

Name: _____

Date: _____

Inference: 5th Grade

Remember that **inference** is when you use the details given in a text to draw a conclusion about something that is not explicitly stated in the text.

Read the excerpt from *Black Beauty* and answer the questions that follow.

The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it. Some shady trees leaned over it, and rushes and water-lilies grew at the deep end. Over the hedge on one side we looked into a plowed field, and on the other we looked over a gate at our master's house, which stood by the roadside; at the top of the meadow was a grove of fir trees, and at the bottom a running brook overhung by a steep bank.

While I was young I lived upon my mother's milk, as I could not eat grass. In the daytime I ran by her side, and at night I lay down close by her. When it was hot we used to stand by the pond in the shade of the trees, and when it was cold we had a nice warm shed near the grove.

As soon as I was old enough to eat grass my mother used to go out to work in the daytime, and come back in the evening.

There were six . . . in the meadow besides me; they were older than I was . . . I used to run with them, and had great fun; we used to gallop together round and round the field as hard as we could go. Sometimes we had rather rough play, for they would frequently bite and kick as well as gallop.

One day, when there was a good deal of kicking, my mother whinnied to me to come to her, and then she said:

"I wish you to pay attention to what I am going to say to you. You have been well-bred and well-born; your father has a great name in these parts, and your grandfather won the cup two years at the Newmarket races; your grandmother had the sweetest temper of any . . . I ever knew, and I think you have never seen me kick or bite. I hope you will grow up gentle and good, and never learn bad ways; do your work with a good will, lift your feet up well when you trot, and never bite or kick even in play."

I have never forgotten my mother's advice; I knew she was wise . . . and our master thought a great deal of her. Her name was Duchess, but he often called her Pet.

Who or what is narrating this story? Give at least one detail from the text to support your answer.

Did the narrator listen to his mother when she told him to bite and kick? Give at least one detail from the story to support your answer?

Do you infer that the narrator will be trained to do hard work or trained for a different type of work? Give at least one detail to support your inference?

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Answers--Inference: 5th Grade

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One day, when there was a good deal of kicking, my mother whinnied to me to come to her, and then she said:

"I wish you to pay attention to what I am going to say to you. You have been well-bred and well-born; your father has a great name in these parts, and your grandfather won the cup two years at the Newmarket races; your grandmother had the sweetest temper of any . . . I ever knew, and I think you have never seen me kick or bite. I hope you will grow up gentle and good, and never learn bad ways; do your work with a good will, lift your feet up well when you trot, and never bite or kick even in play."

I have never forgotten my mother's advice; I knew she was wise . . . and our master thought a great deal of her. Her name was Duchess, but he often called her Pet.

Answers will vary. Students should be able to support answers with details when asked.

Who or what is narrating this story? Give at least one detail from the text to support your answer.

A horse (Black Beauty) is narrating the story. His mother "whinnies" to him; he drinks milk when young and then eats grass; he gallops with others in a field.

Did the narrator listen to his mother when she told him to bite and kick? Give at least one detail from the story to support your answer?

Yes. It says he never forgot her advice and knew that she was wise.

Do you infer that the narrator will be trained to do hard work or trained for a different type of work? Give at least one detail to support your inference?

He will be trained for a different type of work. His mother says that he is "well-bred" and "well-born." His father had a "great name" and his grandfather won "races."
