

A London cab horse

This passage is about a horse called Black Beauty.

My new master's name was Jeremiah Barker, but as everyone called him Jerry, I shall do the same. Jerry had a cab of his own and two horses which he drove and attended to himself. His other horse was a tall, white, rather large-boned animal, called Captain; he was old now but when he was young he must have been splendid; he still had a proud way of holding his head and arching his neck; in fact, he was a high-bred, fine-mannered, noble old horse, every inch of him. He told me that in his early youth he went to the Crimean War; he belonged to an officer in the cavalry and used to lead the regiment.

Jerry's family were very kind to me. His wife, Polly, brought me a slice of apple each morning and his daughter, Dolly, brought me a piece of bread and made as much of me as if I had been the "Black Beauty" of olden times. It was a great treat to be petted again and talked to in a gentle voice, and I let them see as well as I could that I wished to be very friendly. Polly thought I was very handsome and a great deal too good for a cab, if it was not for the broken knees.

The first week of my life as a cab horse was very trying; I had never been used to London, and the noise, the hurry, the crowds of horses, carts and carriages that I had to make my way through made me feel anxious and harassed; but I soon found that I could perfectly trust Jerry, and then I got used to it. Captain would go out with the cab in the mornings and I would pull it in the afternoons.



Test A

Questions 25–36 are about *A London cab horse* on pages **7–8** in the Reading Booklet.

25. What is the name of Black Beauty's new driver?

26. From the first paragraph, **find** and **copy** a phrase that shows that Captain must have been splendid in his youth.

27. Draw lines to join Polly and Dolly to their actions.

talked in gentle voices.

locked Black Beauty in his stall.

Polly and Dolly

cleaned Black Beauty.

petted Black Beauty.

Marks

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