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Anna Sewell

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Anna Sewell : Black Beauty: The autobiography of a horse / by Anna Sewell (The Companion Library of classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Beauty: The autobiography of a horse / by Anna Sewell (The Companion Library of classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Giant disappointmentBy GaelyThis is a sad attempt to I guess write a Black Beauty book that was suppose to be easier and shorter to read the the entire story of Black Beauty to a younger child who does not have the ability to sit thru the long version. It is still way to long for a younger child and the illustrations are horrible in the sense no way will they attract the attention of any age kid, and certainly not a book you really can use anyway with a little kid. I must have read Black Beauty hundreds of times as a child and it followed me to college. Black Beauty isn't just about abuse of animals. As I counselor, I used Black Beauty with kids who were abused or being abused to open the channel of safe talk. Anyway,,this book was a total bomb in my eyes and I actually gave it to the local library for their annual used book sale.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. nice qualityBy S. HerbertI purchased this as a gift. It is gifting quality. I like that this version contains some illustrations, so is suitable for younger children2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I love it and I hate horses, so thereBy Lisa JonesFirst, let me state that I do not like to read books about animals. I am not an animal hater!

I just do not have a special interest. So, it would surprise you to know that I read *Black Beauty* by English author Anna Sewell. I mean, *Black Beauty* is a horse. The amount of times that I have declined invitations to ride a horse would blow your mind. But, it is a famous classic and free to download. It would also surprise you to know that, aside from a few cracks about how nothing is happening but dumb horse stuff, I enjoyed reading this book. Mostly because I forgot that I was reading about a horse. The book is written as an autobiography—*Black Beauty* narrates his own life story. Since horses do not in reality voice their opinions, it is easy to think that the protagonist is a badly-used human laborer. I suppose that was the aim of Sewell, an invalid who relied on horses for transportation: to humanize the voiceless horses during the late nineteenth century to bring reform and compassion. The book certainly made me compassionate for *Black Beauty*, whose life was difficult. *Black Beauty* begins as a colt on a farm owned by a wise horse breeder. He is sold to a kind benefactor at a large estate, where he lives for many blissful years. Unfortunately, when this period in his life ends, his owners decrease in wealth and are not always wise or kind. As he exchanges owners, he meets other horses who tell him their life story and the reader is exposed to the evils of fashion, drunkenness, religion, and poverty. Throughout his struggle, *Black Beauty* maintains an optimistic and persevering spirit and is rewarded with a situation that will support him as he ages.

Black Beauty was first published in 1877 and had an almost immediate impact on improving the treatment of animals—horses in particular—in England. Saddened by the animal abuse she had seen throughout her life, Anna Sewell wrote a novel using a horse's voice. *Beauty* tells the powerful story of his own descent from a well-groomed carriage horse to a mistreated cab horse. More than one hundred years after its first publication, *Black Beauty* remains a popular novel as well as an effective tool for teaching about animal cruelty. And with vivid illustrations and informative captions unique to the whole story, this striking edition provides background information modern readers could otherwise access only through a broad range of supplemental research.

.com "A horse is a horse of course unless of course the horse is *Black Beauty*. Animal-loving children have been devoted to *Black Beauty* throughout this century, and no doubt will continue through the next. Although Anna Sewell's classic paints a clear picture of turn-of-the-century London, its message is universal and timeless: animals will serve humans well if they are treated with consideration and kindness. *Black Beauty* tells the story of the horse's own long and varied life, from a well-born colt in a pleasant meadow to an elegant carriage horse for a gentleman to a painfully overworked cab horse. Throughout, Sewell rails—in a gentle, 19th-century way—against animal maltreatment. Young readers will follow *Black Beauty*'s fortunes, good and bad, with gentle masters as well as cruel. Children can easily make the leap from horse-human relationships to human-human relationships, and begin to understand how their own consideration of others may be a benefit to all. (Ages 9 to 12)"From School Library Journal Grade 4-6—While better written than most abridged versions, these adaptations sacrifice character and theme development through simplified retellings of the basic plots or action. In *Black Beauty*, Church has reduced the original 49 chapters to 21 by combining the sequence and action into simpler accounts. Sasaki has reworked six of the Sherlock Holmes stories to maintain the mystery and solution minus Holmes's roundabout explanations of deduction. The books include lists of questions for discussion. The generously spaced, large-type format, interspersed with occasional black-and-white drawings, may serve as an introduction or starter as the series intends. However, waiting for the right read-aloud setting combined with discussion of the original is the best way to include the classics in any child's literary experience.—Rita Soltan, Youth Services Consultant, West Bloomfield, MI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. A handsome foal with promising beginnings is passed from owner to owner and soon learns the particular cruelties of hard masters and the rich in this horse story. The audio version, narrated by Martin Jarvis, abridges and brings alive the high points of Sewell's classic. -- Midwest Book