

Lesson 20

Day 1

Day 1 – “The Black Stallion” (pg. 599-613)

1. Why do you think Alec is so concerned about trying to ride the Black? (RL.5.6)
 - A. He is worried that the horse won't be able to carry him.
 - B. He is worried that it might push their friendship too far.
 - C. He is worried that the horse is sick.
 - D. He is worried the horse ran away.
2. What do you think the author means by saying “some of the savageness returned” to the Black's eyes? (RL.5.1)
 - A. The Black is mean and about to start acting like it again.
 - B. The Black is a wild animal.
 - C. The Black knows seems to know what Alec is thinking and is preparing to react.
 - D. The Black's eyes are showing how he feels.

Day 1 – “The Black Stallion” (pg. 599-613)

Writing Prompt

Prompt: What is the possible explanation for why the Black bolts?

Use details from the story to support your answer. (RL.5.1)

Day 2 – Read Aloud

Find Definition Using Context Clues

Directions: Find the definition of the work using the context clues in the story. Circle the context clues you used to find the definition of the word. (RL.5.4)

The Huntress

It had been a night of **fitful** sleep. It was harvest time, so a day of hard work should have knocked me out. Just as I was finally drifting to sleep, I heard something—a small, tiny something.

“Eek!”

With my head buried under four heavy blankets plus a down comforter, I could still recognize the **piercing** squeal of a rodent in distress. I groaned, rolled over, and tried to drift back toward sleep.

“Eek! Eek! Eek!”

“Willa!” called Dad in a weary voice from across the hall. “See what’s going on.”

By that time, I was already up and in my slippers. Plus, I knew exactly what was going on. My cat, Sheba, had captured a mouse, and a small one by the sound of it. If Sheba could talk—and she almost does talk to me—she would probably describe a mouse or any other pest as a **delicacy**. One thing I did know: If I didn’t get there soon, my **savage** cat would be dining on mouse.

Understand that I am not terribly fond of rodents—nobody who lives on a farm is fond of pests. They eat through our grain and would take over the barn, the kitchen, and anything else if we let them. Still, I never could bear the sound of an animal in pain. I knotted the belt of my robe and **descended** the stairs in the dark.

It didn’t take long for me to find them. In the corner near the back door, I saw a small dark shape dart behind Dad’s muddy boots. A shaft of porch light coming into the room showed the high black gloss of Sheba’s fur. She had dropped into the crouch of a huntress. I saw the muscles of her hind end **heave** as she raised them high. Her haunches **quivered**, then suddenly, wham! Sheba tackled Dad’s boot and whatever lay behind it.

“Eek!” Sheba had pinned the mouse’s tail under her paw.

As awful as it was for the mouse, I could not help **marveling** at how graceful and athletic my cat was when she hunted. “Sheba,” I crooned, hoping to distract her. “How’s my kitty tonight? How’s the best mouser in the whole wide world?”

As much as Sheba loved to hunt, she could not resist a compliment. She released the mouse and rubbed against my leg. I picked her up, eased open the back door, and softly called, “Come little mouse—freedom!” From out of nowhere the mouse scurried out the door, its small shape flitting over the porch before **diminishing** into the night.

I closed the door and carried Sheba up to my room. I snuggled under the heap of blankets, my kitty stretched out beside me. Soon, her **rhythmic** purring made both of us drowsy.

“Everything O.K.?” called my dad from across the hall.

“Everything’s fine,” I said and closed my eyes.

Day 2 – “The Huntress” Read Aloud

3. What causes Willa to get out of bed and go downstairs? (RL.5.3)
- A. She wants to help her cat hunt the mouse.
 - B. She thinks her cat is up to something.
 - C. She wants to see what is going on with the pests in the barn.
 - D. She hears a mouse squeak and doesn't want it to suffer.
4. What details do **not** describe the story's setting? (RL.5.5)
- A. It is harvest time.
 - B. It's been raining for days.
 - C. Willa talks about how the pests eat the grain and take over the barn.
 - D. Dad's boots are muddy from his farm work.

Day 2 – “The Huntress” Read Aloud Writing Prompt

Prompt: How does Willa feel about her cat? How do you know? Use details from the story to support your answer. (RL.5.1)

Lesson 20

Day 3

Day 3 – “Horse Power” (pg. 618-620)

5. Which of the following is **not** a reason that horses are used as therapy animals?
(RL.5.2, RI.5.4)
- A. Horses are easier to get into some places than dogs are.
 - B. The horses help the people with special needs to form connections with animals.
 - C. The horses help the people with special needs become stronger physically and emotionally.
 - D. The people with special needs learn to ride and care for the horses.

Day 3 – “Horse Power” (pg. 618-620)

Writing Prompt

Prompt: What point is the author is trying to make with this story?

Use evidence from the story to support your answer. (RI.5.2)