



2020

Black Beauty

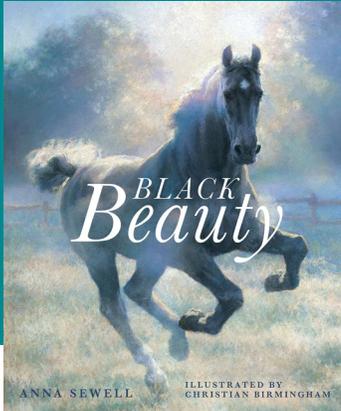
Taylor Bitton

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Book Review

Black Beauty

Author

Anna Sewell

Illustrator

Christian Birmingham

Reviewer

Taylor Bitton

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Intermediate

.....

Pages

199

Year

2019

ISBN

9781536211245

Publisher

Candlewick Press

Black Beauty is a high bred horse, born and raised in the pastures of Victorian England. His first owners have been very kind and gentle, so Beauty has a very agreeable disposition. As soon as he is old enough, Beauty is sold to new owners. Eventually these owners decide to move, so he is sold again. Years pass, and Beauty is owned by kind and cruel people alike. He experiences the freedom of country pastures and the difficulties of city life. Throughout it all, Beauty makes new friends and works hard and please the people he serves. Though he is confronted with many obstacles, Beauty faces each one with patience and courage, always remembering to try his best.

Sewell's novel has been a favorite for generations, and the artwork by Christian Birmingham included in this publication renews this story beautifully. The colorful, full-page illustrations as well as smaller black and white sketches make this book more entertaining. In addition, the themes addressed are timeless and powerful. Beauty's patience, perseverance, and kindness shows how to endure challenges gracefully, and the hardships he endures show the importance of empathy. Overall, this is a fantastic read for the nostalgic and curious reader.

*Contains mild violence.