

Black Beauty

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell was written in 1877. In the book, *Black Beauty*, an English horse, tells the story of his life. In this paragraph from Chapter 6 he tells about life as a carriage horse.

Chapter 6: Liberty

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, liberty! For three years and a half of my life I had had all the liberty 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. Now, I am not complaining, for I



know it must be so. I only mean to say that for a young horse full of strength and spirits, who has been used to some large field or plain where he can fling up his head and toss up his tail and gallop away at full speed, then round and back again with a snort to his companions—I say it is hard never to have a bit more liberty to do as you like. Sometimes, when I have had less exercise than usual, I have felt so full of life and spring that when John has taken me out to exercise I really could not keep quiet; do what I would, it seemed as if I must jump, or dance, or prance, and many a good shake I know I must have given him, especially at the first; but he was always good and patient.

Vocabulary

Circle the correct answer:

discontented

- a. lazy
- b. unhappy
- c. greedy
- d. selfish

blinkers

- a. leather pieces
- b. cloth mask
- c. straw hat
- d. horseflies

plain

- a. rocky hills
- b. stable yard
- c. racetrack
- d. flat land

Quick Quiz

Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

What were good things about the new place?

Those around him, the stable and the food

What does liberty mean to Black Beauty?

Being able to run free with his friends

What happens when Black Beauty has less exercise than usual?

He can't stay quiet and gives John a shake.