

Black Beauty Questions

Test Yourself!

Here are some questions about the story of *Black Beauty* for you to answer.
Remember: sometimes a question may have more than one right answer.

You can find answers to these questions at www.booksforlearning.com.au.
Go to The Children's Classical Library page and follow the links to the
Black Beauty page.



(Please note: these questions are designed to accompany the adapted version of *Black Beauty* by Books for Learning. Chapter numbers do not correspond to the original text.)

Chapter 1

1. True or False:
 - a. Beauty is called Darky at first.
 - b. Beauty has a white star on his head and foot.
 - c. A 'bit' goes through a horse's mouth.
 - d. Beauty feels proud when his master rides him.

2. Beauty does not eat grass when he is young, because—
 - a. he does not like it.
 - b. he would rather drink milk.
 - c. he is not old enough.

3. Beauty's master will not sell him until he is four years old, because—
 - a. a new owner might work Beauty too hard.
 - b. he is very fond of Beauty.
 - c. horses are not grown up until they are four years old.

4. 'Breaking in' a horse means—
 - a. being cruel to him.
 - b. teaching him to wear a saddle and bridle and to be ridden.
 - c. making him do what he is told.

5. Beauty gets used to wearing a bit and bridle, because—
 - a. he knows his mother wears one.
 - b. it makes him feel grown up.
 - c. he likes the oats and pats that his master gives him.

6. Beauty's master sends him to live by a railway track, because he wants—
 - a. to scare him.
 - b. to give him a rest.
 - c. to get him used to being near trains.

Topic for Discussion

Is it cruel to break in a horse? Why do people do it, and is it necessary?

Chapter 2

1. True or False:
 - a. Beauty shares a new stall with Merrylegs.
 - b. Merrylegs is not very friendly at first.
 - c. Ginger has not been at Birtwick Park for long.
 - d. Ginger pulls a carriage with great strength.
 - e. Ginger's old masters used to beat her.
 - f. Beauty, the master and John nearly drown on the way to town.
 - g. Some horses die in the stable fire.

2. Ginger bites people because—
 - a. she enjoys it.
 - b. she was not treated well when she was young.
 - c. it is a habit.

3. Who thinks up the name 'Black Beauty'?
 - a. Mrs Gordon
 - b. the Squire
 - c. John Manly

4. Beauty refuses to cross the bridge, because—
 - a. he is afraid of the water.
 - b. he senses there is something wrong.
 - c. he sees that the bridge is broken in the middle.

5. This chapter shows that—
 - a. James is very brave.
 - b. Merrylegs is very trustworthy.
 - c. Squire Gordon knows little about horses.

Topics for Discussion

Ginger was not treated well when she was young, so she thinks it is fair enough to bite people now. Do you agree with her? Is it right to hurt others if you have been hurt?

This chapter shows the effect of kindness to others. Why is kindness so important?

Chapter 3

1. True or False:
 - a. The town is ten miles from Birtwick Park.
 - b. Beauty helps to save his mistress.
 - c. The squire sells Merrylegs to the vicar.
 - d. This chapter shows that Joe Green is brave.

2. James is sent away from Birtwick Park, because—
 - a. Squire Gordon does not need two grooms.
 - b. he is very reliable.
 - c. he wants to leave.

3. John tells the doctor not to use his riding whip on Beauty, because—
 - a. he does not want Beauty to be hurt.
 - b. Beauty will ride fast without being whipped.
 - c. he thinks whips should never be used on horses.

4. Beauty gets very sick, because—
 - a. the ride has been too much for him.
 - b. Joe does not care about him.
 - c. Joe does not know how to look after him properly.

5. Everyone must leave Birtwick Park, because—
 - a. the mistress needs to live in a warmer country.
 - b. the mistress wants to live overseas.
 - c. the master decides to sell the home.

Topic for Discussion

Should Joe Green be blamed for not looking after Beauty properly? Do you feel sorry for him?

Chapter 4

1. True or False:
 - a. York thinks the check rein should not be used on horses.
 - b. The horses are mostly treated well at Earlshall Park.
 - c. Ginger becomes a hunting horse.

2. John did not use the check rein at Birtwick, because—
 - a. his master could not afford one.
 - b. the horses were too young.
 - c. he thinks it is cruel.

3. Check reins are put on horses when they are pulling a carriage, because—
 - a. it makes their heads stay upright.
 - b. it makes it easier to go uphill.
 - c. it makes them look better.

4. York makes the check reins tighter, because—
 - a. he does not care about the horses.
 - b. he must do what he is told.
 - c. he thinks the horses look better that way.

5. This chapter shows that the mistress—
 - a. worries about what people think of her.
 - b. does whatever her husband wants.
 - c. does not care about horses.

6. Max does not complain about wearing the check rein, because—
 - a. he does not mind it.
 - b. it will make his life shorter.
 - c. he feels he has no choice.

7. Reuben does not stop when Beauty's shoe comes loose, because—
 - a. he is in a hurry.
 - b. he is in a strange mood.
 - c. he is drunk.

8. Beauty is sold because—
 - a. he is no longer strong enough to pull a carriage.
 - b. he does not look good enough to pull a carriage.
 - c. he can hardly walk.

Topic for Discussion

On page 25, Max says that people care more about how they look than how they feel. Why does he say this? Do you agree with him?

Chapter 5

1. True or False:
 - a. The job horse owner has lots of horses.
 - b. Mr Barry is a friend of the job horse owner.
 - c. Mr Barry does not care about Black Beauty.
 - d. There are many horses in Mr Barry's stable.

2. A 'job horse' is a horse that—
 - a. people can borrow.
 - b. cannot pull carriages.
 - c. is used by people who know little about horses.

3. Beauty stops being a job horse, because—
 - a. he is not a very good at it.
 - b. his owner does not look after him.
 - c. another man wants to buy him.

4. Mr Barry gets others to look after Beauty, because—
 - a. he is lazy.
 - b. he does not know about horses.
 - c. he is a rich man.

5. Beauty becomes thin and weak, because—
 - a. his groom is selling his food.
 - b. he is working too hard.
 - c. he is standing in wet hay.

6. Mr Barry gives up keeping horses, because—
 - a. he does not like them.
 - b. his grooms have let him down.
 - c. he is not very good at it.

Topic for Discussion

If you were Black Beauty, and you could talk to the people who hire job horses, what would you say to them? What advice would you give them?

Chapter 6

1. True or False:
 - a. Jerry is not very tall.
 - b. Beauty's new home is in London.
 - c. Jerry's street is lined with very fine houses.
 - d. Jerry has two children.
 - e. Polly thinks Beauty should not be a cab horse.
 - f. Jerry never breaks his own rules.

2. Beauty's first week as a cab horse is difficult, because—
 - a. he has not done hard work for some time.
 - b. Jerry is not a good cab driver.
 - c. the city is a confusing place for him.

3. Jerry will not drive his cab at double speed, because—
 - a. it is bad for the horses.
 - b. it is dangerous.
 - c. he does not need the extra money.

4. When Jerry sings, 'Do your best, and leave the rest, 'twill all come right, some day or night', he means—
 - a. if you wait long enough, your problems will all go away.
 - b. everything will turn out well if you try your hardest.
 - c. nobody really knows how things will turn out.

5. Mrs Briggs comes back to Jerry, because—
 - a. no other cab driver will take her shopping.
 - b. she does not like the other cab drivers.
 - c. Jerry has the cleanest cab.

6. Jerry takes Dinah to the country on a Sunday, because—
 - a. he wants to see the countryside.
 - b. it is the right thing to do.
 - c. he needs extra money.

Topic for Discussion

The other cab drivers think Jerry is a fool not to drive faster for some customers. Do you agree with them? What would you do?

Chapter 7

1. True or False:
 - a. Ginger became a cab horse when she left Earlshall.
 - b. Ginger recognizes Beauty first.
 - c. Beauty hopes the dead horse is Ginger.
 - d. Jerry gets a cough because the two gentlemen make him wait in the cold.
 - e. Jerry does not say good-bye to Beauty.

2. Ginger has been sold from owner to owner, because—
 - a. she is getting old.
 - b. she cannot work hard any more.
 - c. her owners have been wearing her out.

3. Ginger no longer stands up for herself, because—
 - a. she feels it is no use.
 - b. she is too worn out.
 - c. she wishes she were dead.

4. Ginger's owner is not looking after her, because—
 - a. she is not well.
 - b. he thinks she was a waste of money.
 - c. she is not a very good cab horse.

5. Jerry stops being a cab driver, because—
 - a. the work is too hard for him.
 - b. he wants to live in the country.
 - c. he may die if he keeps doing it.

Topic for Discussion

Is it reasonable for Jerry to wait in the cold for the gentlemen on New Year's Eve? Why does he do it? Would you do the same, even if you were not well?

Chapter 8

1. True or False:
 - a. Jerry sells Beauty to a man called Jakes.
 - b. Beauty is getting too old to pull carts and cabs.
 - c. Skinner gives the horses one day of rest each week.

2. Jakes uses the check rein on Beauty—
 - a. because the cart is overloaded.
 - b. to make the trip faster.
 - c. for no good reason.

3. Beauty falls down, because—
 - a. he has not eaten or rested since morning.
 - b. the driver whips him over and over.
 - c. the cab has too much luggage on it.

4. After Beauty falls down, Skinner wants to—
 - a. rest him for six months.
 - b. work him as long as he will go.
 - c. send him to the knacker's.

5. Beauty is happy for Skinner to sell him, because—
 - a. he does not want to go to the knacker's.
 - b. anything would be better than staying where he is.
 - c. he is feeling much better.

Topic for Discussion

Why does Jakes overload his cart with corn? Do you agree with his reason for doing it? Would his argument work in other situations?

Chapter 9

1. True or False:
 - a. Beauty does not want to pull carriages again.
 - b. Beauty does not remember Joe Green.
 - c. Beauty will never be sold again.

2. Mr Thoroughgood buys Beauty, because—
 - a. he feels sorry for him.
 - b. his grandson wants him to.
 - c. he thinks Beauty will be able to pull a carriage again.

3. Mr Thoroughgood sells Black Beauty, because—
 - a. the elderly ladies need a horse.
 - b. he wants to find a good home for Beauty.
 - c. selling Beauty was his plan from the beginning.

4. The ladies decide to buy Beauty, because—
 - a. he is a fine-looking horse.
 - b. he looks very trustworthy.
 - c. they trust Mr Thoroughgood.

5. How many things about Black Beauty does Joe Green recognize?
 - a. three
 - b. five
 - c. six

6. In this chapter we find out that—
 - a. Mr Thoroughgood's groom is Joe Green.
 - b. Black Beauty is twenty years old.
 - c. Mrs Gordon is still alive.

Topic for Discussion

Anna Sewell wrote the story of Black Beauty to encourage people to treat horses kindly. See if you can make a list of things people should do to look after horses properly. (Try to think of at least ten things.)