

Massachusetts

2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy

LESSON

How One Event Changes What Can Happen Next

Black Beauty

TEACHES

RL.4.3

Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

WHY THIS EARNS THE STANDARD

Students explain how a specific event changes later possibilities, using details from the story.

The canonical lesson that follows is unchanged. This cover is an additive curriculum-placement layer.

TumbleTA | Tumbleweed Press Inc. | Corrected build 2026-09-09

TUMBLETA | GRADE 4 ELA | STANDALONE SKILL LESSON

How One Event Changes What Can Happen Next

Black Beauty

20 minutes

OBJECTIVE

Order a short episode and explain how one event changes the possible outcome of the next event.

STUDENT PRODUCT

A three-step event chain plus a because/therefore explanation.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How does the broken-bridge information change the meaning of Black Beauty's refusal to move forward?

TEXT FOCUS

The flooded-bridge episode.

LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Order | 3 min Place the refusal, new information, and final response in order.
2. Before the information | 4 min State what the refusal might look like at first.
3. After the information | 5 min Explain how the bridge news changes the reader's understanding.
4. Cause statement | 6 min Write how one event prevents or changes what could happen next.
5. Check | 2 min Your explanation must depend on the sequence.

TEACHER KEY / EXPECTED THINKING

Beauty's refusal first appears obstructive, but the broken-bridge information reveals it as protective; the new information changes both the next action and the meaning of the earlier event.

LOOK FOR

- Orders events correctly.
- Explains how later information changes interpretation.
- Connects sequence to outcome.

TumbleTA | Grade 4 ELA | Canonical standalone skill lesson