

Black Beauty

Anna Sewell

How does Merrylegs change the meaning of Ginger's 'bad habit' without excusing it?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Merrylegs explains Ginger
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter 3 · My Breaking In
START	“The thing is this,” said Merrylegs. “Ginger has a bad habit of biting and snapping;
END	so I think she might be good-tempered here.
PASSAGE ID	sec-bb-02

THE MOVE

Revise moral judgment when history becomes visible

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Merrylegs gives Ginger’s biting and snapping a history. The behavior remains harmful, but knowledge of previous mistreatment changes it from evidence of a simply bad nature into evidence of damage and distrust.

MARK

Underline the description of Ginger’s 'bad habit.' Circle the details Merrylegs gives about how she was treated before. Write EXPLAINS beside evidence that changes the judgment, but not EXCUSES.

NOTICE

- What judgment would be easy to make if we saw only Ginger’s behavior?
- What new information changes that judgment?
- Why is understanding the cause of harmful behavior different from approving it?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Merrylegs change the meaning of Ginger's 'bad habit' without excusing it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Merrylegs change the meaning of Ginger's 'bad habit' without excusing it? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Merrylegs changes the judgment by giving Ginger's behavior a history of mistreatment. Biting remains harmful, but it now looks like damage and distrust rather than evidence of an inherently bad nature.
EVIDENCE	Use the bad habit and the earlier treatment that helps explain why the habit developed.
WATCH FOR	Do not turn explanation into excuse. A strong answer can understand cause while still recognizing harmful behavior.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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How does Merrylegs change the meaning of Ginger's 'bad habit' without excusing it?

START ANCHOR	“The thing is this,” said Merrylegs. “Ginger has a bad habit of biting and snapping;
END ANCHOR	so I think she might be good-tempered here.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline the description of Ginger’s 'bad habit.' Circle the details Merrylegs gives about how she was treated before.

Write EXPLAINS beside evidence that changes the judgment, but not EXCUSES.

2. NOTICE - What judgment would be easy to make if we saw only Ginger’s behavior? What new information changes that judgment? Why is understanding the cause of harmful behavior different from approving it?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Merrylegs change the meaning of Ginger's 'bad habit' without excusing it?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.