**Black Beauty**

**Treetops Stage 16**

**Reading Activities**

Predicting

What do you think this book is going to be about?

\*Look at the front cover

\*Scan the illustrations in the book

\*Read the ‘blurb’ on the back of the book

Chapter 1- My First Home

After reading this chapter write a small paragraph: make either a text-to-text connection, a text-to-self connection or a text-to-world connection.

1. Is this book written in the 1st or 3rd person?
2. What is the character the author is writing through?
3. Describe the very sad event that happened in this chapter
4. List the adjectives that the author has used in this chapter.

Chapter 2 - Breaking Me In

\*Using a dictionary/ICT look up the meaning of the following words, write both the word and its meaning in your jotter:

1. Harness 2. bit 3. saddle 4. stable 5. whip 6. reins

After reading chapter 2 visualise what Black Beauty, Merrylegs and Ginger would have looked like and draw them in your jotter.

Chapter 3 - A Stormy Night

\*With a partner, discuss the following questions and write the answer in your jotter:

1. What are horses used for nowadays?

2. What jobs did horses do in the nineteenth century?

Scan read your whole book and make a list of WOW words and descriptive words that you feel has made this book interesting.

Chapter 4 - The Fire

Answer the following questions in sentences in your jotter.

1. What job was James to be trained up for?
2. How does the writer describe the fire?
3. Describe what the fire engine was back then?
4. How had the fire started?

Draw a picture of the setting of the fire in your jotter, colour it in and then use descriptive words (adjectives) to describe it.

Chapter 5 - Emergency

Answer the following questions in sentences in your jotter.

1. Why was Beauty awoken during the night in an emergency?
2. Why had Beauty become ill?
3. Why should Beauty’s racing horse grandfather be very proud of him?

Make a self-to-text connection and write about a time when you did something that was really good for another person.

Chapter 6 - We’ll never see them again

Self-Questioning

Think of and write 5 questions, in your jotter, you would like to ask the character Black Beauty.

Design a Wanted Poster for the ‘coachman’ (who was beating the horses)

Include:

* A title
* an illustration
* words that describe his crime
* Details for people to contact if they have seen him.

Chapter 7- The Bearing Rein

Using ICT draw a horse and label all the parts of it.

Chapter 8 - An accident

After reading Chapter 8 think of 6 questions that would test your partner’s understanding of the book so far. e.g. Why did Black Beauty dislike Lady W?

Write your questions in your jotter and swap with a partner and answer their questions to test your own understanding.

Chapter 9 & 10 - Ruined & A London Cab Horse

Answer the following questions in your jotter, in sentences.

1. Why was Reuben Smith suddenly treating Black Beauty badly?
2. What happened to Reuben and where was Black Beauty sent after the accident?
3. What job did Black Beauty eventually do in London and why did he find it difficult at first?

Follow Up Task

* Write a conservation between you and Black Beauty, discussing his new life and job about his new job in London.

Chapter 11 & 12 -The Sunday Cab & Poor Ginger

Draw a picture of how you visualise Beauty when he is free in the country in chapter 11 and then draw a picture of how you visualise Beauty when he sees how badly treated and ill his old friend Ginger is.

Label both drawings with descriptive words (adjectives) of how beauty feels in each occasion.

Chapter 13 & 14 - This Cab is Taken & Changes

Scan read over your book again and note down all the changes Black Beauty had to make in his life. Now make a cartoon strip of the main events.

Chapter 15 & 16 - Hard Times & Home

Answer the following questions in your jotter, in sentences.

1. What adjectives does the writer use to describe Nicholas Skinner that tells you he is a mean person?
2. Describe a few of the horrible things Skinner did to Beauty.
3. What did Skinner decide to do with Beauty to make more money rather than sell him for dog meat?
4. Who does Beauty meet again after many years?
5. Who are Beauty’s final owner and how do you know he is very happy at his fan home?

Follow Up Task

Draw a picture of what you think Beauty’s favourite setting would look like. Write a description of where it is and what happened there.