



# Black Beauty

Anna Sewell



free Audiobook



# Black Beauty

Anna **Sewell**



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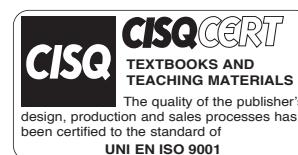
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The text is recorded in full.

 These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked  
 to the listening activities.



Anna Sewell, from the frontispiece of *Black Beauty*, published by Harrap.

## Let's meet Anna Sewell

Name: Anna Sewell

Born: Norfolk, England

When: 20 March 1820

Important event in her life: at the age of 14 she falls, hurts her legs and cannot walk well. She always rides a horse to get around. She loves horses.

Her only book: *Black Beauty* (1877)

Died: 1878

# The Characters



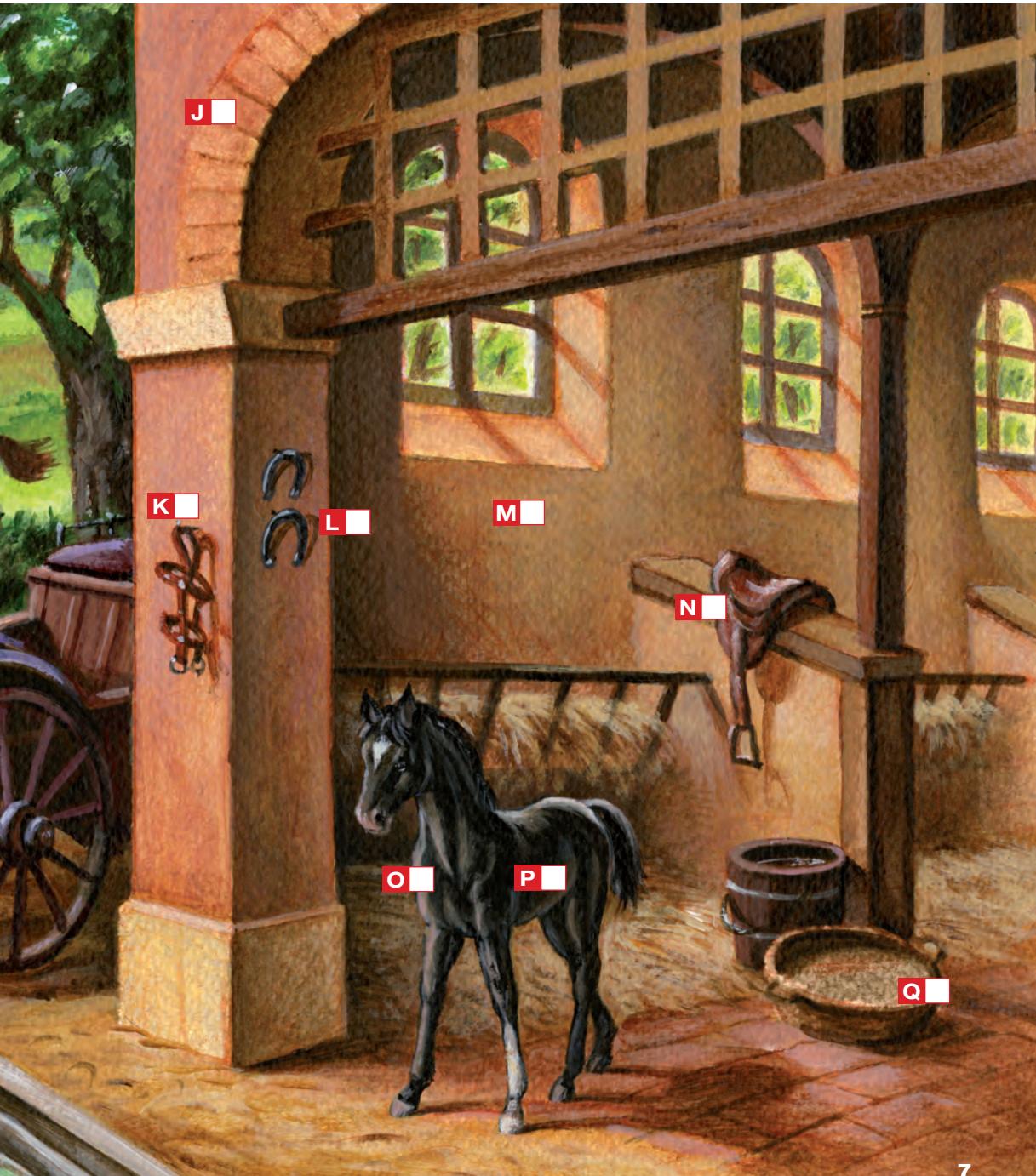
## BEFORE YOU READ

### 1 SETTING

Match these words to the things and the animals in the picture. Use a dictionary.

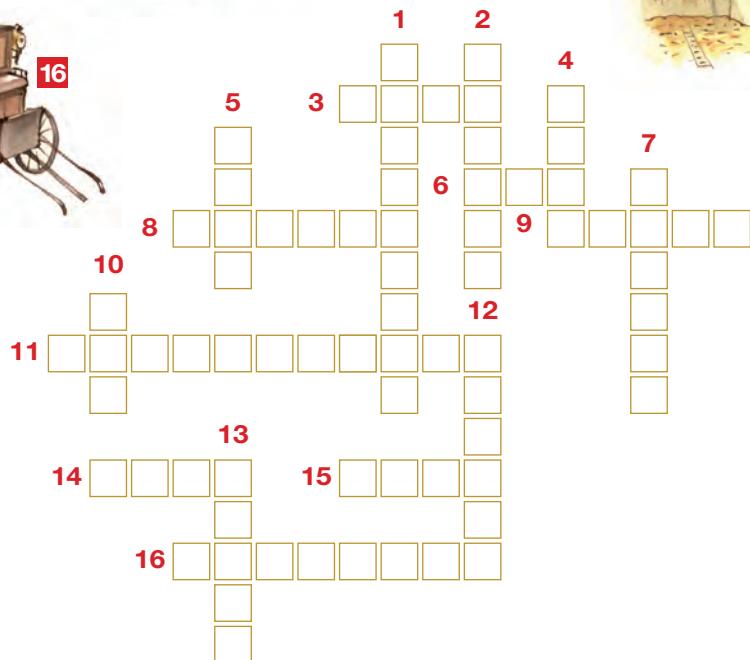
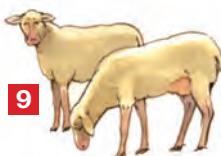


1 meadow   2 colt   3 oats   4 carriage   5 hare   6 hunting dogs  
7 gun   8 black coat   9 cow   10 sheep   11 saddle   12 bridle  
13 bit   14 horseshoes   15 stall   16 stable   17 pond



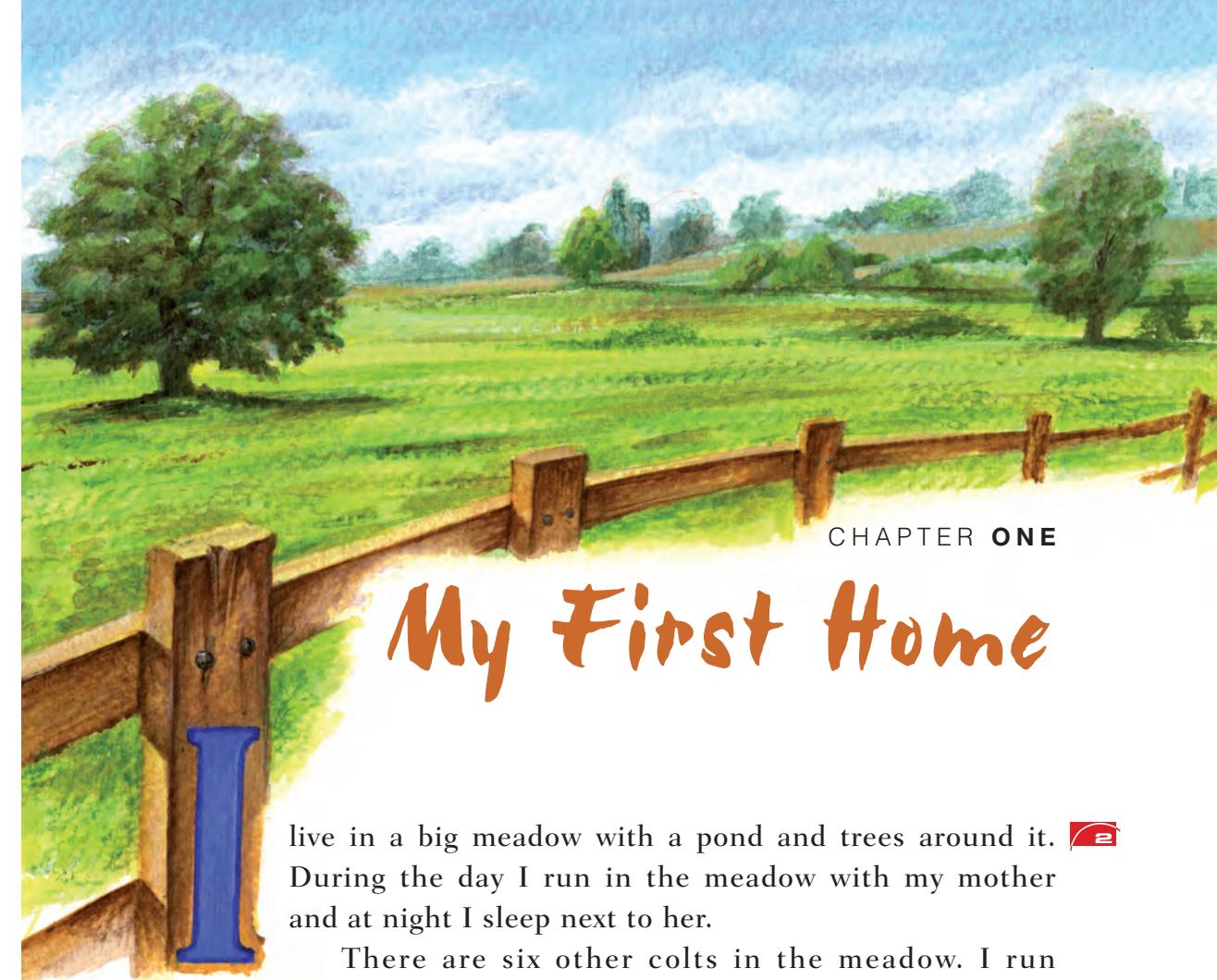
## 2 CROSSWORD

### Across



### Down





## CHAPTER ONE

# My First Home

**I** live in a big meadow with a pond and trees around it.   
During the day I run in the meadow with my mother and at night I sleep next to her.

There are six other colts in the meadow. I run with them too and have great fun. But sometimes they kick and bite me.<sup>1</sup>

My mother always says, 'These colts are good but they're not polite. You come from a family of famous horses. You must always be good and gentle,<sup>2</sup> and never bite or kick.'

My mother's name is Duchess and she is old and wise.<sup>3</sup> She is our master's favourite horse and she always takes him to town in a small carriage. Our master is a kind man. He gives us a lot of oats, a big carrot and a warm place to live. He always says nice things to us. Sometimes he gives us some sugar. We all love him.

1. **kick and bite me** : use their legs or teeth to hurt me.
2. **be good and gentle** : be kind and treat people and animals well.
3. **wise** : she knows many things and makes good decisions.



One day I see a lot of dogs running in another green meadow and they are barking<sup>1</sup> loudly.

‘What’s happening, mother?’ I ask.

‘The dogs are running after a hare,’ she says. ‘There is a hunt.’

The dogs run fast and the hare does, too. There is a lot of noise. Finally the dogs catch the poor hare and kill it. Then another sad thing happens. Two horses and two men fall to the ground. One man gets up but the other does not. The dogs are silent now, and everyone is looking at the man and the two horses.

‘It’s young George Gordon, the landowner’s<sup>2</sup> son,’ says mother sadly. ‘The poor young man is dead.’

1. **barking** : the loud sounds a dog makes.

2. **landowner** : this person is rich because he has a lot of land.



Only one horse gets up but the other cannot because his leg is broken. Someone runs to the master's house and gets a gun. There is a loud shot<sup>1</sup> and the horse is dead.

I am four years old now and I am a handsome<sup>2</sup> colt. I have a nice black coat and a white star on my forehead.<sup>3</sup> One day the landowner, Mr Gordon, comes to look at me. He looks at my eyes, my teeth and my legs.

'When you break him in,<sup>4</sup> I want to see him,' says Mr Gordon.

1. **shot** : the sound a gun makes.

2. **handsome** : attractive.

3. **forehead** :



4. **break him in** : have a person on his back for the first time.



## Black Beauty

'Very well, Mr Gordon,' says my master. He smiles at me and says, 'Tomorrow I must break you in. I must teach you to wear a saddle and bridle and carry a person on your back. Then I must teach you to pull a carriage.'

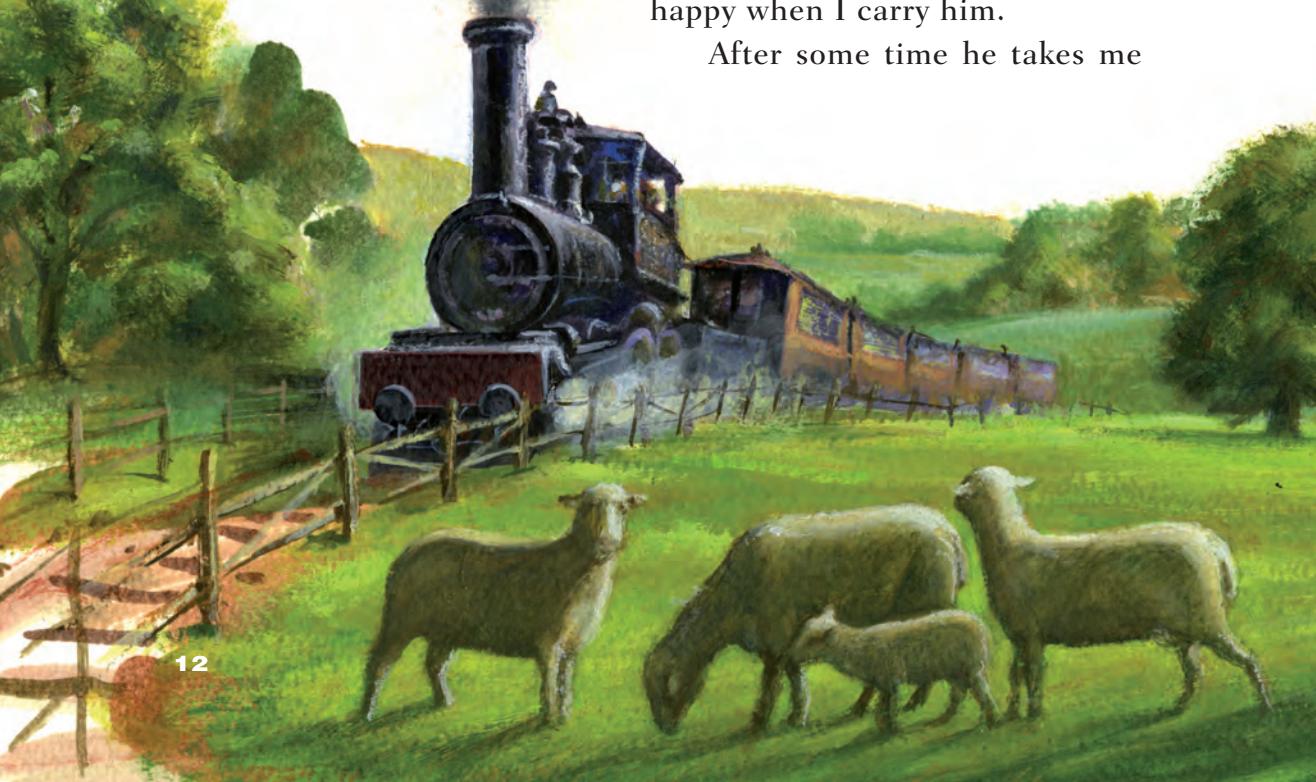
'Tomorrow is an important day,' says mother quietly.

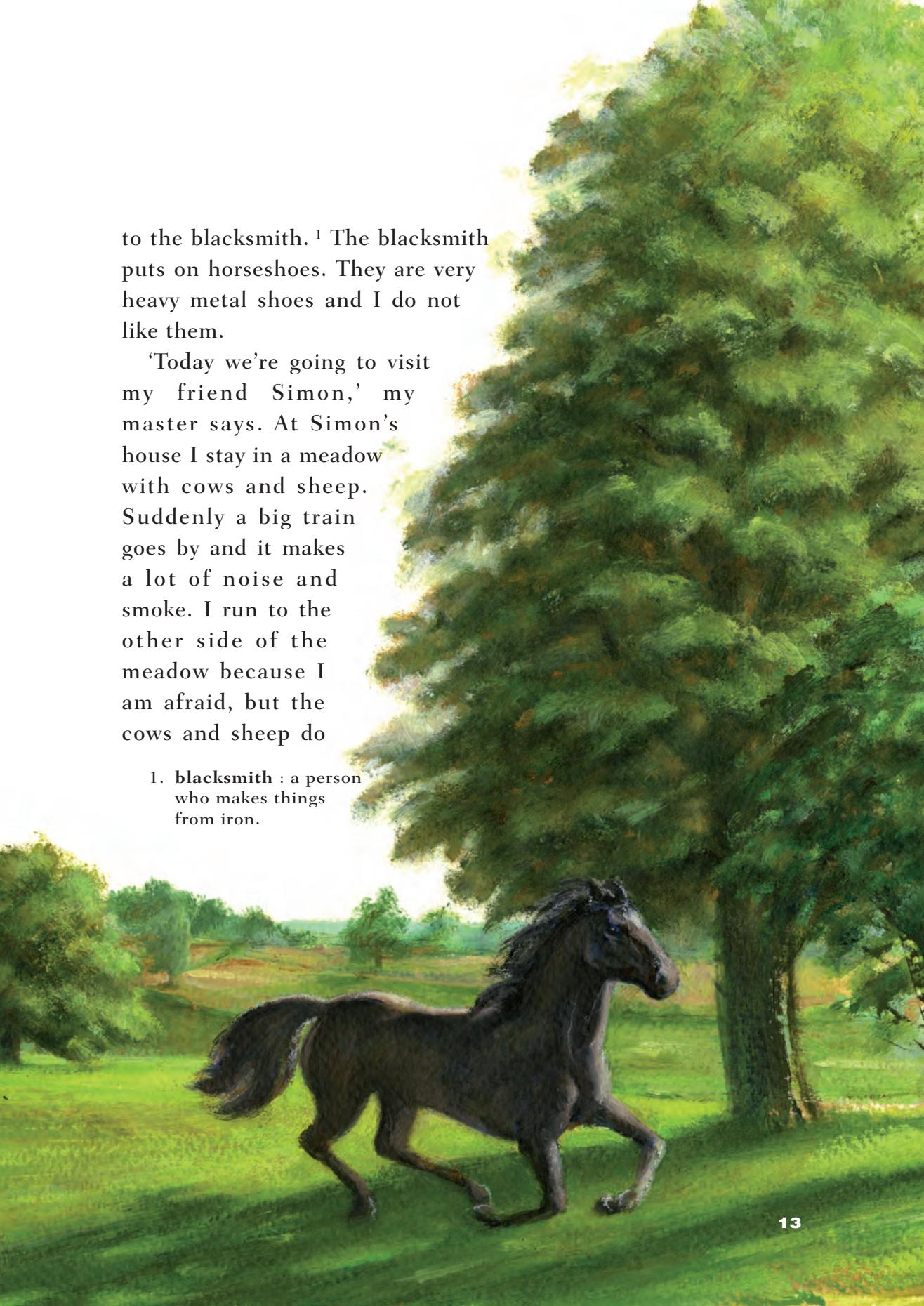
'Remember, you must always listen to your master, and never bite or kick. And you must never jump when you're happy or stop when you're tired. Always be a good horse.'

The next day my master comes and talks to me quietly. Then he gently puts the bit into my mouth and the bridle on my face. The bit hurts my mouth and feels terrible, but my mother and other adult horses wear it too.

Then my master puts a saddle on my back and says kind words to me. He slowly gets on the saddle and rides me around the meadow. I am happy when I carry him.

After some time he takes me





to the blacksmith.<sup>1</sup> The blacksmith puts on horseshoes. They are very heavy metal shoes and I do not like them.

'Today we're going to visit my friend Simon,' my master says. At Simon's house I stay in a meadow with cows and sheep. Suddenly a big train goes by and it makes a lot of noise and smoke. I run to the other side of the meadow because I am afraid, but the cows and sheep do

1. **blacksmith** : a person who makes things from iron.



## Black Beauty

not move. A lot of trains go by, but they do not hurt me so I am not afraid of them.

Sometimes I pull the carriage with my mother and she teaches me a lot of things. 'There are many kinds of masters,' she says. Some are good, but others are bad and cruel.<sup>1</sup> You must always listen to them, and remember the good name of your family.'

In May, one of Mr Gordon's men comes and takes me away. My master says, 'Goodbye, my friend. Be a good horse and always do your best.' I cannot say goodbye, so I put my nose in his hand.

My new home at Mr Gordon's is lovely. There is a big stable and I have a comfortable stall.

There is another horse in the next stall. 'Hello, what's your name?' I ask.

'My name is Merrylegs,' says the horse. 'I carry the young ladies on my back. Are you my new neighbour?'

'Yes, I am.'

'Do you bite?' asks Merrylegs.

'No, I don't,' I answer. 'I only bite grass.'

'Oh, good, because the horse in the other stall sometimes bites,' says Merrylegs. 'She's a brown horse and her name is Ginger.'

1. **cruel** : very unkind.

# UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT



## 1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 Black Beauty lives in the woods near a river.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

1 His mother is a big black horse.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

2 A horse breaks his leg during a hunt.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

3 George Gordon is twenty-one years old.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

4 Black Beauty has a black coat and a brown star on his forehead.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

5 Mr Gordon teaches the colt to wear a saddle and bridle.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

6 Black Beauty doesn't like the bit because it hurts his mouth.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

7 He doesn't like carrying the master.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

8 The blacksmith's name is Simon Brown.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

9 Black Beauty is afraid of the train and runs to the other side of the meadow.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

10 Merrylegs and Ginger are Mr Gordon's horses.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

11 Black Beauty is Merrylegs's new neighbour.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

12 Ginger never bites.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn't say

## 2 VOCABULARY

Can you remember these words from the setting on pages 6 and 7?  
Complete the sentences.

- 1 Duchess takes the master to town in a small .....
- 2 There is another ..... in the meadow.
- 3 Black Beauty wears a ..... on his back.
- 4 Black Beauty wears a ..... on his head and a ..... in his mouth.
- 5 The ..... puts ..... on his feet.
- 6 The horses live inside a big .....
- 7 Black Beauty has a comfortable ..... next to Merrylegs.

## 3 Now find the words in the word square and circle them in red.



T: GRADE 2

## 4 SPEAKING: ANIMALS AND PETS

*Black Beauty* is a story about horses. Bring in a picture of your favourite animal or pet and tell the class about it. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 What's its name?
- 2 How old is it?
- 3 Describe it (colour, size).
- 4 Does it live outside or in a house?
- 5 What does it eat?

## 'HE GIVES US ...A BIG CARROT. SOMETIMES HE GIVES US SOME SUGAR.'

Some nouns have got singular and plural forms. You can count them. These are **countable nouns**.

Examples: *a carrot, three carrots*

*a horse, two horses*

Some nouns have got only one form. These are **uncountable nouns**. We can say 'a glass of water' but we cannot say 'a water'.

Examples: *some sugar, some water*

### 5 COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Look at the words below. Which have got plural forms and which haven't? Write the words in the correct column.

milk    carrot    rain    money    apple    butter    egg  
cake    meat    orange    bread    music    banana  
cow    horseshoe    grass

COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

## BEFORE YOU READ

### 1 READING PICTURES

Look at the picture on pages 20 and 21. Then answer these questions.

- 1 What time of day is it?
- 2 What's the weather like?
- 3 Who is on the bridge?
- 4 What is he doing and why?
- 5 Who is in the carriage?
- 6 Why is Black Beauty stopping?

## 2 VOCABULARY

Match each word with a picture.

coachman

whip

blanket

gallop

bridge

bell



1



2



3



4



5



6

## 3 LISTENING

3 Listen to the first part of Chapter Two. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 John Manly is a good rider.
- 2 He lives in the stable with the horses.
- 3 The colt's new name is Black Beauty.
- 4 Sometimes Ginger bites and kicks.
- 5 Ginger is not happy with John and Mr Gordon.
- 6 Ginger and Black Beauty become good friends.
- 7 Merrylegs is Mr Gordon's favourite horse.
- 8 Flora and Jessie are Mr Gordon's daughters.

T F