

New Jersey

2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts

LESSON

How One Event Changes What Can Happen Next

Black Beauty

TEACHES

RL.IT.4.3

Describe the impact of individuals and events throughout the course of a text, using an in-depth analysis of the character, setting, or event that draws on textual evidence.

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