

My Journey Home

Family Connection

This week your child is reading *The Black Stallion*, an adventure story about the special relationship that forms between a boy and a black stallion as they fight to survive after a terrifying shipwreck.



Vocabulary on the Go The setting of *The Black Stallion* is a remote island. Alec and the horse survive on seaweed and the little fish Alec can catch. Create an adventure story with your child built around the theme of survival. Try to use the following vocabulary words:

piercing quivered savage heave delicacy



Career Goal Walter Farley, the author of this week's selection, began writing *The Black Stallion* when he was only 16 years old. He combined his passion for horses and writing to create a successful series of books. Talk with your child about ways he or she could tap into an interest or talent.

CHALLENGE

If the discussion sparks excitement, research what steps are necessary to make your child's goal a reality. Conduct a search on the Internet of careers associated with your child's interest.



Animal Workers Animals that help take care of people are called *service animals*. These animals do much more than provide the comfort of regular pets. Service animals are specially trained to perform tasks for people with certain disabilities. Some animals guide people who cannot see, alert people who are deaf, help pull wheelchairs, and even protect their owners if they have medical emergencies, such as seizures. Ask your child if he or she has ever seen a service animal before. Where? What service did the animal provide?

Try, Try Again This activity will help your child understand the importance of perseverance and of not getting discouraged when things in life are difficult.

Alec, the boy stranded with the black stallion, wants to ride the horse. The horse is not receptive to this idea at first and throws Alec off its back. Alec tries again, only to be whirled into the air. Eventually, the black stallion trusts Alec and allows him to ride on his back. What do Alec's repeated attempts to ride the horse show about his personality? Talk with your child about the importance of not giving up in frustration when things become difficult. Share with your child a time when you became frustrated with something and the steps you took to overcome that frustration. Have your child make a plan of behavior to follow the next time he or she has difficulty doing something.



Creature Comforts In many hospitals, dogs come with their owners to visit patients in their rooms. In fact, some dogs hop right up on the beds to snuggle! Why do you suppose hospitals allow this? Talk with your child about the comfort that pets can provide to humans and the effect these feelings may have on healing.



Book Links

- *Dog Training for Kids*, by Carol Lea Benjamin
- *The Cay*, by Theodore Taylor **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge Go to the library or search the Internet to find out more about how to train a dog or another animal to obey commands.

Home Letter

The Black Stallion Home Letter

Dear Family,

As the class works through this unit, students will think about the question “What can a person learn by building a relationship with an animal?” This week begins with **The Black Stallion**, an adventure story about a boy and a horse stranded on a deserted beach, trying to survive by learning to trust one another. We will also read **Horse Power**, an informational text about the different ways horses help people.

This week’s...

Target Vocabulary: piercing, descended, quivered, savage, delicacy, fitful, heave, diminishing, rhythmic, marveling

Vocabulary Strategy: Figurative language

Comprehension Skill: Story structure—examine and understand the setting, character, and events in a story

Comprehension Strategy: Question—ask questions about a selection before you read, as you read, and after you read

Writing Focus: Narrative writing—revise a fictional narrative

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

Review this week’s **Target Vocabulary** words and their meanings with your child. Then work together to create a fairy tale, incorporating the vocabulary words.

Pets Are Family, Too

If you have a family pet, discuss the animal’s characteristics with your child. How does the pet make the family feel? What do you do together? If you don’t have a pet, discuss which animals make good pets and why.

My Animal Companion

Ask your child to write and then revise a fictional narrative in which he or she goes on a long journey with an animal as an only companion. How do the animal and your child help each other? Remind your child to include details that help the reader understand what is happening.



Go to the *eBook* to read and listen to this week’s selection.

The Black Stallion

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. salsa | 22. cathedral |
| 2. mattress | 23. alligator |
| 3. tycoon | 24. tambourine |
| 4. burrito | 25. sombrero |
| 5. bandana | |
| 6. tomato | |
| 7. poncho | |
| 8. dungarees | |
| 9. lasso | |
| 10. patio | |
| 11. siesta | |
| 12. cargo | |
| 13. vanilla | |
| 14. tsunami | |
| 15. iguana | |
| 16. plaza | |
| 17. caravan | |
| 18. hammock | |
| 19. pajamas | |
| 20. gallant | |
| 21. mosquito | |

Name _____ Date _____

The Black Stallion
Vocabulary Word Cards

piercing

fitful

descended

heave

quivered

diminishing

savage

rhythmic

delicacy

marveling

Name _____ Date _____

Target Vocabulary

Island Ponies
Target Vocabulary

Fill in two more examples and non-examples for *descended* in the Four-Square Map below. Then create your own Four-Square Maps for five of the remaining Target Vocabulary Words.

Vocabulary

piercing	delicacy	rhythmic
descended	fitful	marveling
quivered	heave	
savage	diminishing	

Definition moved to a lower place	Example walking down a staircase _____ _____ _____
descended	
Sentence The plane descended smoothly and landed safely.	Non-example climbing a tree _____ _____ _____

Name _____

Date _____

Figurative Language

The Black Stallion

Vocabulary Strategies:
Figurative Language

Match each simile, metaphor, or idiom in Column 1 to its meaning in Column 2. You can use print or online reference sources to find the meaning of idioms you do not understand.

Column 1

Column 2

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The sea was angry. | A. You are still mad about something. |
| 2. Don't add fuel to the fire. | B. My scarf is very soft. |
| 3. My scarf feels as soft as a cloud. | C. The water was rough with lots of waves. |
| 4. You've got a chip on your shoulder. | D. The roll was very hard. |
| 5. The roll was like a hockey puck. | E. Don't make something worse. |

Vocabulary Strategies: Figurative Language

Grade 5, Unit 4

Name _____

Date _____

Figurative Language

The Black Stallion
Vocabulary Strategies:
Figurative Language

Read each sentence. Then circle the letter for the best answer.

1. She didn't break a sweat during the race.
A simile
B metaphor
C idiom
2. Their house was like an amusement park.
A simile
B metaphor
C idiom
3. The welcoming sun shone bright in the sky.
A simile
B metaphor
C idiom
4. They saved a big nest egg.
A simile
B metaphor
C idiom