calmness and steadiness, even in potentially startling situations like passing a heavily laden traveling cart or hearing gunshots.

Upon their return, they encounter the Squire and Mrs. Gordon. John shares his positive assessment of Beauty's performance, highlighting his speed, spirit, and responsiveness. The Squire decides to try Beauty himself the next day and finds Beauty to be a pleasant and handsome horse, agreeing with John's evaluation. After considering several names, Mrs. Gordon suggests "Black Beauty," a name that the Squire approves of for its suitability and pleasant sound.

John shares with James, another stable worker, the decision on Beauty's name, comparing its sensibility to other fanciful names. A conversation reveals that Beauty and a horse named Rob Roy, killed in a hunt, were brothers, sharing the same mother. This new knowledge makes Beauty reflect on the lack of recognized relations among horses once they are separated.

Throughout the chapter, Beauty narrates his experiences and interactions with kindness and intelligence, reflecting on the care and attention given by John, which fosters a growing affection between horse and man. The chapter establishes Beauty's characteristics of calmness, bravery, and willingness to please, setting a foundation for his future encounters and relationships.

06 Liberty

In the sixth chapter of "Black Beauty" titled "Liberty," the narrative unfolds from the perspective of Black Beauty, who reflects on his contentment and living conditions in his new home. Despite the comfort, good food, and caring handlers he has, Black Beauty yearns for freedom, reminiscing about the days when he could roam freely in the fields, expressing his energy and spirit without restraint. This contrast between his past liberty and current confined life, where his movements are restricted by straps and blinkers, emphasizes his desire for the open spaces and autonomy he once enjoyed.

Black Beauty acknowledges the necessity of his situation, recognizing that as a young and spirited horse, the expectations are for him to be steady and reliable, akin to older, more experienced horses. Regardless, he finds this adjustment challenging, particularly when his desire to move freely is curtailed. His restlessness is especially pronounced when he has not been exercised sufficiently, leading to bursts of energy that test the patience of his caretaker, John.

John, understanding and considerate, knows how to manage Black Beauty's spirited nature without resorting to harshness. He recognizes the importance of exercise in alleviating Black Beauty's restlessness, often allowing him to trot freely outside the village to "get the tickle out of [his] feet." Through gentle guidance and a deep understanding of Black Beauty's needs, John is presented as a model of empathy and patience, demonstrating an intuitive grasp of how to care for spirited horses without stifling their inherent nature.

The chapter not only highlights the bond between horse and human but also subtly critiques the practice of confining animals without considering their natural inclinations and needs. Black Beauty's reflections offer insights into the inner world of a horse, portraying a longing for freedom that is universal among sentient beings.

07 Ginger

In Chapter 7 of "Black Beauty," titled "Ginger," the narrative delves into the backstory of Ginger, a horse with a tumultuous past, through a conversation between Ginger and Black Beauty. Ginger opens up about her early separation from her mother, her upbringing among indifferent colts, and the neglect from the man responsible for their care, contrasting it with Black Beauty's gentler experiences. She recounts the trauma of being broken in—a process devoid of kindness and full of force, which instilled a deep-seated resistance and wariness towards humans in her. Ginger's spirit, she says, was high, but the harsh treatment she received as a horse bred for spirit made her rebellious and distrustful, particularly against abusive handling.

Ginger specifically describes a harrowing incident involving Mr. Ryder's son, Samson—a man lacking gentleness—who sought to subdue her spirit through dominance and physical punishment. A particularly brutal session led Ginger to resist fiercely, culminating in her throwing Samson off. Left alone, wounded, and exhausted in a meadow, Ginger yearns for relief which is only provided late in the day by the old master, Mr. Ryder himself. This encounter marks a stark contrast to the cruelty she had faced. Mr. Ryder's gentleness, symbolized by his calming presence and caring actions, offered a glimmer of kindness in an otherwise bleak existence for Ginger.

Mr. Ryder criticizes Samson's harsh methods, emphasizing that poor temper in a man cannot breed good temper in a horse, hinting at a deeper philosophy regarding the treatment of animals. The chapter highlights themes of empathy, the impact of early experiences, and the stark difference in animal behavior as a result of kindness versus cruelty. Through Ginger's tale, the novel continues to explore the broader implications of human actions on animals, advocating for a compassionate approach to animal handling and care.

08 Ginger's Story Continued

In the chapter "Ginger's Story Continued" from the novel "Black Beauty," Ginger shares her distressing experiences at her first place of residence with Beauty. After her initial training, Ginger was sold to match another chestnut horse by a dealer, which led to her being purchased by a fashionable gentleman. This new environment introduced her to the torturous use of a tight check-rein, aimed at enhancing her appearance by forcing her to hold her head high for extended periods. This unnatural posture caused her significant physical discomfort and frustration, exacerbated by the sharp bits that injured her mouth and jaw.

Ginger's recollections emphasize the lack of empathy and understanding from her owners, who prioritized aesthetics over the well-being of their horses. Her attempts to communicate her discomfort were met with punishment rather than attention to her needs. Ginger describes her increasing restlessness and irritation, culminating in a defiant act of resistance that led to her being sold at Tattersall's. Despite her handsome appearance and good paces, her behavior, deemed vice-filled due to her defiance, could not warrant her a stable home.

Her subsequent ownerships didn't improve her circumstances. One dealer, recognizing her spirited nature, attempted various bits before selling her to a gentleman in the country without a check-rein, deeming her a "perfectly quiet" horse. However, the arrival of a new, harsh groom at this gentleman's estate reignited the cycle of abuse and misunderstanding, forcing Ginger to defend herself aggressively, resulting in another sale.

Ginger's narrative concludes with a philosophical reflection on her life and the hard-earned mistrust towards humans, shaped by her traumatic experiences. Despite recognizing a different treatment in her current place, she remains wary of humans, expressing a resigned acceptance of her defensive stance towards them. Her story is a

poignant reminder of the consequences of prioritizing vanity and control over empathy and understanding in the treatment of animals.



09 Merry legs

In Chapter 9 of "Black Beauty," Merrylegs, a small, gentle, and wise pony, provides insight into his interactions with the young children of Mr. Blomefield, the vicar, and their families. The children, comprising Miss Jessie, Flora, two boys older than them, and several younger ones, would often visit, spending hours riding Merrylegs around the orchard and home paddock. One particular afternoon, after an extended period of play, James, presumably a stable hand, noticed Merrylegs' exhausted state upon his return. Merrylegs reveals to Black Beauty, the titular character and narrator, that he had to teach the boys a lesson on respect and boundaries through gently unseating them when they became too rough or failed to recognize when both he and they had tired. He emphasizes his care and responsibility towards the children, particularly underlining his protective nature towards the young girls and his methodical, patient approach in introducing the young ones to riding.

Merrylegs details how, unlike with the gentle girls, he had to assertively educate the boys on understanding a pony's limits. He patiently tolerated their initial roughness, understanding their ignorance rather than malice, but ultimately resorted to showing them his boundaries by unseating them softly, ensuring his message was clear without resorting to harmful measures. Upon the boys conveying this to James, it's implied that James understood Merrylegs' actions as necessary, reflecting on the inappropriateness of the boys' rough treatment.

Ginger, another horse, suggests a more confrontational approach, but Merrylegs shares his philosophy of remaining gentle and trustworthy, valuing the kindness and trust bestowed upon him by his human caregivers. He recounts the master's praises of his temperament and reliability, emphasizing the mutual respect and love between him and the family. Merrylegs' tale concludes with a reaffirmation of his loyalty and his understanding of how kindness and good treatment contribute to a well-behaved and

content animal, encapsulating the chapter's themes of empathy, responsibility, and the impact of kindness.



10 A Talk in the Orchard

In Chapter 10 of "Black Beauty," we delve into the conversations among the horses: Black Beauty, Ginger, Sir Oliver, Merrylegs, and Justice. The chapter starts with Black Beauty and Ginger reflecting on their breed and the pleasure they find in carrying their riders during riding parties. They discuss the comfort a light hand on the reins brings to a horse, emphasizing the sensitivity of a horse's mouth and how gentle guidance is much preferred to harsh handling.

The narrative then shifts to a poignant conversation in the orchard, where Sir Oliver reveals the cruel practice that led to his short tail. He explains it was not an accident but a deliberate, painful act of fashion that also made it impossible for him to swat flies away, highlighting the lifelong impact of human vanity on animals. This revelation stirs a bitter sentiment in Black Beauty towards humans and leads to a broader critique of human practices that disfigure and torment animals for the sake of fashion, such as docking dogs' tails and cropping their ears.

The chapter then weaves into a discourse on the use of blinkers on horses, with varying opinions among the horses. Justice explains that blinkers are meant to prevent horses from shying, but also notes that they are mainly used because of fashion, pointing out that horses do not need them to focus and might actually benefit from a full range of vision, especially at night. This is illustrated through the recounting of accidents that could have been avoided if horses were not partly blinded by blinkers.

Throughout the chapter, the narrative is a profound exploration of the relationship between humans and animals, particularly focusing on the unnecessary and often harmful practices imposed on animals for human vanity. It questions the rationale behind such practices, highlighting the intelligence and capabilities of animals if left unhampered by human intervention. The conversations bring to light the importance of kindness, understanding, and the natural harmony that should exist between

humans and the animals under their care.



11 Plain Speaking

At Birtwick, the sense of pride and happiness within Black Beauty only grew with time, owing largely to the respect and love the master and mistress commanded among all living beings, not just humans. Their kindness extended to animals of all sorts, ensuring no creature suffered under their watch. Notably, their influence inspired a culture of compassion, leading to a significant reduction in the use of check-reins on cart horses within their community, a cause the mistress actively advocated against through gentle persuasion.

The story delves into the mistress's unmatched efficacy in advocating for the welfare of animals, a sentiment echoed by our narrator who wishes all individuals shared her empathy. A particular incident involving a man named Sawyer and his rough treatment of a bay pony highlights the master's firm yet reasoned stance on animal cruelty. Witnessing Sawyer's harsh disciplining of the pony, the master confronts him, emphasizing the importance of treating animals with respect and cautioning him about the moral implications of his actions.

Further, an encounter with Captain Langley showcases a polite yet candid critique of the use of check-reins, drawing a parallel to military discipline misplaced in the treatment of horses. This conversation subtly underscores the master's commitment to animal welfare and his willingness to address such issues regardless of the social standing of his interlocutor.

Through these vignettes, the chapter not only accentuates the moral fiber of the main human characters but also serves as a critique of common practices deemed cruel towards animals. The narrative, rich in moral conviction, seamlessly blends advocacy for animal rights with a reflection on human character and ethics.

12 A Stormy Day

In Chapter 12, "A Stormy Day," of "Black Beauty," a journey taken by the narrator, an elegant horse named Black Beauty, along with his master and John, the coachman, becomes an adventure marked by the forces of nature. Setting out on a business trip in autumn, the party enjoys the crispness of the season despite recent rains that have left the landscape soaked and the river swollen. The lightness of the dog-cart and the high spirits of the travelers are soon challenged by the elements.

As they cross the countryside, the narrative vividly details the changing scenery—the toll-bar, a low wooden bridge, and the rising river that nearly meets the woodwork of the bridge. Warned by the toll-gate keeper of the worsening conditions, they boldly continue, navigating flooded meadows and roads where water reaches Black Beauty's knees. After accomplishing the master's business in town and setting off late, they face a significantly fiercer storm. The atmosphere turns ominous as they skirt a wood, branches thrashing violently in the wind, until an oak tree spectacularly crashes down across their path, narrowly missing them.

Faced with no alternative, they turn back, taking a lengthy detour towards a wooden bridge now obscured by darkness and enveloped by high waters. Black Beauty, sensing danger, refuses to cross the compromised bridge, halting despite the urging and the whip of his master. John's examination and an alarmed warning from the toll-gate keeper confirm the horse's instincts: the bridge is indeed broken. The trio then reroutes along the river side, saved from a perilous end by Black Beauty's unerring judgment.

This chapter is a compelling testament to the bond between humans and animals, highlighting Black Beauty's keen senses, loyalty, and the inherent wisdom often overlooked by human counterparts. Through the storm's chaos, the narrative maintains a coherent and detailed account of their journey, blending apprehension

with a deep-rooted connection to the natural world. The chapter closes on a reflective note, acknowledging both the peril narrowly avoided and the silent communion between horse, master, and nature itself.



13 The Devil's Trade Mark

In "The Devil's Trade Mark," from "Black Beauty," the narrative unfolds as John and Black Beauty, after attending to their master's business, witness a troubling scene. A young boy, later identified as Mr. Bushby's son, is brutally trying to coerce a pony into jumping over a gate. The pony, resistant and distressed by the boy's harsh treatment—whipping, kicking, and striking—ultimately rebels, catapulting the boy into a thorn hedge and then fleeing home. John, finding slight amusement in the boy's misfortune, opts not to assist him, considering the ordeal a just repercussion for the boy's cruelty.

Upon nearing Mr. Bushby's farm, Mr. Bushby and his wife, anxious and frightened, inquire about their son. John recounts the episode to Mr. Bushby, condemning the boy's vile treatment towards the pony and subtly advocating for the welfare and respectful treatment of animals. Mr. Bushby, taking heed of John's account, recognizes the urgency to reprimand his son's behavior—a recurring issue—not just for the safety of the pony but to instill a lesson in empathy and responsibility in his son.

Mr. Bushby's resolve to discipline his son, coupled with John's and the house groom James's discourse over the incident and past instances of the boy's superiority complex and cruelty, underscores a broader societal repulsion towards inhumane acts. It brings to light issues of animal abuse, the importance of empathy, and the consequences of unchecked aggression in youths. The chapter concludes with a reflection on past admonishments against cruelty, emphasizing its recognition as both a moral failing and a societal concern.

This segment of "Black Beauty" serves not only as a caution against the maltreatment of the vulnerable but as a narrative championing the virtues of kindness, justice, and the moral growth arising from facing the consequences of one's actions. It sharply criticizes not only the act of cruelty itself but the broader implications it has on moral

character, marking such behavior as fundamentally unjust and socially reprehensible.



14 James Howard

In the early morning of December, after completing his exercise, Black Beauty is being cared for by John when their master, holding a letter, enters the stable with inquiries about James Howard, a young assistant. The master questions John about James's work ethic and behavior, to which John replies with high praise, asserting James's reliability, industriousness, and honesty. John strongly defends James's character against any insinuation of misconduct, expressing his complete trust in James's dealings with the horses and commending his exceptional abilities.

The master, smiling at John's commendations, turns to James to discuss an opportunity presented by his brother-in-law, Sir Clifford Williams of Clifford Hall. He seeks a trustworthy and capable young groom for his estate. Sir Clifford's long-serving coachman is nearing retirement, and he desires a younger replacement to learn and eventually take over. The position offers eighteen shillings a week, lodgings, and uniforms, assuring a promising start for the chosen candidate.

Despite expressing reluctance to part with James, the master acknowledges the opportunity's value for James's future. John supports James's potential candidacy, highlighting his strength, maturity, and skillful handling of horses, despite his youth. The master advises James to consider the offer and discuss it with his mother.

James's impending departure to Clifford Hall is decided after a brief deliberation period, with plans for him to leave within the month or six weeks, depending on his current master's convenience. In preparation, James is to gain as much driving practice as possible, leading to the carriage being used more frequently than ever. This decision marks a significant turn in James's career, promising advancement and stability under the tutelage of a respected master like Sir Clifford, validating the trust and confidence placed in him by John and his current employer.

15 The Old Hostler

The fifteenth chapter of "Black Beauty," titled "The Old Hostler," narrates the journey of Black Beauty, his master, mistress, and James the driver, to visit friends forty-six miles away from their home. The first day covered thirty-two miles, featuring long and heavy hills which James navigates with care, ensuring the comfort and welfare of the horses through thoughtful driving techniques and consideration of their needs.

Upon arriving at their destination for the night, a principal hotel in the market-place, they are greeted by two hostlers tasked with tending to the horses. The head hostler, described as a pleasant, active little man with a distinct crooked leg and a yellow-striped waistcoat, displays exceptional skill and speed in removing the harness and tending to the horses, impressing all with his efficiency and the kind regard he shows the animals. His prowess reflects his extensive experience with horses, ranging from hunting and racing stables to his time as a jockey, which was cut short by an injury. Yet, his passion for horses undiminished, he found a new path in working at hotels, delighting in the handling of well-cared-for horses.

This chapter not only delves into the technical aspects of horse care and the implications of human actions on animal welfare but also touches on themes of resilience, adaptation, and the intrinsic reward found in work that aligns with one's passion. The old hostler's philosophy on the treatment of horses—as beings that reflect the care they have received—mirrors broader notions of nurturing and respect for all living creatures. His interaction with James brings about a mutual respect formed around shared values and the understanding that the way one treats animals speaks volumes about their character.

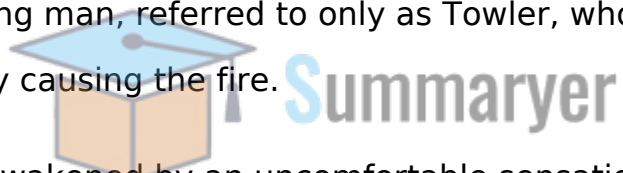
The chapter concludes with a brief discussion between James and the old hostler about Squire Gordon, Black Beauty's master, establishing a connection through recognitions of reputations and shared tragedies, such as the death of Squire Gordon's young

master. This conversation not only serves to flesh out the backstory and relationships between characters but also reinforces the theme of the impact of loss and memory.



16 The Fire

During one evening at the stable, a traveler's horse was brought in, leading to a series of events that endangered all the horses, including Black Beauty. As the night progressed, an unnoticed danger began to unfold — the stable caught fire. This was prompted by a young man, referred to only as Towler, who negligently entered the loft with a lit pipe, likely causing the fire.



Black Beauty was awakened by an uncomfortable sensation, soon realizing the stable was filled with thick, suffocating smoke, signaling a fire had ignited. Panic ensued among the horses, compounded by the confusion and fear exhibited by the hostlers trying to lead the horses out of the burning stable. The situation worsened as the fire engine hastily arrived, indicating the severity of the flames engulfing the stable's roof.

James Howard, the stable boy, demonstrated remarkable bravery amidst the chaos. He meticulously led the horses out one by one, saving them from the encroaching flames. Each horse was led to safety with careful guidance, despite the perilous conditions. Black Beauty highlighted James's calm demeanor and his effective method of using a scarf to cover their eyes, easing their journey out of the stable. Ginger, another horse, acknowledged that hearing Black Beauty's whinny from outside gave her the courage to follow through the smoke.

The aftermath of the fire was a blend of relief and sadness. While James, Black Beauty, and Ginger managed to escape, the cries of the horses left behind haunted those who fled. The owner's pride in James's heroism was evident the following morning, though the devastation of the fire lingered in their hearts. The investigation into the fire's cause pointed towards Towler's carelessness with his pipe, sparking discussions on safety and negligence.

This chapter not only depicts a gripping tale of survival and courage but also highlights the bond between humans and animals, especially in times of crisis. The calm leadership of humans like James Howard and the trust placed in them by the animals underscore a poignant narrative of rescue and resilience.



17 John Manly's Talk

Chapter 17 of "Black Beauty," titled "John Manly's Talk," reveals a pivotal moment of change and reflection amongst the characters. The setting transitions smoothly from a brief pit stop back to the comfort of home, demonstrating the stable relationships between horses and humans. James's concern about his replacement, the youthful Joe Green, sets the stage for a deeper conversation about trust, growth, and kindness.

John Manly, a figure of steadfastness and wisdom, emerges as a mentor, not just to Joe but also to James, imparting lessons of hard work, compassion, and the significance of extending kindness without expecting anything in return. His backstory, marked by the losses of his parents and subsequently taking responsibility for his crippled sister, Nelly, provides a rich narrative of his character's development through benevolence and the supportive community around him. This history explains his open-hearted approach to Joe Green's appointment, advocating for giving the boy a chance out of a desire to repay the kindness he once received.

James, on the verge of departure, expresses his apprehension towards leaving behind everything familiar, highlighting a universal theme of facing the unknown. The emotional weight of this transition is felt not only by James but by all those around him, including Merrylegs, the horse, underscoring the deep bonds formed within this intertwined community of humans and animals.

Joe Green's introduction as James's successor is met with mixed feelings, reflecting on themes of potential and the challenges of youth stepping into roles that require growth and responsibility. His eagerness to learn and adapt, guided by the patient teachings of John and supported by his own father, stirs hope for his development into a competent caretaker of the stables.

John's philosophy, contrasting sharply with selfish individualism, promotes a vision of collective care and responsibility, enhancing the narrative's moral undertone. This chapter, replete with themes of change, mentorship, and communal support, underscores the resilience of characters to adapt and thrive amidst transitions, all while preserving the bonds that unite them. Through the lens of a stable's daily rhythms, Anna Sewell encapsulates life's broader lessons, making "John Manly's Talk" a chapter rich in character development and thematic depth.



18 Going for the Doctor

In the chapter titled "Going for the Doctor" from "Black Beauty," the narrative embarks on a tense midnight mission to fetch a doctor for Mrs. Gordon, who falls severely ill. The urgency is palpable as John, the trusted stable hand, is roused from his sleep by the stable bell's clamor, signaling the need for immediate action. With efficiency and speed, John prepares Black Beauty, the eponymous horse, for an expedited journey to Dr. White's residence. The squire's instructions are clear: ride swiftly and return as quickly as possible with the doctor to potentially save Mrs. Gordon's life.

As Beauty recounts the journey, the reader is transported through the quiet of the night, racing against time through the village, woodland, and open roads. Beauty, spurred not by the whip but by loyalty and an understanding of the situation's gravity, gallops with unmatched speed and endurance. The journey's urgency and the horse's eagerness to perform well are highlighted through the depiction of the moonlit path, the frosty air, and the solitude of their rapid passage through sleeping towns.

Upon arriving at Dr. White's, the exchange between John and the doctor underscores the dire situation back at the estate. The doctor faces a predicament: his horses are unavailable, prompting a decision to use Black Beauty for the return journey despite the exhaustion from the initial ride. The sense of communal effort to avert a crisis is evident as everyone involved prioritizes Mrs. Gordon's well-being over their convenience or protocol.

The chapter not only showcases the deep bond between humans and animals and their mutual reliance in times of emergency but also captures the essence of duty and courage. Black Beauty's unwavering spirit and dedication are vividly portrayed, emphasizing the noble characteristics often attributed to horses and the profound connections they share with their human counterparts.

As they return to the estate, the toll of the journey on Black Beauty is apparent. Yet, the horse's determination and resilience shine through, highlighting themes of loyalty, perseverance, and the critical role animals play in human lives. This chapter not only advances the narrative but also enriches the reader's understanding of the characters' values and the societal expectations of the period.



19 Only Ignorance

In the chapter titled "Only Ignorance" from "Black Beauty," the reader is presented with an intimate glimpse into the convalescence of Black Beauty following a serious illness. Under the watchful care of Mr. Bond, the horse-doctor, and John, Beauty recounts the fragile state of his health, expressing the depths of his weakness especially after an episode where he was bled, leaving him faint and contemplating death. Moved to a quieter stable for recovery, away from his stablemates Ginger and Merrylegs, Beauty's heightened sensitivity due to his fever allows him to catch every sound and be keenly aware of the activities around him, signifying his connection to his surroundings even in sickness.

One poignant night, John and Thomas Green, another stable hand, stay beside Beauty to monitor the effects of a medicine. As they sit quietly in the darkness, the conversation shifts towards Joe, a boy whose spirits are crushed under the weight of guilt, blaming himself for Beauty's condition. Tom pleads with John to offer Joe words of comfort, highlighting the boy's despair despite his good intentions. John, though initially resistant due to his own deep attachment and concern for Beauty's well-being, acknowledges Joe's innocence in the matter and consents to speak kindly to him, provided there is an improvement in Beauty's condition.

The dialogue between John and Tom Green unfolds gently, reflecting the underlying themes of compassion and understanding amidst the harsh realities faced within their world. The chapter not only explores the interactions and bond between the characters but also delves into the emotional landscapes experienced by those who care deeply for these magnificent creatures. The conversation serves as a reminder of the importance of empathy and support, illustrating the idea that ignorance, not malice, leads to unfortunate incidents, and stressing the need for forgiveness and reassurance among the humans who share their lives with these horses. This narrative slice of

"Black Beauty" emphasizes the novel's overall focus on the welfare and treatment of animals, as well as the human emotions and relationships that orbit the world of these sentient beings.



20 Joe Green

In this chapter of "Black Beauty," a young boy named Joe encounters a distressing scene at Mr. Clay's brick-yard, where he witnesses a man brutally flogging two horses. Driven by a heartfelt compassion and urgency, Joe approaches Mr. Clay to intervene on the horses' behalf, offering evidence against the cruel handler if necessary. This episode not only highlights Joe's inherent kindness but also his courage in standing against animal cruelty, a theme central to the narrative.

Mr. Clay's immediate response, rushing to address the cruelty, underscores the gravity with which the community views such offenses, reinforcing the societal expectation of kindness towards animals. Joe's emotional agitation is palpable, contrasting sharply with his usual demeanor, thus emphasizing the impactful nature of the incident on his young mind. It's evident that Joe's actions stem from a deep sense of justice and empathy, qualities that are recognized and appreciated by John, another stable worker, affirming the moral correctness of intervening in instances of cruelty.

John's support and affirmation of Joe's actions further illustrates the ethical standing of the stable workers, positioning them as moral compasses within the story. Their conversation also serves to articulate a message that goes beyond the immediate context, advocating for a communal responsibility to combat oppression and cruelty wherever it's found. This encounter not only catalyzes a moment of personal growth for Joe but also positions him as a protagonist in the eyes of the reader, aligning our sympathies and rooting the narrative in a strong moral foundation.

As the chapter progresses, the transition from Joe's initial distressed state to a resolved determination to bring the perpetrator to justice showcases his growth from a bystander to an active advocate for justice. The invitation from the master to provide evidence further elevates the importance of standing up against cruelty, making it

clear that Joe's voice and actions are pivotal. The anticipation and pride Joe experiences upon being called to testify highlight the societal mechanisms in place for protecting animals and the significant role individuals play within that system.

In summary, this chapter vividly portrays the emotional and moral journey of a young boy taking a stand against animal cruelty, reflecting broader themes of justice, empathy, and communal responsibility. These elements are woven together to not only advance the plot but to deepen our understanding of the characters' values and the ethical messages central to "Black Beauty."



21 The Parting

In Chapter 21 of "Black Beauty," titled "The Parting," a bittersweet transition unfolds, marking the end of several years of happiness for the protagonist and his companions. The mistress's illness necessitates a move to a warmer climate for her recovery, setting in motion a series of farewells and relocations for the household and the horses alike. Black Beauty narrates the emotional toll this change takes on both the humans and animals involved with a poignancy that reflects the close bonds formed.

The chapter begins with the ominous news that the mistress's declining health requires her to relocate, prompting the master to disband his English establishment. This news casts a shadow over the entire household, with the stable being no exception, as the usually vibrant atmosphere turns somber with the impending separations. The departure of Miss Jessie and Flora along with their governess marks the onset of farewells, during which the emotional bonds between the horses and their human friends are poignantly highlighted, especially in the case of Merrylegs, who is given to the vicar under the condition of a merciful end to his life when the time comes.

Black Beauty and Ginger are sold to the Earl of W----, a decision made by the master with the confidence that they would be well cared for. Meanwhile, Merrylegs' future is secured with Joe's appointment to look after him, and John, the trusted coachman, contemplates a future working with colts and horse training, a career path commended by the master who offers his support.

The chapter reaches its emotional climax as the master and mistress prepare to leave, with the servants and villagers expressing their sorrow and well-wishes. The master's careful handling of his ailing wife and the subdued departure from their home highlight the depth of their relationship and the respect the servants hold for them. John's

reluctance to speak his farewells, perhaps choked by emotion, underscores the strong but silent bonds of loyalty and affection that define the human and animal relationships in the story.

In summarizing, Chapter 21 encapsulates a poignant moment of transition and parting, emphasizing themes of change, loyalty, and the deep connections between humans and animals. It sets the stage for the next phase in Black Beauty's life while granting a dignified closure to this chapter of his journey.



Summaryer

22 Earlshall

Earlshall Park, under the new management of Mr. York, marked a significant transition for Ginger and me. Having been brought over by John from our previous residence, we were introduced into a grand yet entirely different environment. The estate, belonging to the Earl of W---, was expansive, adorned with a fine house and vast stabling facilities. Upon arrival, we were taken care of in airy stables, a comfort albeit temporary, as we soon learned of the impending changes to our accustomed routines.

Mr. York, the estate's coachman, presented himself as a commanding figure, evidently accustomed to obedience but also exhibiting a veneer of courtesy. During his conversation with John, it was highlighted that although Ginger and I were deemed faultless in physical attributes, attention to our distinct personalities and past experiences was crucial for our wellbeing. John's heartfelt briefing to Mr. York underscored our histories – my unwavering temperament versus Ginger's recovery from past mistreatment. Additionally, John's mention of our unused to check-reins and the potential distress the adjustment could cause echoed a foreboding of change.

Our assimilation into Earlshall's routine began with trepidation, especially as the use of check-reins was mandated by the lady of the manor, emphasizing stylistic presentations over equine comfort. This new requirement, alongside the demand for an immediate adaptation to higher head positions, directly conflicted with John's gentle and gradual approach that had been our norm. The Earl, while initially deferential to our previous caretaker's insights, ultimately sided with the demands of presentation dictated by his wife.

This transition, accentuated by our initial outing under these new conditions, vividly illustrated the manor's prioritization of appearance over animal welfare. My personal discomfort, alongside Ginger's forewarned intolerance to such treatments, highlighted

the juxtaposition between our past environment's empathy and Earlshall's aesthetic rigidity. The stark warning from Ginger about her limits of tolerance underscored a looming tension, as our adaptation to Earlshall's standards was marred by the imposition of physically and emotionally taxing expectations.

In essence, our arrival and subsequent experiences at Earlshall encapsulated the challenges of adapting to an environment where tradition and appearance overshadowed the nuanced needs of its animal residents. This transition was not just a physical relocation but a significant emotional and psychological adjustment to a setting where the inherent value and comfort of the equine residents were secondary to the demands of societal appearance.

24 The Lady Anne, or a Runaway Horse

In the opening of spring, Lord W---- and his family, including York, journeyed to London, leaving behind the horses, including the narrator (Black Beauty) and Ginger, under the care of the head groom and the remaining family members. Among those left at the hall was the Lady Anne, an adept and passionate horse rider, who favored Black Beauty, naming him "Black Auster," for her rides. The narrative also introduces a gentleman, Blantyre, and another horse, Lizzie, known for her lively spirit but expressed nervousness.

One day, Lady Anne decides to swap horses, taking Lizzie out for a ride, against Blantyre's advice due to Lizzie's nervous disposition. Despite Blantyre's protests, Lady Anne, confident in her riding skills, proceeds with the decision. As Blantyre leaves to run an errand at Lady Anne's request, a sudden disturbance involving young colts spooks Lizzie, causing her to bolt. Despite Lady Anne's efforts to control her, the situation escalates, prompting a distressed Black Beauty to alert Blantyre upon his return.

Blantyre, riding Black Beauty, pursues the runaway Lizzie in a frantic attempt to rescue Lady Anne. After navigating various obstacles and receiving directions from bystanders, they witness Lizzie's fall, resulting in Lady Anne being thrown and lying motionless. While Blantyre attends to her, sending a passerby for medical help and assistance from the hall, the strong bond and concern for Lady Anne are highlighted through the urgent responses and actions of those involved.

The chapter closes with Black Beauty reflecting on the chaotic event, emphasizing the serious consequences of underestimated risks and the unwavering commitment of those around Lady Anne to her safety, embodying themes of trust, responsibility, and the profound connections between humans and horses.

25 Reuben Smith

Chapter 25 of "Black Beauty" introduces us to Reuben Smith, a highly skilled and knowledgeable stable hand at Black Beauty's residence, who took charge during York's absence in London. Reuben was exceptional in his understanding and treatment of horses, combining gentleness with expertise gained from his time spent with a veterinary surgeon. His abilities in driving, from four-in-hand to tandems, were unparalleled, and his amiable nature and good looks made him well-liked among his peers and the horses under his care.

Despite his talents, Reuben had a significant flaw—a penchant for alcohol. His sporadic drinking sprees disrupted his otherwise steady and commendable performance, causing trouble for himself, his family, and those dependent on his work. His consumption led to unsafe situations, including a notable incident where, due to intoxication, he was unable to control the horses while driving a carriage, resulting in his dismissal.

Nevertheless, his indispensable skills and the intercession of York saw him reinstated, under the promise of abstaining from alcohol— a vow he successfully kept for a period, leading to a provisional trust in his capabilities during York's absence.

The narrative progresses to Reuben's involvement in driving Colonel Blantyre to the station, demonstrating his continued reliability and the trust placed in him. This responsibility signifies a provisional redemption and trust, with Reuben cautioning against the mistreatment of Black Beauty and ensuring his well-being.

However, his old habits resurface disastrously. Despite his initial responsible behavior, Reuben's choice to delay his departure due to a reunion with old friends leads to reckless decisions, neglecting a loose shoe on Black Beauty, and subsequently choosing to ride at hazardous speeds on a rough, newly-stoned road. His impaired

judgment and disregard for the well-being of both Black Beauty and himself highlight his struggle with alcohol, overshadowing his professional skills and personal commitments.

This chapter poignantly explores themes of talent and responsibility marred by personal demons, illustrating the consequences of Reuben's actions not only on his career but also on the safety and trust of those around him.



26 How it Ended

In the dead of night, Black Beauty hears the distant sound of a horse's hooves, growing clearer and nearer, indicating someone might be coming to find them. The noise, recognizable as Ginger's steps attached to a dog-cart, brings hope. As the cart approaches, Black Beauty neighs and receives a response from Ginger, accompanied by men's voices. They discover Reuben, prone and unresponsive on the ground, later pronounced dead with noticeable coldness and blood-soaked hair, suggesting a severe injury.

The men deduce that Black Beauty, showing visible injuries and a damaged hoof, must have fallen, causing Reuben's fatal accident. Despite the initial surprise at Black Beauty's fall, speculations arise about Reuben's judgment, implying he might have been under the influence, endangering both himself and the horse. Concerns for Reuben's wife, Susan, who appeared anxious and pale, are expressed, reflecting apprehensions about her reaction to the tragic news.

Robert, the groom, undertakes the responsibility of leading the injured Black Beauty home, while Ned handles the somber task of transporting Reuben's body. Difficulties in managing Ginger and Black Beauty under such dire circumstances are noted, showcasing Ginger's unusual calmness. The return journey is marked by Robert's care in treating Black Beauty's wounds with makeshift remedies, highlighting a poignant mix of compassion amidst the tragedy.

The aftermath deals with the treatment of Black Beauty's injuries, involving a long and painful recovery marked by efforts to heal and restore, albeit with permanent blemishes. An inquest into Reuben's death brings to light his intoxicated state, corroborating the purported cause of the mishap through testimonies and the loss of Black Beauty's shoe.

This chapter encapsulates a tragic event, underscored by the themes of responsibility, the consequences of actions under the influence, and the enduring bond between horses and their keepers amidst adversity.



27 Ruined and Going Downhill

In chapter 27 of "Black Beauty," Beauty narrates his experience of recovery and reuniting with his friend Ginger after both had suffered due to the negligence and ill-treatment of their riders. After Beauty's knees healed, he was turned into a meadow alone, where he felt the pangs of loneliness until Ginger joined him, also in recovery after being pushed too hard in a race by Lord George. Ginger and Beauty shared their grievances, reflecting on how their prime years were marred by a drunkard and a fool, respectively. Despite their physical limitations, they found solace in each other's company, spending peaceful times under a lime tree.

The arrival of the earl and York marked a turning point, as they assessed Ginger and Beauty's condition. The Earl expressed regret over the state of the horses entrusted to his care, deciding to give Ginger a year's rest and determining that Beauty, due to his marred knees, should be sold. York, understanding Beauty's worth beyond his appearance, suggested a livery stable master in Bath who could appreciate a good horse. Following this decision, Beauty was separated from Ginger, with no opportunity for a proper farewell, and transported by train to his new home in Bath. This experience was new and initially frightening for Beauty, but he soon adapted. However, the stable in Bath, though reasonably comfortable, lacked the pleasantness of his previous accommodations, as he had to endure a sloped stall that kept him in discomfort.

This chapter paints a poignant picture of the consequences that horses face due to human folly and the deep bonds of friendship that can form between animals. It also highlights the resilience of the equine spirit and the ongoing challenges of adapting to new circumstances.

28 A Job Horse and His Drivers

In "A Job Horse and His Drivers," from the novel "Black Beauty," the narrator, a horse named Black Beauty, recounts the various experiences of being driven by different kinds of drivers after becoming a "job horse," rented out to whoever wished to hire him. His gentle and good-tempered nature meant that he was often leased to inexperienced drivers, exposing him to an array of poor driving techniques.

Black Beauty first discusses drivers who keep the reins excessively tight, believing that control over the horse is achieved by restricting its movement. He critiques this approach, noting that it is both painful and counterproductive, particularly for horses like himself with sensitive mouths and the ability to be easily guided without such harshness.

He contrasts this with the loose-rein drivers, who offer too little guidance, risking safety by being unprepared for sudden incidents, such as the horse shying or stumbling. While Black Beauty personally did not mind this lax approach due to his steady demeanor, he recognizes the value of moderate control, especially in potentially hazardous situations like descending hills.

The horse also touches upon how different driving styles can instill bad habits in horses, which can be difficult and painful to correct. He recalls the wise practices of his former owner, Squire Gordon, who maintained that spoiling a horse by allowing it to develop poor habits was as cruel as spoiling a child, given both have to endure the consequences later.

Further illustrating the perils of negligent driving, Black Beauty recounts a particular incident with an inattentive driver who, while distracted by conversation, failed to notice a stone lodged in the horse's hoof. This oversight resulted in significant pain for Black Beauty and demonstrated the driver's lack of concern for the horse's wellbeing.

The incident underscores the importance of attentiveness and empathy in handling animals, contrasting sharply with the conscientious care provided by competent handlers like Mr. Gordon or John, who would have promptly addressed such an issue to prevent harm.

Overall, the chapter highlights the challenges and injustices faced by horses under human care, emphasizing the need for kindness, skill, and attentiveness in their treatment.



29 Cockneys

Chapter 29 of "Black Beauty" provides an insightful perspective on the experiences and challenges faced by horses under the care of different drivers. The chapter criticizes the steam-engine style of driving, predominantly adopted by cockney drivers from towns unfamiliar with the nuances of horse handling, treating horses like inanimate machines rather than sentient beings. These drivers, lacking experience and empathy, often push horses beyond their limits, disregarding road conditions, inclines, and the horses' well-being. They enforce relentless speeds, refuse to utilize brakes appropriately, causing strain and risking severe accidents.

Black Beauty recounts a distressing encounter involving his companion, Rory, and highlights the grave consequences of reckless driving. Rory suffers a terrible injury due to a collision caused by an inexperienced driver's haste and disregard for road safety, leading to his eventual sale for coal-carting—a fate lamenting for any horse due to the harsh conditions and relentless labor involved.

The narrative then shifts to introduce Peggy, another horse with whom Black Beauty shares company. Peggy, despite being strong and willing, is troubled by her short legs, which hinder her ability to maintain pace with faster horses, subjecting her to constant whipping and resulting in an awkward gait developed to keep up with unrealistic expectations. Her story reflects the plight of horses judged and mistreated for physical traits beyond their control, emphasizing the need for understanding and empathy from their human handlers.

Lastly, Black Beauty meets a young horse traumatized by frequent punishment for shying, rooted in fear rather than mischief. This segment sheds light on the detrimental effects of punishing horses for natural, fear-based reactions, advocating for patience and a gentle approach to help them acclimate to frightening stimuli.

Overall, Chapter 29 of "Black Beauty" serves as a powerful commentary on the humane treatment of horses, criticizing harsh and ignorant handling while advocating for patience, understanding, and empathy towards these noble creatures. It underscores the importance of matching a horse's duties with their capabilities and providing supportive, gentle guidance to foster trust and ensure mutual respect between horses and their guardians.



30 A Thief

In "A Thief," from "Black Beauty," the narrator, a horse, recounts his experience with a new master in Bath. This master, an unmarried businessman, buys Black Beauty for horseback riding upon his doctor's advice. He hires a stable and a man named Filcher to care for the horse. Initially, Beauty is well-provided for, with an abundance of quality food specified by the master. However, over time, Beauty notices a decrease in the oats provided, replaced increasingly by bran, which begins to affect his condition and spirit.

The narrative details how Beauty's well-being and appearance deteriorate due to Filcher's neglect and theft of the oats meant for him. Beauty's master, initially oblivious, is alerted to the issue during a visit to a friend, a gentleman farmer, who quickly notices Beauty's poor condition. This friend casts doubt on the care Beauty is receiving, leading to an investigation.

Despite Beauty's inability to speak and report the theft, the deceit is uncovered through the actions of a policeman, who, with a colleague, apprehends Filcher and his son after discovering stolen oats. The chapter highlights not only the vulnerability of animals to human actions but also the moral imperative for attentiveness and care from those who have charge over them.

This chapter encapsulates a pivotal moment in "Black Beauty," emphasizing the theme of animal welfare and the impact of human integrity—or the lack thereof—on the well-being of animals. Through this incident, Beauty's master learns a valuable lesson on vigilance and trust, marking a turning point in Beauty's life under his care. The chapter serves as a critique of human negligence and cruelty, showcased through Filcher's betrayal and the resultant deterioration of Beauty's health and spirit.

31 A Humbug

In the chapter titled "A Humbug," from "Black Beauty," we are introduced to Alfred Smirk, the newly appointed groom for Black Beauty, who is described as a tall, good-looking individual but ultimately revealed to be a fraud in terms of his grooming duties. Smirk is courteous towards Black Beauty, especially in the presence of his master, and ensures that the horse looks presentable by brushing its mane and tail and applying oil to its hoofs. However, his grooming is superficial, neglecting thorough cleaning, leaving Beauty's bit rusty, saddle damp, and crupper stiff.

Smirk is depicted as vain, spending much time on his personal appearance while adopting a servile attitude toward his master, which belies his laziness and conceit. Despite not mistreating Beauty, his negligence, particularly in cleaning Beauty's stall, leads to a foul-smelling stable, making Beauty's eyes smart and inflame and diminishing his appetite. When confronted by his master about the stable's odor, Smirk deflects responsibility by citing concerns about the horse's health if the stall were cleaned aggressively or suggesting that the drainage might be at fault.

The master, persuaded to address a potential drainage issue, hires a bricklayer, who after inspection concludes nothing is amiss. This misdirection fails to solve the underlying problem of the unhygienic conditions, which contribute to Beauty's deteriorating hoof health. The master notes Beauty's fumble-footedness, which Smirk attributes to exercise issues without acknowledging his own neglect in providing proper care or exercise. This negligence culminates in Beauty developing thrush, a condition diagnosed by a farrier called upon after Beauty stumbles significantly while carrying his master into the city. The farrier criticizes the poor stable conditions and instructs that Beauty be brought to him for proper treatment, shedding light on the critical neglect by Smirk.

This chapter showcases not only the importance of genuine care and knowledge in animal husbandry but also critiques superficiality and deceit, illustrating the adverse effects of neglect and the value of responsibility and integrity in care practices.



32 A Horse Fair

At a horse fair, a variety of horses gather, showcasing a range of conditions from prime, spirited breeds flaunting their paces, to the downtrodden and overworked creatures bearing the marks of hard labor. Among these, Black Beauty finds himself, reflecting on the potential of falling into such despair, reinforcing the somber reality faced by many horses. The fair is bustling, echoing with the negotiations and deceit that often accompany horse trading, where Beauty observes the multitude of human characters, discerning their natures through their treatment of horseflesh. Among the prospective buyers, one man stands out—a kind, efficient handler with a gentle demeanor which resonates with Beauty, offering a glimmer of hope amidst the uncertainty of the fair.

This man, exhibiting qualities of compassion and expertise in horse handling, initially offers twenty-three pounds for Beauty but is initially denied. Tension arises as negotiations progress, with the risk of Beauty falling into less empathetic hands looming, until the man returns, steadfast in his offer, ultimately succeeding with twenty-four pounds and ten shillings. This transaction marks the beginning of a new chapter for Beauty, as he is led away by his new owner, now on a path to a more hopeful future. The journey to London is portrayed with a vivid description of the bustling streets, eventually leading to a humble home where Beauty is warmly received by a family eager to welcome him. This transition from the uncertainty and competitiveness of the horse fair to the security of a caring home highlights the potential for renewal and kindness within the human spirit, offering Beauty, once again, a taste of compassionate care in a world that had shown him fluctuating fortunes.

33 A London Cab Horse

Jeremiah "Jerry" Barker becomes the new master of Black Beauty, alongside his warm and lively family comprising his wife Polly, their twelve-year-old boy Harry, and their eight-year-old daughter Dolly. The household's affection and happiness are unlike anything Black Beauty has experienced before. Jerry owns a cab and another horse named Captain, a noble, elderly horse with a distinguished military past, having served in the Crimean War.

On Black Beauty's first morning, Polly and Dolly warmly welcome him, offering treats and companionship, marking the beginning of a kind relationship. Harry, having assisted Jerry since dawn, praises Black Beauty's potential. Jerry decides to name Black Beauty "Jack" as an ode to a previous beloved horse, a decision warmly received by Polly, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a positive reputation.

Jerry has a considerate approach to horse care, emphasizing comfort and well-being, especially noticeable when preparing Black Beauty for his first outing in the cab. The chapter portrays a setting of mutual respect and kindness between the family and their horses, characterized by Polly's admiration for Black Beauty's appearance and Jerry's willingness to overlook the horse's past injuries, giving him the benefit of the doubt regarding the cause. This atmosphere of thoughtful care and familial love sets the stage for Black Beauty's new life under Jerry's stewardship, marking a significant and hopeful chapter in his life.

34 An Old War Horse

In Chapter 34 "An Old War Horse" of "Black Beauty," the narrative is shared from the perspective of Captain, a seasoned army horse. Initially thrilled with his military training, Captain finds solidarity and purpose in the disciplined life alongside his fellow equines and his first owner, a young cavalry officer bound for the Crimean War. He details the vigorous exercises of trotting, turning, halting, and dashing forward on command, cherishing the bond formed with his owner, who treated him with unmatched care and kindness.

However, Captain's recounting takes a somber turn as he describes the harrowing experience of being shipped overseas. The process, fraught with discomfort and fear due to the unfamiliar and confined conditions on the ship, profoundly impacts him, marking his first encounter with the dread he initially managed to evade even in battle. Despite these challenges, the camaraderie between the men and their horses provided some comfort amidst the adversities of war and unfamiliar terrain.

The essence of Captain's story lies in the depiction of warfare, which, despite its terror, was faced with courage and loyalty. The bond between a rider and his horse, built on trust and affection, emerges as a powerful force against the backdrop of conflict. Captain narrates his undaunted participation in numerous battles, undeterred by the chaos of cannonballs, the menace of bayonets, and the sight of fellow horses and soldiers falling. This courage, as Captain explains, was rooted in the unwavering confidence in his rider's leadership.

A pivotal moment comes as Captain recounts a tragic charge across a valley under intense enemy fire, where his master is fatally wounded. The profound trust and connection between Captain and his master are palpable as he attempts to slow down and remain by his fallen rider's side, only to be swept away by the charge. Left alone

on the battlefield, Captain finally experiences the gripping fear he had been spared until that fateful day.

This chapter poignantly captures the themes of loyalty, bravery, and the deep bonds forged in the crucible of war, as experienced by a noble war horse. Captain's reflections offer a stark yet moving insight into the realities of war, not just for the soldiers but for their steadfast animal companions as well.



35 Jerry Barker

Chapter 35 of "Black Beauty" presents an enriching account of Black Beauty's experiences with his new master, Jerry Barker, showcasing Jerry's principles, compassion, and the warm environment he fosters both for his family and his horses. Jerry, depicted as an epitome of kindness, morality, and joy, enriches the narrative with his life's simple but profound philosophies. The chapter opens with a tribute to Jerry's character, comparing his integrity and benevolence to that of John Manly, another character celebrated for his virtues.

Jerry's daily life is a testament to his belief in mutual support and timely responsibility, encapsulated in his favorite song about unity and helping one another. His household, including his children, Harry, Polly, and Dolly, actively participates in caring for the cab and horses, embodying a collective effort that brings laughter and positivity, in stark contrast to the scolding and hardships that often accompany labor.

One day, Jerry encounters two young men seeking a hurried ride to the Victoria station, offering extra money for fast-driving, a practice Jerry opposes on ethical grounds, highlighting his disapproval of exploiting horses for unnecessary urgency caused by human carelessness. His neighbor, Larry, takes the fare instead, illustrating a different set of values. This incident underscores Jerry's principled stand against rushing his horses, prioritizing their well-being over extra earnings.

Later, Jerry demonstrates his compassion and professional integrity when he aids a young man injured due to a fall, ensuring he reaches the South-Eastern Railway on time despite the heavy traffic and potential for delays within London. Jerry's expertise in navigating the city, coupled with his strong bond and mutual understanding with Black Beauty, enable them to successfully complete their mission, underscoring the efficiency and teamwork between horse and driver.

The chapter concludes with a reflection on the value of contentment over wealth, as Jerry, unfazed by his colleagues' jests about not taking the extra fare offered, revels in the satisfaction of helping others and sticking to his principles. His attitude towards material wealth and the emphasis on happiness and ethical living impart significant moral lessons, making this chapter a rich narrative of character development and moral fiber, presented through the experiences of a devoted cab driver and his noble steed.



Summaryer

36 The Sunday Cab

In "The Sunday Cab," Jerry Barker, a conscientious cab driver, and his horse Black Beauty are approached by Mr. Briggs, desiring to hire Jerry for Sunday church services. Jerry courteously declines, explaining his license only permits working six days a week. His refusal is rooted deeper than legalities; previously enduring the grueling seven-day work schedule, Jerry shifted to a six-day license to ensure a day of rest for himself, his family, and his horses. Jerry values this day for spiritual rejuvenation and family time, principles he's unwilling to compromise even for lucrative offers.

Jerry's decision faces both support and skepticism within his community. Some colleagues label him foolish for passing up an affluent customer, while a few, including Truman, resonate with Jerry's stance on preserving Sundays for rest and worship, highlighting the broader societal debate on the sanctity of rest days.

Polly, Jerry's wife, staunchly supports his decision, reflecting on the harshness of their previous seven-day working life which deprived them of family and spiritual fulfillment. Together, they reminisce the hardships of their past, reaffirming their commitment to a balanced life over monetary gain. Despite the potential financial loss, as Mrs. Briggs ceases her patronage, the Barkers find solace in their principles.

Jerry's narrative encapsulates a wider discourse on the intersection of work, religion, and societal expectations. Through their steadfastness, the Barkers underscore the intrinsic value of rest, family, and faith, resisting external pressures to compromise their well-being for financial benefits. This chapter not only delves into personal ethics but also reflects on the essence of humane treatment towards oneself and animals, advocating for a life of integrity over profit.

37 The Golden Rule

Chapter 37 of "Black Beauty" titled "The Golden Rule" narrates a significant event where Jerry Barker, the kind cab driver, chooses compassion and community service over his and his horse's need for rest. The chapter begins in a light-toned setting with Polly, Jerry's wife, informing him that Mrs. Briggs, a former regular customer, requests his cab services again after trying and being dissatisfied with other cabs. Mrs. Briggs had ceased using Jerry's cab on Sundays, respecting his day of rest, but an unexpected situation arises that calls for Jerry's services on a Sunday.

Polly reveals to Jerry that Dinah Brown is in urgent need of transportation to visit her gravely ill mother in the countryside. The distance and Dinah's recent childbirth make it impossible for her to travel by train and walk the remainder of the way. Despite his initial reluctance due to the need for rest and the desire to keep his Sunday free from work, Jerry is moved by Polly's appeal to the Golden Rule—treating others as one would wish to be treated. Polly's persuasive argument highlights the moral weight of the decision, equating the act of helping Dinah to the religious principle of doing good on the Sabbath.

Polly's compassionate reasoning and Jerry's love for her and her values lead him to arrange for a lighter, more comfortable carriage than his usual cab, demonstrating his commitment to making the journey as smooth as possible for Dinah. They set off in a high-wheeled gig on a beautiful May day, with Jerry experiencing the freshness and peace of the countryside, reminiscent of his earlier days. The destination is a modest farmhouse nestled in a picturesque setting, where Jerry's thoughtful act of service is gracefully received.

This chapter beautifully encapsulates the essence of selflessness and kindness through the lens of everyday life. Jerry's decision, influenced by his wife's wise and gentle counsel, exemplifies the "Golden Rule" of empathy and benevolence, reinforcing the

narrative's overarching themes of morality, the importance of rest and the Sabbath, and the profound human-animal bond shared between Jerry and Black Beauty.



38 Dolly and a Real Gentleman

Winter brought harsh conditions for both horses and their drivers, with continuous snow, sleet, and rain making their work particularly tough. The severe weather took a toll on the horses, exacerbated when they had to pull heavy loads on slippery streets, struggling to maintain their balance. Drivers, especially those lacking means, faced their own hardships, often having to endure long hours in the cold, sometimes forsaking warmth for the chance of earning a fare. In stark contrast, Jerry managed to maintain his spirit through his wife Polly's support and his daughter Dolly's care, highlighting the importance of family and community during trying times.

Dolly, a beloved figure among the cabmen, frequently brought Jerry hot meals, showcasing resilience and warmth amidst the bleak winter. On one windy day, as Dolly delivered a hot meal to Jerry, a gentleman exhibited a rare kindness by insisting Jerry finish his meal while he waited in the cab, underscoring the gesture with genuine concern for Jerry and Dolly's wellbeing. This gentleman, appreciative of good treatment toward animals, often acknowledged Jerry's care for his horse, Black Beauty, a recognition seldom accorded by others.

One day, witnessing a carter brutally mistreating his horses, the gentleman intervened, threatening to report the carter's abusive behavior, demonstrating not just his compassion for animals but a broader commitment to justice and morality. His action prompted a conversation highlighting the impact of apathy and the importance of advocating for the voiceless and standing against wrongdoing in all its forms.

This narrative, centered on compassion, community, and the pursuit of justice, reflects on the capacity for kindness in a challenging world. Through the lens of a cab horse, the struggles and occasional triumphs of the less fortunate are explored, revealing the profound difference a single act of kindness can make. Jerry's story and the gentleman's interventions serve as a reminder of the enduring human capacity for

goodness amidst adversity.



39 Seedy Sam

In Chapter 39 of "Black Beauty," titled "Seedy Sam," the narrative highlights the harsh realities faced by cab horses and their drivers in Victorian England, underscoring the systemic issues of exploitation and poverty. The chapter presents a dialogue between Seedy Sam, a downtrodden cab driver, and the governor at the cab stand. Sam, worn and desperate, arrives with his beaten horse, drawing the attention and sympathy of the governor and bystanders.

Sam's monologue reveals the dire working conditions imposed on both cab drivers and their horses. Forced to lease horses from cab owners at steep prices, drivers like Sam find themselves ensnared in a relentless cycle of labor to cover their costs before they can earn anything for their families' sustenance. The narrative details Sam's grueling schedule, devoid of rest or time with his family, highlighting the systemic neglect and abuse stemming from financial desperation.

Sam challenges the prevailing norms that privilege the well-being of horses over the dire needs of their drivers, illustrating the moral ambiguity in a society that dictates humane treatment of animals while disregarding the human suffering underpinning that very industry. His poignant reflection on the cruel ironies of his existence—marked by long hours, insufficient earnings, and the impossibility of refusing to overwork horses for fear of personal and familial starvation—serves as a critique of the exploitative economic structures that reduce both man and beast to mere instruments of labor.

Through the lens of Seedy Sam's lived experience, this chapter paints a vivid picture of the struggles faced by the working poor, raising critical questions about morality, compassion, and justice in a society that often overlooks the human cost of its conveniences. The endorsement of Sam's views by his fellow drivers underscores a collective awareness and resignation to their shared plight, further emphasizing the

systemic nature of their exploitation.



Summaryer

40 Poor Ginger

In this poignant chapter titled "Poor Ginger" from "Black Beauty," we are reintroduced to Ginger, an old companion of Black Beauty, under severely deteriorated conditions. As Black Beauty relaxes, a shabby cab draws near, pulling along an old chestnut horse that appears severely neglected and physically diminished. The horse, initially unrecognizable due to her worn-out state, is revealed to be Ginger through a desperate interaction for a nibble of hay and a subsequent recognition.

Ginger's transformation is heart-wrenching. Once a vibrant and spirited horse, she is now a shadow of her former self, with physical ailments that hint at a life of relentless labor and inadequate care. Her glossy neck has lost its shine and strength, her once delicate legs are swollen, and her spirited face is now etched with suffering. amidst these observations, Ginger and Black Beauty manage to exchange words, revealing Ginger's tragic narrative since their separation.

Ginger recounts her journey post-Earlshall, drawing a picture of repeated sales and declining health. Initially sold to a gentleman, her condition briefly improved before the resurgence of old injuries led to her being passed between multiple owners, each time decreasing in quality and care. Eventually, Ginger finds herself owned by a man who uses her for lowly cab work, caring little for her wellbeing and seeing her only as an asset to be exploited until the end.

The chapter not only revisits the characters' connection but also starkly highlights the bleak outcomes for many working horses. Ginger's story is a testament to the harsh realities faced by animals subjected to continuous toil with little regard for their comfort or health. It underlines the theme of animal welfare and the importance of compassion and kindness towards all creatures, serving as a poignant reminder of the consequences of neglect and exploitation.

41 The Butcher

In the chapter titled "The Butcher" from "Black Beauty," the narrator, a horse, provides insights into the lives of horses in London, highlighting issues that could be mitigated with common sense and compassion. Despite being accustomed to hard work, the narrator reflects on how poor treatment affects horses, contrasting his past experiences under different owners. The text vividly describes the mistreatment of a little gray pony reminiscent of Merrylegs, a pony from the narrator's past, emphasizing the cruel realities many horses face due to harsh handling and overwork.

The narrative also delves into the particularly strenuous conditions faced by butchers' horses, illustrated through an incident observed by the narrator. A butcher's horse arrives exhausted and overheated, leading to a confrontation between a butcher and his son, the driver. The butcher criticizes his son for the horse's poor condition, warning him of the potential consequences of such negligence, including legal repercussions. The son defends himself, arguing he's merely following orders to meet the unreasonable and last-minute demands of customers. This exchange sheds light on the systemic pressures contributing to the mistreatment of horses, where the demands of business and customers inadvertently encourage harmful practices.

Furthermore, the chapter reflects on the varied relationships between young handlers and their horses. Contrary to the narrative of abuse, some boys are depicted as genuinely caring for their animals, likening these relationships to that between a pet and its owner. The narrator recounts observing a coster-boy and his pony, emphasizing the mutual affection and cooperation between them. This positive portrayal serves as a counterpoint to earlier descriptions of mistreatment, suggesting that with kindness and understanding, the wellbeing of working animals can be significantly improved.

Overall, "The Butcher" juxtaposes the harsh realities faced by many working horses against instances of compassion and mutual respect between animals and humans. It

calls attention to the impact of human actions and societal demands on animals, advocating for a more thoughtful and caring approach to animal welfare.



42 The Election

In "The Election," Jerry and his family face moral and social challenges amidst local political fervor. As the narrative unfolds, Jerry Barker, a principled cab driver, is approached with an offer that tests his ethics. He is asked to lend his cab and its services for the purpose of an election campaign, a proposition he staunchly declines. Jerry's refusal is rooted in a deep respect for his horses and a distaste for the demeaning errands associated with political canvassing, particularly the act of transporting inebriated voters. This decision also aligns with his broader stance on political engagement, as he opts not to support a candidate whose profession he morally opposes. Despite the candidate aligning with some of his political views, Jerry cannot in good conscience support someone whose wealth comes from a trade he deems harmful to the working class.

This chapter not only explores the theme of integrity in the face of societal pressures but also depicts a familial scenario where values are passed from parent to child. The incident involving Jerry's daughter, Dolly, becomes a catalyst for a teachable moment. Dolly is the victim of bullying by peers—an episode that resonates with the larger themes of the chapter, including standing up for one's beliefs and protecting those one cares about. Her brother, Harry, intervenes physically to defend his sister, prompting a nuanced response from Jerry. While he commends the protective instinct, it is clear Jerry advocates for a principled stance in both personal and public life.

Throughout, Anna Sewell maintains the distinct voice and moral compass of Jerry, ensuring the chapter reflects consistent themes of respect, moral integrity, and the importance of familial bonds. The narrative seamlessly integrates a critique of the political climate with personal virtue, illustrating how the ethics upheld by individuals can clash with societal expectations, thereby urging readers to consider the importance of conscience in both domestic and civic arenas.

43 A Friend in Need

Chapter 43 of "Black Beauty" titled "A Friend in Need" narrates a busy day for Jerry and the protagonist horse, Beauty, during an election. From the morning, there's no respite as they ferry passengers across London – from a stout gentleman to the Bishopsgate station, a party to Regent's Park, and a sequence of other customers with urgent destinations, including a dash to Bow Street Police Station. Amidst the election day chaos, involving throngs of people and vehicles adorned with party colors, Jerry ensures Beauty is nourished, displaying the bond and mutual respect between horse and master.

The narrative then shifts to a poignant encounter with a young mother carrying a sick child, seeking directions to St. Thomas' Hospital. Despite the election day frenzy and her insistence on walking to save money, Jerry, moved by her plight, offers a free ride, navigating through less crowded streets under worsening weather. His decision confronts and outsmarts two men who attempt to commandeer the cab, showcasing his clever resolve and compassion.

Upon reaching the hospital, the woman's gratitude underscores Jerry's kindness. The day's events continue as Jerry helps another passenger, recognized as Polly's former mistress, to Paddington Station amidst the rain. Their conversation reveals concerns for Jerry's health due to the demanding nature of cab work, hinting at the underlying hardships faced by working horses and their owners in late 19th-century London.

This chapter, rich in moral values and societal observations, provides an insightful look into human and animal experiences during a vibrant yet tumultuous election, illustrating themes of kindness, duty, and the bond between humans and animals.

44 Old Captain and His Successor

In Chapter 44 of "Black Beauty," narrated by the eponymous horse, we learn the tragic story of Captain, an old and trusted horse, and his replacement Hotspur. Captain, a noble and steadfast companion to Beauty and their driver Jerry, meets a cruel fate following a catastrophic accident caused by a drunk drayman. As Jerry and Captain return from a trip across London Bridge, a brewer's dray, helmed by the inebriated driver, collides with their cab. The collision is devastating—Captain is severely injured, the cab is destroyed, and Jerry is miraculously only bruised. The aftermath is grim, with Captain's injuries being beyond repair for continued work in Jerry's service. Jerry, preferring the well-being of Captain over financial gain, decides against selling him into likely hardship and misery, choosing a more compassionate end for the aged horse.

This event impacts Jerry deeply, not just financially but emotionally, highlighting the bond between horses and their keepers. Additionally, the accident spurs a thoughtful dialogue between Jerry and his employer about the perils of alcohol, a vice both men address with sincerity. Jerry, who has successfully battled his own demons, encourages his employer to do the same, emphasizing the importance of personal mastery.

The latter part of the chapter introduces Hotspur, a spirited young horse acquired by Jerry as Captain's successor. Despite his high energy and a past incident involving a collision, Jerry is optimistic about Hotspur's potential. Hotspur's background as a once-valued horse of a nobleman, only to be relegated to sell due to an unfortunate mishap, mirrors the underlying themes of redemption and resilience against societal and personal adversities.

The chapter poignantly illustrates the cruel fate many horses faced in Victorian England due to the carelessness of humans, while also shedding light on the deep connections formed between humans and their equine companions. The transition

from Captain to Hotspur also marks a new chapter for Jerry and Beauty, with promises of new challenges and adventures ahead, underscored by the foundational themes of compassion, understanding, and the quest for redemption.



45 Jerry's New Year

In "Jerry's New Year," the chapter from "Black Beauty" focuses on the harsh realities and the small joys experienced by Jerry, a cabman, his family, and his horse during the Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations. Despite the festive season, Jerry and his horse, possibly Black Beauty, face demanding work hours amidst the harsh winter weather, waiting for hours outside parties while their patrons enjoy the warmth inside.

On New Year's Eve, Jerry and his horse endure a particularly difficult night, waiting in the cold until after 1 AM for two gentlemen who show no remorse for the delay.

Exposed to the cutting sleet without shelter, Jerry struggles to keep warm, ultimately falling ill with a severe cough upon returning home. His wife, Polly, is depicted as caring and attentive, preparing warm meals for both Jerry and the horse to comfort them upon their late return.

The following days highlight the severity of Jerry's illness, identified as bronchitis, casting a shadow of concern and silence over their household. Their situation brightens with an unexpected gesture of community and kindness from Governor Grant, who offers to temporarily take Jerry's horse, Hotspur, to work, easing the financial strain on Jerry's family during his illness. This act of solidarity not only aids in sustaining the family but also relieves Harry, Jerry's son, from managing Hotspur's spirited nature single-handedly.

The chapter concludes with a turn towards hope. Jerry's condition improves, and through a letter from Mrs. Fowler, a former employer of Polly's, the family is presented with an opportunity to move to a cottage near her estate. This offers Jerry a less physically demanding job and promises a better future for the entire family. This chapter intricately weaves themes of hardship, family solidarity, community support, and hope, encapsulating the lives of those whose work often goes unnoticed during the holiday season, emphasizing the importance of kindness and support in

overcoming adversity.



Summaryer

46 Jakes and the Lady

In Chapter 46 of "Black Beauty," titled "Jakes and the Lady," the narrative unfolds from Black Beauty's perspective, detailing a demanding period in his life after being sold to a corn dealer and baker. Under the ownership of a man who, while generally ensuring good food and fair work, often leaves the premises, entrusting operations to a foreman who habitually overloads Black Beauty. The foreman's insistence on maximizing each journey strains Black Beauty beyond his capacity, especially with a cruelly applied check-rein that hampers his ability to pull efficiently.

One particular day, burdened with an exceptionally heavy load and challenged by a steep uphill road, Black Beauty struggles to proceed, despite exerting his utmost effort. His driver, Jakes, responds to his faltering with whip lashes, spurring Black Beauty on with threats and violence. This physical and emotional torment devastates Black Beauty, who feels unfairly punished for his inevitable shortcomings under such conditions.

Intervention comes in the form of a compassionate lady who witnesses Black Beauty's plight and confronts Jakes. She pleads with Jakes to consider the horse's limitations, pointing out the unreasonable load and the steepness of the road. Moreover, she suggests that removing the check-rein could afford Black Beauty a better chance to utilize his full strength. Initially skeptical, Jakes is persuaded by the lady's earnest appeal and agrees to free Black Beauty from the check-rein.

The effect is immediate and profound. Liberated, Black Beauty is able to adjust his stance, relieving the stiffness and discomfort in his neck, and with renewed determination and the lady's gentle encouragement, he successfully pulls the heavy load up the hill. The lady's kindness and understanding bring a moment of relief to Black Beauty's challenging existence, highlighting the profound impact of empathy and the importance of considering the welfare of animals in human care. She leaves

Jakes with the consideration of the unnecessary cruelty of the check-rein, suggesting a shift from conventional methods toward more compassionate treatment, even if it goes against the prevailing norms among carterers.



47 Hard Times

Chapter 47 of "Black Beauty," titled "Hard Times," narrates a particularly challenging period in the life of Black Beauty under the ownership of Nicholas Skinner, a harsh and unkind master. Skinner, described with daunting features such as "black eyes and a hooked nose," represented the epitome of cruelty towards horses and humans alike. His treatment of horses as mere tools for profit, without regard for their wellbeing, highlights the dire conditions Black Beauty endures.

This chapter starkly portrays the harsh realities of cab horses, emphasizing the lack of rest, cruel treatment, and the extreme demands placed upon them. Beauty recounts an episode where a party hires the cab for a long and strenuous trip, exacerbating Beauty's exhaustion due to Skinner's relentless work schedule and lack of care. Despite the protest of a young girl, who notices Beauty's poor condition and pleads for kindness, the journey proceeds with a heavy load, leading to Beauty's eventual collapse from overwork and exhaustion.

Beauty's fall on Ludgate Hill serves as a climax to the chapter, illustrating the physical breakdown and the looming acceptance of death by Beauty. The response to Beauty's fall, a mix of concern and apathy, showcases the varied attitudes towards horses in Victorian society. While some express sympathy, others, including Skinner, demonstrate indifference to Beauty's suffering, focusing solely on practicality and profit.

Skinner's consultation with a farrier reveals a lack of will to provide rest or care needed for recovery, opting instead for a decision that aligns with his business model: to work horses until they are no longer useful and then dispose of them without a second thought. This cruel and cold-hearted approach to animal welfare emphasizes the book's critique of the mistreatment of animals, particularly in industries that exploit

them for labor.

Through this poignant chapter, Anna Sewell continues to advocate for the humane treatment of horses, urging a society change in perspective and action towards these noble creatures. The tragic and vivid depiction of Black Beauty's experience under Skinner not only evokes empathy but also a deeper understanding of the urgent need for animal welfare reforms.



48 Farmer Thoroughgood and His Grandson Willie

Chapter 48 of "Black Beauty" by Anna Sewell, titled "Farmer Thoroughgood and His Grandson Willie," shares an uplifting turn of events in the life of Black Beauty. The scene opens at a horse sale where Black Beauty finds himself among other aged and debilitated horses, subject to the gazes of equally worn-out buyers and sellers. Amidst the dismal surroundings, a kind grandfather, Farmer Thoroughgood, and his enthusiastic grandson, Willie, spot Black Beauty. Their initial observation hints at a former nobility overshadowed by current hardships. Intrigued by Black Beauty's potential and moved by his condition, they contemplate purchasing him, despite the evident signs of his hard life.

The narrative unfolds as the farmer assesses Black Beauty, encouraged by Willie's sympathetic and hopeful disposition. Their interaction showcases a blend of compassion and practical consideration, marked by the grandson's earnest appeal and the farmer's cautious evaluation. Ultimately, persuaded by the horse's demeanor and the possibility of revival, they decide to buy Black Beauty for five pounds—a decision fueled by Willie's optimism and the farmer's willing gamble on the horse's recovering prospects.

Upon acquisition, Black Beauty is introduced to a new life under the care of Willie, who takes his responsibilities seriously, ensuring the horse's well-being and comfort. This turnaround signifies a second chance at life for Black Beauty, emphasizing themes of recovery, care, and the impact of kindness. Willie's dedicated attention and the nourishing environment contribute significantly to Black Beauty's physical and emotional recovery, reinstating his vitality and spirits.

The culmination of this chapter reveals a rejuvenated Black Beauty, poised to regain his former glory through the gentle, loving, and respectful treatment he receives at the hands of Farmer Thoroughgood and Willie. This narrative arc from despair to hope

encapsulates the core message of the book—advocating for humane treatment of horses (and animals in general), underscoring the transformative power of compassion and responsible stewardship. Through the character of Farmer Thoroughgood, Sewell illustrates the virtues of kindness and patience, while Willie's character embodies the innocence and purity of intention that often leads to healing and redemption.



49 My Last Home

Black Beauty finds himself meticulously groomed one summer day, hinting at a new chapter in his life. With his groom and Willie, he arrives at a charming house where they meet Miss Blomefield, Miss Ellen, and another lady. Their inspection is thorough, revealing their varied opinions about Beauty's suitability. Mr. Thoroughgood recommends a trial period for Beauty, highlighting his belief in Beauty's quality despite his blemished knees, which are the result of past mishaps, not inherent flaws.

The next day, Beauty is fetched by a young man, initially disappointed by Beauty's scars, yet persuaded to give him a fair chance. Upon arrival at his new stable, Beauty is warmly received, enjoying the comfort of his new surroundings. His groom, upon closer inspection, recognizes him as Black Beauty from shared markings and a unique patch of white hair, revealing himself to be Joe Green, an old acquaintance. Their reunion is emotional, with Green overjoyed at finding Beauty and promising him a good home.

Miss Ellen decides to test drive Beauty, accompanied by Green. Through the trial, Beauty proves his steadiness and impresses with his smooth paces. Miss Ellen's adept handling and positive response to Beauty's performance signify a hopeful future in his latest home, suggesting that Beauty has finally found a place where his past traumas can heal under the care of familiar faces and kind handlers. This chapter brings a full circle to Beauty's journey, reconnecting him with his past and offering a peaceful resolution to his many travels and trials.