

Black Beauty

by Anna Sewell

Anna Sewell's pioneering animal welfare novel is narrated by a noble black horse who recounts his life through kind and cruel owners alike, advocating compassion for working animals.

Rank #17

Power Words

#	WORD	DEFINITION
1	brutally	adv. causing suffering and pain <i>"The young groom brutally jerked the reins, not understanding that pain makes a frightened horse more difficult, not less."</i>
1	compassionate	adj. showing sympathy and concern for others. <i>"Squire Gordon was compassionate toward every horse in his stable, checking each one personally before retiring."</i>
1	deteriorate	v. to make or become worse; to make or become less in value or quality <i>"Under Skinner's ownership Beauty began to deteriorate visibly, his once-glossy coat growing rough and his eyes losing their light."</i>
1	distressing	adj. 1 causing worry or anxiety; 2 bad; unfortunate; v. cause mental pain to <i>"It was deeply distressing to Beauty when Ginger was brought in broken and trembling from the bearing rein."</i>
1	grateful	adj. feeling or showing thanks for something. <i>"Beauty felt deeply grateful whenever a groom spoke quietly and moved slowly, treating him as a feeling creature."</i>
1	merciless	adj. showing no mercy or pity towards others. <i>"The merciless whip fell again and again, long after any sensible driver would have seen the horse was spent."</i>
1	neglected	adj. not cared for or given attention. <i>"The horses at Skinner's yard were neglected and hollow-cheeked, their coats dull from poor feed and hard usage."</i>
1	obediently	adj. obeying or willing to obey; complying with or submissive to authority <i>"Beauty stood obediently at the mounting block, though he trembled at the unfamiliar smell of the new rider."</i>
1	overloaded	v. to put too heavy or great a load in or on. <i>"The poor cab horse was grotesquely overloaded, his thin legs trembling under a burden no beast should carry."</i>
1	recuperate	v. to recover or regain health or strength after an illness or injury. <i>"Given pasture and rest, Beauty began to recuperate slowly, his strength returning with each week of gentle treatment."</i>
1	reliable	adj. able to be trusted or depended on. <i>"A reliable horse like Beauty was worth more than any flashy animal that shied at every passing shadow."</i>
1	resolutely	adv. showing firm determination or purpose <i>"John Manly resolutely refused to use the bearing rein, declaring no fashion was worth destroying a good horse's neck."</i>
1	spirited	adj. full of vigor courage or enthusiasm. <i>"Beauty was spirited but never vicious, responding to a kind hand with more willingness than spurs ever produced."</i>
1	steadfastly	adv. with resolute determination <i>"Ginger steadfastly refused the bearing rein, throwing her head against it until her neck ran with sweat."</i>
1	tenderly	adv. in a gentle and caring way. <i>"Joe Green tended the exhausted horse tenderly through the night, never leaving his side until the fever broke."</i>