

Black Beauty

Anna Sewell

Why does John refuse to accept good intentions as enough?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	John argues that ignorance can cause harm
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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 19 · Only Ignorance
START	“I wish, John, you'd say a bit of a kind word to Joe.
END	“And yet,” said John, “I am sure the young ladies did not mean it; it was only ignorance.”
PASSAGE ID	sec-bb-03

THE MOVE

Build an argument through examples that test an excuse

WHY THIS PASSAGE

John rejects 'ignorance' as a complete excuse by showing that harmless intentions can still produce serious harm. His examples force the argument away from what someone meant to do and toward what responsible attention should have prevented.

MARK

Underline the excuse based on ignorance or good intentions. Circle each example John uses to show the consequences of not knowing enough. Star the example that most clearly makes intention irrelevant to the harm caused.

NOTICE

- What does the excuse ask us to judge—the person’s intention or the result?
- How do John’s examples shift attention from innocence to responsibility?
- When should someone be held responsible for knowing enough to avoid causing harm?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does John refuse to accept good intentions as enough? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does John refuse to accept good intentions as enough? 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	John rejects good intentions because harm can be predictable even when nobody means to cause it. His examples shift responsibility from what someone intended to what care, knowledge, or attention should have prevented.
EVIDENCE	Use at least two examples John gives and show how each weakens ignorance or good intention as a complete excuse.
WATCH FOR	Do not claim intention never matters. The argument is that intention is not enough when responsible knowledge was possible.
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.

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Why does John refuse to accept good intentions as enough?

START ANCHOR	"I wish, John, you'd say a bit of a kind word to Joe.
END ANCHOR	"And yet," said John, "I am sure the young ladies did not mean it; it was only ignorance."

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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 excuse based on ignorance or good intentions. Circle each example John uses to show the consequences of not knowing enough. Star the example that most clearly makes intention irrelevant to the harm caused.
2. NOTICE - What does the excuse ask us to judge—the person's intention or the result? How do John's examples shift attention from innocence to responsibility? When should someone be held responsible for knowing enough to avoid causing harm?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does John refuse to accept good intentions as enough?
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.