

Year 7 English test

Term 2, Half-term test



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Section A: Reading

Read the extract below then answer the questions that follow it.

This is an adapted extract based on the novel 'Black Beauty' by Anna Sewell. It is the story of the life of a horse called Black Beauty. The story is told by the horse himself.

In this extract, Black Beauty describes his life with a new owner where he is looked after by a human called John

- 1 I was quite happy in my new place, and if there was one thing that I missed it must not be thought I was discontented; all who had to do with me were good and I had a light airy stable and the best of food.
- 5 What more could I want? Why, freedom! For three and a half years of my life I had had all the freedom I could wish for; but now, week after week, month after month, and no doubt year after year, I must stand up in a stable night and day except when I am
- 10 wanted, and then I must be just as steady and quiet as any old horse who has worked twenty years. Straps here and straps there, a bit in my mouth, and blinkers over my eyes. Now, I am not complaining,

15 for I know it must be so. I only mean to say that for
a young horse full of strength and energy, who has
been used to some large field where he can fling up
his head and his tail and gallop away at full speed,
then round and back again with a snort to his com-
panions—I say it is hard never to have a bit more
20 freedom to do as you like. Sometimes, when I have
had less exercise than usual, I have felt so full of life
that when John has taken me out to exercise I really
could not keep quiet; it seemed as if I must jump, or
dance; but he was always good and patient.

25 “Steady, steady, my boy,” he would say; “wait a
bit, and we will have a good run, and soon get the
tickle out of your feet.” Then as soon as we were
out of the village, he would give me a few miles at a
fast trot, and then bring me back as fresh as before,
30 but without the fidgets, as he called them. Spirited
horses, when not enough exercised, are often called
skittish, when it is only play; and some grooms will
punish them, but our John did not; he knew it was
only high spirits. Still, he had his own ways of mak-
35 ing me understand by the tone of his voice or the
touch of the rein. If he was very serious and quite
determined, I always knew it by his voice, and that
had more power with me than anything else, for I
was very fond of him.

40 I ought to say that sometimes we had our freedom
for a few hours; this used to be on Sundays in the
summer-time.

45 It was a great treat to us to be turned out into the
home paddock or the old orchard; the grass was so
cool and soft to our feet, the air so sweet, and the
freedom to do as we liked was so pleasant—to gal-
lop, to lie down, and roll over on our backs, or to
nibble the sweet grass. Then it was a very good time
for talking, as we stood together under the shade of
50 the large chestnut tree.

1 Black Beauty gives three reasons he is happy in his new place. Which of the reasons below does he **NOT** give?

a) Everyone is kind to him

☐

b) He has a nice stable

☐

c) He has made lots of new friends

☐

d) He is given good food

☐

1

Re-read the opening of the extract:

I was quite happy in my new place, and if there was one thing that I missed it must not be thought I was discontented; all who had to do with me were good and I had a light airy stable and the best of food. What more could I want? Why, freedom! For three and a half years of my life I had had all the freedom I could wish for; but now, week after week, month after month, and no doubt year after year, I must stand up in a stable night and day except when I am wanted, and then I must be just as steady and quiet as any old horse who has worked twenty years. Straps here and straps there, a bit in my mouth, and blinkers over my eyes.

2 Explain in your own words **one** reason why Black Beauty is unhappy in his new place.

Black Beauty describes his life before he came to this new place:

some large field where he can fling up his head and his tail and gallop away at full speed, then round and back again with a snort to his companions

3 Explain how his old life differs from his new life.

4 Which words best describe Black Beauty when John takes him out for exercise?

- a) Quiet and well behaved ☐
- b) Lively and unsettled ☐
- c) Angry and badly behaved ☐
- d) Fast and powerful ☐

5 According to Black Beauty, how do some humans treat horses that are playful when they have not had enough exercise?

2

1

1

- 6 What impression does the writer create of John, the man that looks after Black Beauty?
Remember to support your ideas with evidence from the extract.

4

Re-read the final paragraph of the extract.

It was a great treat to us to be turned out into the home paddock or the old orchard; the grass was so cool and soft to our feet, the air so sweet, and the freedom to do as we liked was so pleasant—to gallop, to lie down, and roll over on our backs, or to nibble the sweet grass. Then it was a very good time for talking, as we stood together under the shade of the large chestnut tree.

- 7 Explain in your own words what Black Beauty enjoys when he is in the home paddock or the old orchard.

2

please turn over

Look at these two short sections from the extract.

week after week, month after month, and no doubt year after year, I must stand up in a stable night and day except when I am wanted, and then I must be just as steady and quiet as any old horse who has worked twenty years. Straps here and straps there, a bit in my mouth, and blinkers over my eyes.

It was a great treat to us to be turned out into the home paddock or the old orchard; the grass was so cool and soft to our feet, the air so sweet, and the freedom to do as we liked was so pleasant—to gallop, to lie down, and roll over on our backs, or to nibble the sweet grass.

- 8 Explain why the writer has shown these two different experiences in Black Beauty's new life.

9 Which answer below explains most clearly why the writer might have decided that Black Beauty should tell his own story in his own words?

- a) It helps the reader understand how a horse might feel about the way they are treated by humans. ☐
- b) It is the story of Black Beauty's life. ☐
- c) It is not very believable because horses cannot write or talk. ☐
- d) It shows that horses do not always like the way they are treated by humans. ☐

1

Section B: Writing

10 Write about a time when you went somewhere new for the first time.

In your writing, you should describe:

- where you went
- what you did or what happened there
- your thoughts and feelings.

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Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal purple lines.

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Total for test : 36 marks

My score: marks

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What went well

How to improve

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