

Thursday 22nd April 2021 **Black Beauty – by Anna Sewell**

My Early Home Part II (Adapted)

Our master was a good, kind man. He gave us good food, good lodging, and kind words; he spoke as kindly to us as he did to his little children. We were all fond of him, and my mother loved him very much. When she saw him at the gate, she would neigh with joy and trot up to him. He would pat and stroke her and say, “Well, old Pet, and how is your little Dusky?” I was a dull black, so he called me Dusky; then he would give me a piece of bread, which was very good, and sometimes he brought a carrot for my mother. All the horses would come to him, but I think we were his favourites. My mother always took him to the town on a market day in a light gig. There was a ploughboy, Dick, who sometimes came into our field to pluck blackberries from the hedge. When he had eaten all he wanted, he would have what he called fun with the colts, throwing stones and sticks at them to make them gallop. We did not much mind him, for we could gallop off; but sometimes a stone would hit and hurt us. One day, he was at this game, and he did not know that the master was in the next field; but he was there, watching what was going on; over the hedge he jumped in a snap, and catching Dick by the arm, he gave him such a box on the ear, which made him roar with the pain and surprise. As soon as we saw the master, we trotted up nearer to see what went on. “Bad boy!” he said, “bad boy to chase the colts. This is not the first time, nor the second, but it shall be the last. There—take your money and go home; I shall not want you on my farm again.” So we never saw Dick any more. Old Daniel, the man who looked after the horses, was just as gentle as our master, so we were well off.

Retrieval

- a) What food did the master feed the mother horse sometimes? Circle it.
Carrot bread blackberries sugar lumps
- b) What did the ploughboy sometimes pick in the field?

Vocabulary

- c) Find two words which describe how horses can move?
d) ‘he gave him such a box on the ear’. Tick what this means.

He gave him a present He stood on a box to reach his ear He hit him

Inference

- e) Why do you think the foal and his mother were the master’s favourites?
f) What was the money for that the master gave Dick?

Pluck



To take hold of something quickly and it from its place.