

Making Inferences

Black Beauty

When things are not explained literally in a text, you can use clues to reach a logical conclusion. This is called inference.

Read the short story extract then answer the questions in full sentences.

Black Beauty

The Autobiography of a Horse

By Anna Sewell

“To my dear and honoured Mother,
whose life, no less than her pen,
has been devoted to the welfare of others,
this little book is affectionately dedicated.”

My Early Home Part II (Adapted)

Our master was a good, kind man. He gave us good food, good lodging, and kind words; he spoke as kindly to us as he did to his little children. We were all fond of him, and my mother loved him very much. When she saw him at the gate, she would neigh with joy and trot up to him. He would pat and stroke her and say, “Well, old Pet, and how is your little Dusky?”

I was a dull black, so he called me Dusky; then he would give me a piece of bread, which was very good, and sometimes he brought a carrot for my mother. All the horses would come to him, but I think we were his favourites. My mother always took him to the town on a market day in a light gig.

There was a ploughboy, Dick, who sometimes came into our field to pluck blackberries from the hedge. When he had eaten all he wanted, he would have what he called fun with the colts, throwing stones and sticks at them to make them gallop. We did not much mind him, for we could gallop off; but sometimes a stone would hit and hurt us.

One day, he was at this game, and he did not know that the master was in the next field; but he was there, watching what was going on; over the hedge he jumped in a snap, and catching Dick by the arm, he gave him such a box



on the ear, which made him roar with the pain and surprise. As soon as we saw the master, we trotted up nearer to see what went on.

“Bad boy!” he said, “bad boy to chase the colts. This is not the first time, nor the second, but it shall be the last. There—take your money and go home; I shall not want you on my farm again.” So we never saw Dick any more. Old Daniel, the man who looked after the horses, was just as gentle as our master, so we were well off.



Questions

1. Why was the master as kind to the horses as he was 'to his little children'?

2. Why do you think the foal and his mother were the master's favourites?

3. Why did Dick think it was fun to throw berries and stones at the horses?

4. If the master did not think it was right to hurt the horses, was he right to hurt Dick?
Why do you think that?

5. What was the money for that the master gave to Dick?