



Anna Sewell wrote Black Beauty in 1877. In the book, Black Beauty, an English horse, tells the story of his life. The paragraphs below are from Chapter 3, where he tells about his early training as a colt in the countryside.

Chapter 3, My Breaking In

I must not forget to mention one part of my training, which I have always considered a very great advantage. My master sent me for a fortnight to a neighboring farmer's, who had a meadow which was skirted on one side by the railway. Here were some sheep and cows, and I was turned in among them.

I shall never forget the first train that ran by. I was feeding quietly near the pales which separated the meadow from the railway, when I heard a strange sound at a distance, and before I knew whence it came — with a rush and a clatter, and a puffing out of smoke — a long black train of something flew by, and was gone almost before I could draw my breath. I turned and galloped to the further side of the meadow as fast as I could go, and there I stood snorting with astonishment and fear. In the course of the day many other trains went by,

some more slowly; these drew up at the station close by, and sometimes made an awful shriek and groan before they stopped. I thought it very dreadful, but the cows went on eating very quietly, and hardly raised their heads as the black frightful thing came puffing and grinding past.

For the first few days I could not feed in peace; but as I found that this terrible creature never came into the field, or did me any harm, I began to disregard it, and very soon I cared as little about the passing of a train as the cows and sheep did.

Since then I have seen many horses much alarmed and restive at the sight or sound of a steam engine; but thanks to my good master's care, I am as fearless at railway stations as in my own stable.

What Do You Think?

Why did Black Beauty's master send him to the neighbor's meadow?

How did the cows and sheep help Black Beauty?

How did the time in the meadow help Black Beauty later in his life?

Vocabulary

Put the letter of the word in the blank next to its meaning.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| A. considered | D. whence |
| B. fortnight | E. dreadful |
| C. pales | F. restive |

_____ not able to stand still

_____ fence posts

_____ where

_____ believe, thoughtful opinion

_____ unpleasant

_____ 14 days