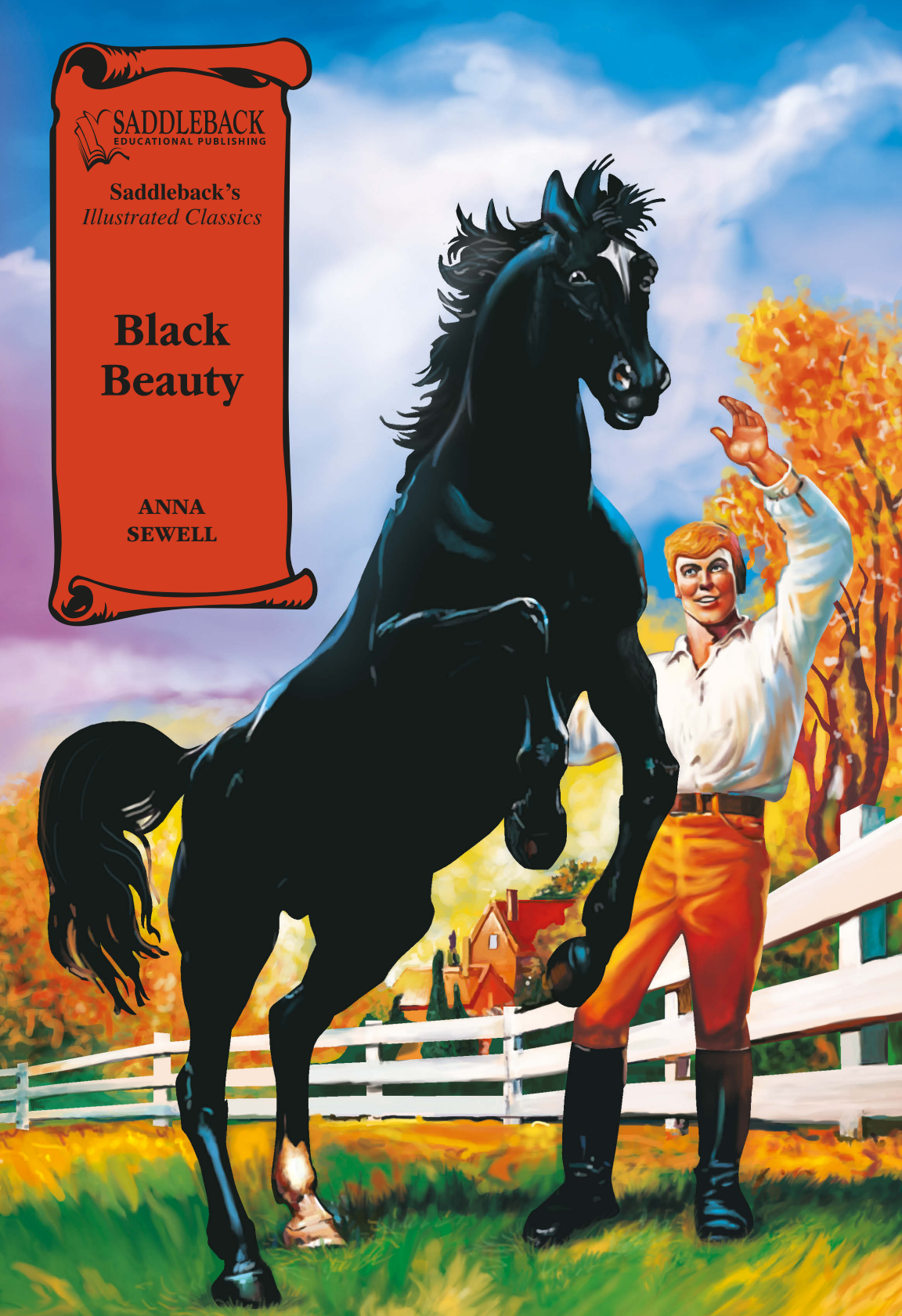
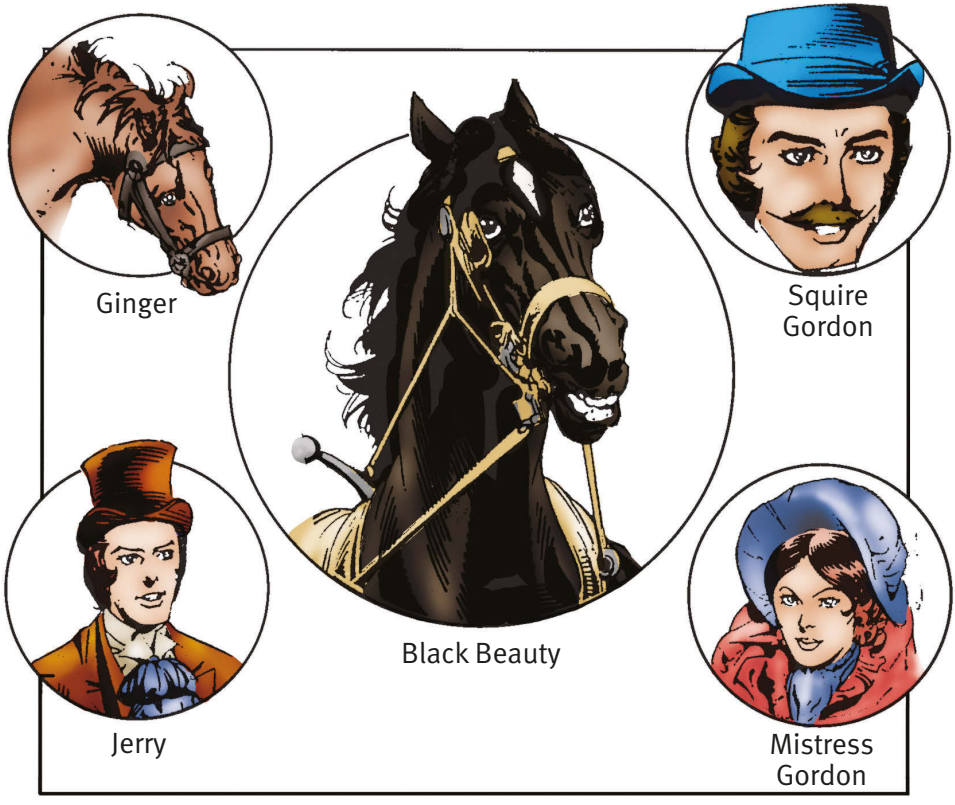

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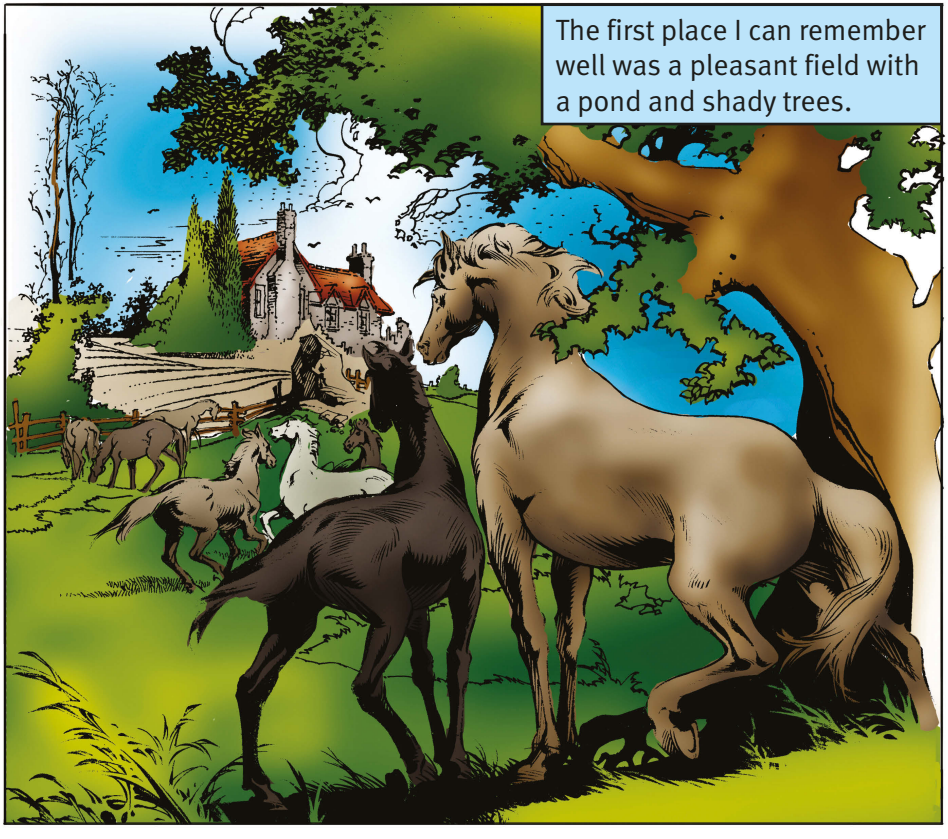
Black Beauty



"Men are the strongest, and if they are cruel and have no feelings, there is nothing we can do, but just bear it." That is what my friend Ginger told me, but at first I was lucky.



In my time I have known many owners . . . thoughtless, cruel men and women, and kind and loving ones. I have pulled fine carriages, and poor wagons. I have even saved a life or two, as my own had been saved. And this is how it all began.


The first place I can remember well was a pleasant field with a pond and shady trees.


While I was young, I drank my mother's milk since I could not eat grass.


In the daytime, I ran by her side or played with the other colts. Sometimes we had rather rough play.

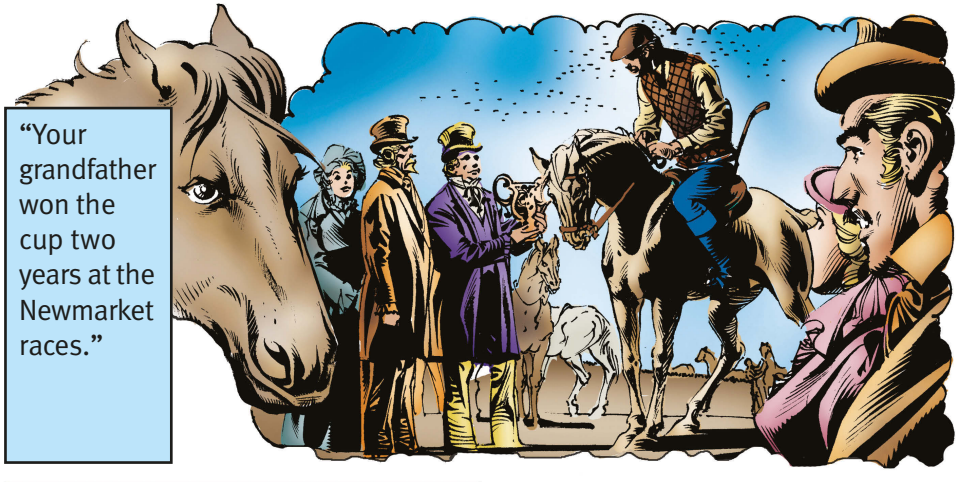
One day when there was a lot of kicking, my mother whinnied to me to come to her.



"Pay attention to what I am going to say to you . . . you have been well brought up."



"Your grandfather won the cup two years at the Newmarket races."



"Your grandmother had a very sweet temper, and you have never seen me kick or bite. I hope you will grow up gentle and good."



"Do your work with a good will, lift your feet up well when you trot, and never bite or kick."



Our master was a good, kind man. He gave us good food, a good home, and kind words.

Well, Duchess, how is your little colt today?

One day he caught a boy throwing stones at the colts to make them run.

Bad boy! I shall not want you on my farm again!

One day when I was two years old, we heard a cry of hounds.

Yo! Yo! Yo-o!

They have found a rabbit. If they come this way, we'll see the hunt.

I watched in great surprise as the hunters appeared over the bank, jumped the stream, and came dashing across the field.



Near our end of the field, they jumped a high hedge.



One of the horses fell; he and his rider lay quite still on the ground.



The young man was carried away and the veterinarian was called to look at the horse.



The veterinarian had said the horse had a broken leg. There was a big bang, and the horse lay still.



My mother seemed very upset. She said she never could see why men liked this sport, all for a rabbit they could get more easily some other way.



Not many days after, we saw a strange black coach pass by. It was carrying the young man to the cemetery to bury him.



My master would not sell me until I was four years old. He said colts should not work like grown horses.

Yes, he will do very well.

I will break him in myself. I should not like him frightened or hurt.

The worst thing about the breaking-in was the bridle and bit. You can't think how unpleasant it feels, a great piece of steel pushed into your mouth.

But the master fed me oats and let me get used to it slowly.

Good boy! You must make the best of it.

Next came the saddle but that was not so bad. One morning my master got on my back and rode me around the field. I felt rather proud.

You go very well, Beauty!

The next difficult business was the horseshoes. The blacksmith took my feet one after the other.





Then I was taught to wear a harness, and I learned to pull a cart or carriage. My master often drove me in a double harness with my mother.

In May, a man came from Squire Gordon to take me.

Good-bye . . . be a good horse!



The next morning, John Manly, the coachman, took me out, and the squire came to look at me, too.

Excellent . . . as fast as a deer, but well-trained.



Black Beauty

Anna Sewell, in her first and only published book, portrays a classic tale about the life of a magnificent, beautiful, proud…"well-bred and well-born horse"… Black Beauty.

The author tells this unforgettable story, which takes place in nineteenth-century England, through the eyes of Black Beauty. The reader will feel the love and cruelty that this great stallion experiences. Beginning with Black Beauty's wonderful life with his master, Squire Gordon, and the kindness of Jerry Barker to the terrible times as a "wagon" and "cab" horse having to tolerate the torture of the "proper" English bearing reins, Black Beauty's story will speak for all animals that can't speak for themselves.

This story is considered one of the most successful animal stories ever written...truly a timeless classic!

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