

朗文经典

读名著 学英语



# 黑骏马

*BLACK BEAUTY*

每周读一部英文名著

原著: [英]A. 休厄尔 (A. Sewell)  
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# **Black Beauty**

## Introduction

The book *Black Beauty* came to the bookshops in 1877. Nobody knew much about the writer, Anna Sewell. It was the only book she wrote. She was 57 years old, and was often ill. An accident as a child had left her unable to walk without help. She died in 1878, and never saw the great **success** of her book.

She wrote the book because she loved animals. Most of all, she loved horses. It hurt her to see anybody being unkind to a horse.

In Anna Sewell's time there were no cars, no motor buses and no motor vans or trucks. There were railway trains between towns, but in town or in the country you walked, or used the horse. The horse carried you as a rider, or pulled you in a carriage or horse bus or horse **tram** (street car). Horses pulled the carts and vans that carried heavy and light loads. They brought the coal, milk, bread and other things to your house. Some very heavy loads were pulled by horses along the rivers and **canals**.

So there were very many thousands of horses at work in Europe, America, and other parts of the world. Some of those horses had good owners, drivers and riders who thought about their horses and were kind to them. Black Beauty in this book

## 简介

success  
n. 成功

tram  
n. 车

canal  
n. 运河

1877年，小说《黑骏马》出现在书店里。作者是安娜·休厄尔，人们并不熟悉她。这是她写的唯一的一本书，那年她57岁，经常生病，而且孩童时的一次车祸使她不能独立行走。直至1878年她逝世前，都未能亲眼目睹她的作品所获得的巨大成功。

她写这本小说是出于她对动物的喜爱。她尤其喜欢马，看到有人对马不友善她就会感到难过。

安娜·休厄尔生活的时代没有小汽车，没有公共汽车，也没有摩托车和卡车。城镇之间靠火车往来互联，但是在城镇里，或者在乡村，只能靠步行，或者借助于马力。人们可以像骑手一样骑着马，也可以坐四轮马车或者马拉的公交车和（马拉的）包厢车（街车）。两轮运货马车和厢式马车运送各种轻重不同的货物。这些马车把煤、牛奶、面包和其他东西送到各家各户。有些特别沉重的货物则是沿着河流和运河由马拉纤运输的。

因此，当时在欧洲、美国和世界上其他地方，有成千上万的马匹在为人类劳作。有些马匹遇到了好主人、好马夫和好骑手，他们能设身处地替马着想，友善地对待马。本书中的黑骏马就描述了马市上形形色



describes some of the different people at a horse market:

“The richer people went away as soon as they saw the marks on my legs. Others walked round me, pulled my mouth open, looked at my eyes, ran their hands over my legs, made me walk and trot. Some of them did these things with a hard hand: for them I was just a working beast. Others spoke to me, touched me with kind hands, patted me.”

Black Beauty was **lucky** to be bought by one of the people with kind hands, Jerry Barker. But there are many kinds of people in the world, and some with hard hands and hard hearts were very unkind to their “working beasts”.

It was because of the bad treatment of animals that Anna Sewell wrote her book. Even the people who were naturally kind did not always remember that their horses were living creatures which could be happy or unhappy.

She was brave to make her book “the **autobiography** of a horse”, with Black Beauty telling the story as “*I*” (*me, my* etc.). It is true that at the time readers were very interested in autobiographies. But an **imaginary** autobiography of a horse was quite a different thing. But people loved the book, and many of them were kinder to horses because of it.

色色的人：

“比较有钱的人一看见我腿上的疤痕就走开了。别的人围着我转着，掰开我的嘴巴，检查我的眼睛，用手从上到下把我的腿摸个遍，让我走一走、跑一跑。有些人做这些动作时手很重，对他们而言，我只不过是一头干活的牲畜。另一些人还跟我说话，友好地抚摸我，轻柔地拍拍我。”

lucky  
adj. 幸运的

黑骏马非常幸运地被杰瑞·巴克——一位动作温柔的人买下来。但是世界上有各种各样的人，有些人就心狠手重，对他们的“干活的牲畜”极其不友善。

正是因为动物所受到的恶劣待遇，促使安娜·休厄尔写下了这本书。即使是本性善良的人们，有时也会忘记马是活生生的有感情的动物，它们也会喜悦，也会悲伤。

autobiography  
n. 自传

她大胆地把这本书写成“一匹马的自传”，通过黑骏马以第一人称“我”（我自己、我的等）的方式来讲述故事。事实上那个年代的读者对自传文体很感兴趣，但是关于一匹马的虚构的自传却并不常见。然而人们热爱这本书，许多人因为这本书而对马更加友善了。

imaginary  
adj. 虚构的



CHAPTER 1  
**My Mother**

我的母亲

• QUESTIONS BEFORE READING •

- ▶ What were the other young horses going to be?
- ▶ What was Black Beauty's grandfather?

I don't **remember** everything about the time I was very small. I remember a big field of green grass. There were a few trees in it, and on hot days my mother stood under a tree and I drank her milk. That was before I grew bigger and began to eat the grass.

There were some other young horses in the field. As we grew bigger, we played and ran round and round the field. We **jumped** about, or we went down on our backs on the grass and kicked our legs happily in the air. We were glad to be alive.

When I stopped taking her milk, my mother went to work every day. She came back in the evening, and I told her all about my day.

"I'm glad you are happy," she said. "Play as much as you can. But you must remember that you are not like these other young horses. They are all going to be farm horses; they're good horses, but not like us. Your father is well known in this part of the country, and your grand father—my father—was **Lord Westland's** best horse. When you're a little older, you'll learn to take people on your back or to take them from place to place in their carriages."

remember

v. 记得，想起

在我还很年幼的时候发生的事，我已无法一一记起了。我只记得以前有一大片绿色的草地，草地上长着几棵大树。天热时，妈妈站在树荫下，我吃着妈妈的奶。后来我长大了，开始吃青草。

jump

v. 跳跃

在这片田地里还有其他几匹小马。我们一块长大，一起玩耍，常常绕着田地一圈又一圈地奔跑嬉戏。我们时而欢蹦乱跳，时而仰面朝天躺在草地上，腿儿还在空中愉快地蹬着。我们过得十分开心。

我断奶以后，妈妈每天都出去干活。她到晚上才回来，那时我就给她讲我一天的活动。

Lord

n. 勋爵（英国贵族的称号，用在姓氏前，需大写）

“我为你的快乐而感到高兴，”她说，“你尽情地去玩吧。但是你必须记住你和其他小马不一样。他们将成为农场里的马；他们是好马，但和我们不一样。你父亲在这一带乡村很有名气，你的外祖父——我的父亲——是韦斯特兰勋爵所拥有的最优秀的马。等你再长大一些，就要学着在背上驮人或者拉着马车把人们从一个地方送到另一个地方。”

I asked, "Is that what your work is, Mother? Is that what you do for Farmer Grey?"

"Yes, that's what I do. Farmer Grey sometimes rides me and sometimes drives me as his carriage horse. Here he is now."

Farmer Grey came into the field. He was a good, kind man, and he liked my mother very much.

"Well, my dear Duchess," he said to her, "here's something for you." He gave her something nice to eat. "And how is your little son?" He **patted** me and gave me some bread, which was very nice.

We couldn't answer him, but my mother showed him that she loved him. He patted her and went away.

"He's very kind," my mother said, "and you must learn to **please** him. Always do your work gladly, and never bite or kick. Then he'll always be nice to you."

我问道：“妈妈，那就是你的工作吗？那就是你为农场主格雷所做的工作吗？”

“是的，那就是我的工作。农场主格雷有时候骑着马，有时候给我套上马车。瞧，他来了。”

农场主格雷来到田里。他是一个好心善良的男人。他十分喜欢我的母亲。

“好了，亲爱的公爵夫人，”他对她说，“这是给你的。”他给她一些好吃的。“你的小儿子好吗？”他拍拍我，给我一些很好吃的面包。

pat

v. 轻拍，轻打

我们无法用语言回答他，但是我的母亲向他示意她爱他。他拍拍她，然后离开了。

“他很善良，”我的母亲说，“你必须学会取悦他。在任何时候都要愉快地工作，永远不要去咬人或踢人。这样他才会始终对你好。”

please

v. (使) 满意，

(使) 高兴





## ***Language Points to Remember***

好句好段记心上

1. We jumped about, or we went down on our backs on the grass and kicked our legs happily in the air.

我们时而欢蹦乱跳，时而仰面朝天躺在草地上，腿儿还在空中愉快地蹬着。

2. He patted me and gave me some bread, which was very nice.

他拍拍我，给我一些很好吃的面包。

