

Black Beauty

Anna Sewell

How does Wright turn witnessing cruelty into an obligation to intervene?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Wright intervenes
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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 42 · The Election
START	He seemed furious at their having moved, and with whip and rein punished them brutally, even beating them about the head.
END	“My doctrine is this, that if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt.”
PASSAGE ID	sec-bb-04

THE MOVE

Turn the ability to act into moral responsibility

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Wright does more than condemn cruelty; he turns the ability to stop it into a moral test. Once a person can intervene, remaining a spectator becomes a form of participation in the wrong.

MARK

Underline the cruelty Wright witnesses. Circle the moment he chooses to intervene. Box his general principle about what happens when someone has the power to stop wrong and does nothing.

NOTICE

- What would Wright's responsibility be if he had no ability to affect the situation?
- How does the possession of power change the moral question?
- Why does Wright describe inaction as sharing in guilt rather than merely failing to be heroic?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Wright turn witnessing cruelty into an obligation to intervene? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Wright turn witnessing cruelty into an obligation to intervene? 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	Wright argues that once someone has the power to stop cruelty, being a spectator is no longer morally neutral. Ability to intervene creates responsibility.
EVIDENCE	Use the cruelty Wright witnesses, his intervention, and his general statement linking power to guilt or duty.
WATCH FOR	Do not make the principle 'everyone must always intervene.' The passage ties obligation to having a real ability to act.
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 Wright turn witnessing cruelty into an obligation to intervene?

START ANCHOR	He seemed furious at their having moved, and with whip and rein punished them brutally, even beating them about the head.
END ANCHOR	“My doctrine is this, that if we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt.”

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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 cruelty Wright witnesses. Circle the moment he chooses to intervene. Box his general principle about what happens when someone has the power to stop wrong and does nothing.
2. NOTICE - What would Wright’s responsibility be if he had no ability to affect the situation? How does the possession of power change the moral question? Why does Wright describe inaction as sharing in guilt rather than merely failing to be heroic?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Wright turn witnessing cruelty into an obligation to intervene?
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.