

Minnesota

2020 Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts

LESSON

How One Event Changes What Can Happen Next

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 explain how one story event changes what can happen later, using specific details from the text.

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