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Not just horses

The first thing you may notice[•] as you read *Black Beauty* is that it is full of different names for horses. This is mainly[•] because in English there are often specific[•] words for the male and female of the various species[•] of animals. And there are special names for their babies, for the noises they make, for the places where they live, as well as words to describe the animals when they are in a group. The most common group word for mammals, for example, is a herd, but there are many variations. The convention[•] of using specific

→ **collective nouns** for certain kinds of animals comes from the English medieval hunting[•] tradition. As for baby animals, we all know that a young goat is a kid and a young cat is a kitten, and it may be useful to know that sometimes there is more than one name for the same baby animal (especially if you are about to read *Black Beauty*).

Can you match these animals with their group names?

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| a bees | 1 tower |
| b fish | 2 pack |
| c wolves | 3 swarm |
| d horses | 4 school |
| e giraffes | 5 team |



GLOSSARY

- **convention:** accepted rule
- **gender:** sex (male or female)
- **hunting:** sport of chasing and killing wild animals
- **mainly:** (here) usually
- **notice:** see; pay attention to
- **reproduction:** creating young animals
- **species:** type of animals (horses, cats, etc)
- **specific:** different and unique

Black Beauty



Reuben Smith



Squire Gordon
& Mrs Gordon



Mr York



Lady Anne



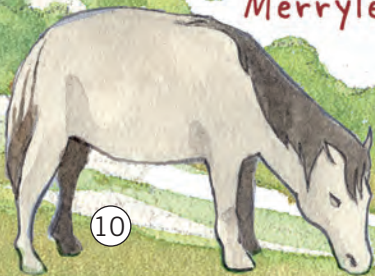
Robert



John Manly



Merrylegs





Jerry Barker



Joe Green



Farmer
Thoroughgood
& Willie



Nicholas Skinner

Ginger

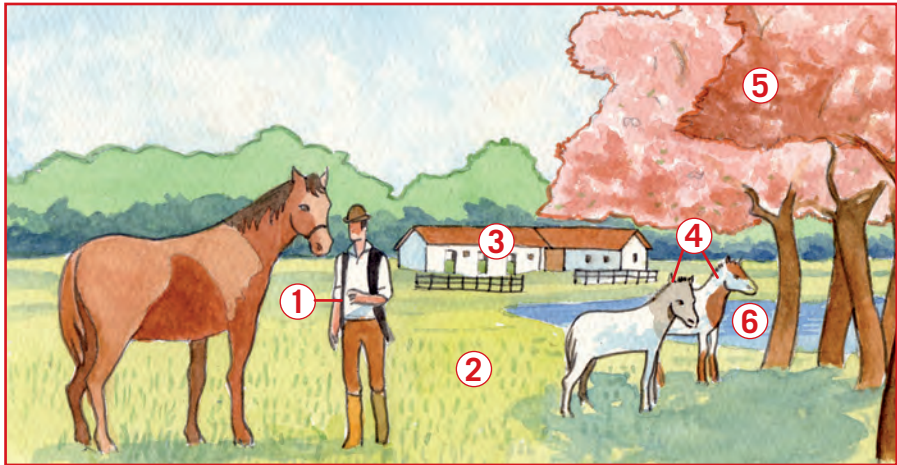


Black Beauty



BEFORE READING

1 Look at the picture. Match the word to the numbers.



a meadow

b stable

c orchard

d colts

e pond

f groom

2 Complete the sentences below with a word from Exercise 1.

- a My first home was a beautiful meadow with a of clear water.
- b I used to play with six young who lived there.
- c During the day I ran around the with my mother. At night I lay next to her.
- d At my new home, Birtwick Park, I had a large and comfortable
- e The who looked after me at Birtwick Park was John Manly.
- f Best of all, we had a day free every Sunday in the summer, when we spent the day in the old under the trees.



3 **▶ MP3** The pictures below show some important characters in the story. Listen and write the names.



A



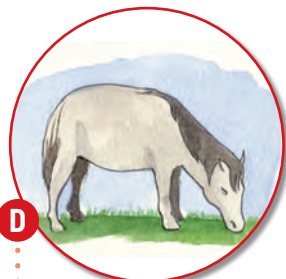
C



B



E




D

4 **▶ MP3** Listen again and write the names beside the descriptions.

- a They are kind to both people and animals.
- b She is the little fat grey pony in the stables next to mine.
.....
- c She is a tall chestnut horse, and she sometimes bites people.
.....
- d He is a kind London cab driver with a wife and two children.
.....
- e He is the groom who looks after me. He has a beard.
.....

1 MY FIRST HOME

 My first home was a beautiful meadow[•] with a pond of clear water. There were some large trees near the pond. On one side of the meadow was a field and on the other was the house of our master, Farmer Grey.

During the day I ran around the meadow with my mother. At night I lay next to her. When it was hot we stood under the trees by the pond. When it was cold we stayed in a warm shed[•].

There were six young colts[•] in our meadow. I used to play with them, and had great fun. But one day my mother whinnied[•] to me and said:


‘The colts don’t have good manners[•]. But you are well-bred[•] and are going to grow up gentle and good. Now, remember, do your work well and don’t bite or kick.’

I never forgot my mother’s advice[•].

ADVICE

Did you ever get good advice? Or bad advice?

What did you do? Did you follow the advice?

 Share your answers with a friend.

GLOSSARY

- **advice:** opinion on something someone else must do
- **colts:** young horses
- **manners:** good behaviour
- **meadow:** field with grass and flowers
- **shed:** small building outside, where you keep things
- **well-bred:** polite; with good manners
- **whinnied:** made a high sound (of horses)

1 Complete the following sentences with the present or past form, affirmative or negative, of the verb *to be*. Use abbreviations where possible.

- a** When it hot, we stood under the trees by the pond.
- b** Some men carrying George Gordon to the churchyard.
- c** Looks everything, young man. This is a very good horse.
- d** 'How things with you, Ginger?', he asked.
- e** I think she going to like it here.
- f** 'Oh, grandpa,' said Willie one day, 'I so glad you bought him!'
- g** And so the Barkers decided to sell the cab and horses and move to the country. This sad news for me.
- h** The doctor was a heavier man than John and he a good rider.
- i** For a few days everything fine. But after a while I had no oats in my food.

2 Put the following sentences into the negative form. Make any other necessary changes.

- a** The stableman brought us into the stable.
- b** He tried to lead the horses out.
- c** There were some large trees near the pond.
- d** He shook his head.
- e** I got used to that, too.
- f** Let's call him Black Beauty!
- g** We had to wear a short rein.
- h** During the winter my legs got much better.

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4**1 Complete the text by choosing the best word for each space.**

At the beginning of the book, Black Beauty describes his first home and his life in the company of other young horses, running and playing in the English countryside and receiving (1) from his mother about the importance of being kind and gentle. His first (2) , Farmer Grey, is a very kind man; he 'breaks him in', which means he teaches him to wear a saddle and bridle and to (3) a person on his back. From then on, Black Beauty is sold to a number of (4) people and has to get used to different kinds of homes and working conditions before he finally collapses from too much work. In the end, Black Beauty is taken (5) of by Joe Green, 'the best and kindest of grooms', who recognises him as Squire Gordon's favourite horse. In his final home, Black Beauty starts feeling strong and healthy again, and spends the rest of his days leading a quiet life.

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 A advices | B advise | C advice |
| 2 A teacher | B master | C boss |
| 3 A bring | B carry | C travel |
| 4 A various | B different | C others |
| 5 A care | B back | C away |

2 Read the sentences and choose the best word for each space.

- 1** When we there it was nearly dark.
A were **B** came **C** got
- 2** After a delicious meal, I down to sleep.
A lay **B** lied **C** laid
- 3** I was proud to carry a man, and I soon used to it.
A did **B** was **C** got