

Minnesota

2020 Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts

LESSON

How Treatment Changes Ginger

Black Beauty

TEACHES

4.1.4.3

Describe a literary element in detail, drawing on specific details from literary text.

WHY THIS EARNS THE STANDARD

Students analyze a character change across two periods and support the explanation with specific details.

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 Treatment Changes Ginger

Black Beauty

20 minutes

OBJECTIVE

Compare Ginger across two periods and explain how treatment contributes to the change.

STUDENT PRODUCT

A before/after comparison with two details from each period and one causal explanation.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How does Ginger change, and what does the contrast suggest about treatment?

TEXT FOCUS

Ginger at Birtwick compared with a later period of hardship.

LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Earlier period | 3 min Record two details about Ginger at Birtwick.
2. Later period | 4 min Record two contrasting later details.
3. Compare | 5 min Name the most important change.
4. Explain | 6 min Connect the change to differences in treatment or conditions.
5. Check | 2 min Separate what the text shows from what you infer causes it.

TEACHER KEY / EXPECTED THINKING

Ginger changes from healthier and more affectionate to physically damaged and distressed; the contrast supports the idea that treatment and conditions shape her well-being.

LOOK FOR

- Uses details from both periods.
- States a clear change.
- Connects the change to text-supported conditions.

TumbleTA | Grade 4 ELA | Canonical standalone skill lesson