

INDEPENDENT STUDY COMPANION

BLACK BEAUTY



A LIVING BOOK STUDY - LEARNING BOOKLET

Name: _____

TASKS: DAY 1

Week 1 - Chapters 1-3

READ:

Chapter 1: My Early Home, Chapter 2: The Hunt, and Chapter 3: My Breaking In.

NARRATION:

What values does Black Beauty's mother teach him? Discuss the hunt - how does Sewell use it to show danger and loss?

EXTENSION:

Nature: research how young horses are trained today, and how attitudes to 'breaking in' have changed.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 2

Week 1 - Chapters 4-6

READ:

Chapter 4: Birtwick Park, Chapter 5: A Fair Start, and Chapter 6: Liberty.

DISCUSS:

What makes Birtwick Park a genuinely good home for a horse?

EXTENSION:

Art: draw Black Beauty's stable at Birtwick Park.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 3

Week 1 - Chapters 7-8

READ:

Chapter 7: Ginger, and Chapter 8: Ginger's Story Continued.

NARRATION:

What has made Ginger bad-tempered? How has her early treatment shaped her?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: can unkindness explain bad behaviour, in horses or in people?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 4

Week 1 - Chapters 9-10

READ:

Chapter 9: Merrylegs, and Chapter 10: A Talk in the Orchard.

COMPARE:

Compare the three horses - Black Beauty, Ginger and Merrylegs - in a table: personality, history, and how they're treated.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: which horse would you most like to have known?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 5

Week 2 - Chapters 11-13

READ:

Chapter 11: Plain Speaking, Chapter 12: A Stormy Day, and Chapter 13: The Devil's Trade Mark.

DISCUSS:

What is John Manly's 'plain speaking' about? What does he think of the bearing rein?

EXTENSION:

History: research the bearing/check rein, and why Anna Sewell campaigned against it.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 6

Week 2 - Chapters 14-16

READ:

Chapter 14: James Howard, Chapter 15: The Old Hostler, and Chapter 16: The Fire.

NARRATION:

How does Sewell build tension in The Fire?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: what do James and John's actions in the fire show about courage?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 7

Week 2 - Chapters 17-19

READ:

Chapter 17: John Manly's Talk, Chapter 18: Going for the Doctor, and Chapter 19: Only Ignorance.

DISCUSS:

Black Beauty risks his life for the doctor. What does the book suggest about a horse's loyalty and intelligence?

EXTENSION:

Writing: write the scene from the doctor's point of view.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 8

Week 2 - Chapters 20-21

READ:

Chapter 20: Joe Green, and Chapter 21: The Parting.

DISCUSS:

Why does Squire Gordon's family have to sell the horses?

EXTENSION:

Writing: write Black Beauty's feelings on leaving Birtwick Park for good.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 9

Week 3 - Chapters 22-24

READ:

Chapter 22: Earlshall, Chapter 23: A Strike for Liberty, and Chapter 24: The Lady Anne, or a Runaway Horse.

DISCUSS:

How does life change for Black Beauty and Ginger at Earlshall? What does Ginger's 'strike' against the bearing rein show us about her?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 10

Week 3 - Chapters 25-27

READ:

Chapter 25: Reuben Smith, Chapter 26: How It Ended, and Chapter 27: Ruined and Going Downhill.

NARRATION:

What happens to Black Beauty because of Reuben Smith's carelessness?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how can a horse be 'ruined' through no fault of his own?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 11

Week 3 - Chapters 28-31

READ:

Chapter 28: A Job Horse and His Drivers, Chapter 29: Cockneys, Chapter 30: A Thief, and Chapter 31: A Humbug.

DISCUSS:

Black Beauty is passed between different owners in this section. What different kinds of bad or careless treatment does he meet?

EXTENSION:

Geography: research Victorian horse fairs, where horses like Black Beauty were bought and sold.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 12

Week 3 - Chapters 32-35

READ:

Chapter 32: A Horse Fair, Chapter 33: A London Cab Horse, Chapter 34: An Old War Horse, and Chapter 35: Jerry Barker.

HISTORY:

Research Victorian London cab life.

EXTENSION:

Narration: what makes Jerry Barker different from Black Beauty's other owners so far?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 13

Week 4 - Chapters 36-39

READ:

Chapter 36: The Sunday Cab, Chapter 37: The Golden Rule, Chapter 38: Dolly and a Real Gentleman, and Chapter 39: Seedy Sam.

DISCUSS:

What does 'The Golden Rule' suggest about how people should treat each other, not just horses?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: what does Seedy Sam's story add to the book's message about poverty and hardship?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 14

Week 4 - Chapters 40-43

READ:

Chapter 40: Poor Ginger, Chapter 41: The Butcher, Chapter 42: The Election, and Chapter 43: A Friend in Need.

NARRATION:

How does Black Beauty feel meeting Ginger again? What has happened to her?

EXTENSION:

PSHE: discuss how the book links kindness to horses with kindness to people.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 15

Week 4 - Chapters 44-45

READ:

Chapter 44: Old Captain and His Successor, and Chapter 45: Jerry's New Year.

DISCUSS:

How has Jerry Barker's family fared across the book?

EXTENSION:

Writing: write a short diary entry as Black Beauty on New Year's Day.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 16

Week 4 - Chapters 46-49

READ:

Chapter 46: Jakes and the Lady, Chapter 47: Hard Times, Chapter 48: Farmer Thoroughgood and His Grandson Willie, and Chapter 49: My Last Home.

NARRATION:

Trace Black Beauty's final journey to a happy retirement.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: why do you think Anna Sewell chose to end the book this way?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 17

Week 4 - Response Day

READ:

No new reading - review the whole book.

WRITING OPPORTUNITY:

Write your own 'Kindness Code' - five rules for treating animals well, inspired by the book.

EXTENSION:

Wrap-up: compare how Black Beauty is treated across all four parts of the book, from Birtwick Park to My Last Home.

Your response:

BLACK BEAUTY'S HOMES

As you read, track each home Black Beauty lives in, who owns him, and how he is treated there.

Home	Owner(s)	How he is treated	Chapters

HORSE CARE FACT FILE

Hooves

Teeth

Feeding

Grooming

Fun facts