

Animal Cruelty in The Example Of Black Beauty Novel By Anna Sewel

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Abstract : *This article examines how animals are mistreated, which includes neglect and abuse, and how their rights are violated through cruelty and indifference towards their well-being. The article discusses the presence of animal cruelty, stories and experiences of animals being mistreated, their pain and emotions. In the article, it is mentioned that horses in the field communicate with each other just like humans. The suffering of animals at the hands of cruel and heartless owners is also mentioned. Despite this, the animals remain loyal to their owners. The image of a Black Beauty is often used to represent the idea of loyalty and devotion to an owner.*

Key words: animal treatment, service , horses, loyalty, Black Beauty, fashion

Introduction

Anna Sewell is the British author of the children's classic literature. Black Beauty is the only one famous novel among his works. While living in Old Catton, Sewell wrote the manuscript of *Black Beauty* – in the period between 1871 and 1877. During this time her health was declining; she was often so weak that she was confined to her bed. Writing was a challenge. She dictated the text to her mother and from 1876 began to write on slips of paper which her mother then transcribed. The book is considered to be one of the first English novels to be written from the perspective of a non-human animal, in this case a horse. Although it is now considered a children's classic, Sewell originally wrote it for those who worked with horses. The author wrote it “to induce kindness, sympathy, and an understanding treatment of horses”; it was published in 1877, shortly before Sewell’s death. [2]

Black Beauty is the story teller and the lovely black horse tells the stories of his life and follows his mother's advice throughout his life .

"I wish you to pay attention to what I am going to say to you. The colts who live here are very good colts, but they are cart-horse colts, and of course they have not learned manners. You have been well-bred and well-born; your father has a great name in these parts, and your grandfather won the cup two years at the Newmarket races; your grandmother had the sweetest temper of any horse I ever knew, and I think you have never seen me kick or bite. I hope you will grow up gentle and good, and never learn bad ways; do your work with a good will, lift your feet up well when you trot, and never bite or kick even in play." [1]

From before given point it is known that Black Beauty was good mannered from his early lives . He served his owners faithfully and always obeyed. Even there were many unfairness



and brutality as well as torture given by masters. In next pages we will discuss the injustices done to animals and how horses are tortures in the novel.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Numerous scholars and researchers have extensively analyzed and produced exceptional works on the literary masterpiece, *Black Beauty*.

Catherine Holms, in her article "Critical Essay on *Black Beauty*: in Novels of Students," says that that genre is more convincing "... because the reader assumes that a horse is naturally more innocent, and less judgmental and cynical than a human, the same event through the eyes of a horse is more effective." Horses speak one another in the novel, they shares their feelings and pain like humans. The difference is that humans don't understand them and think they have not emotions. Just they are speechless audience. Every horse has its own story and it gives both moral and social lessons.[3]

Dr. Amira M. Wasfy in her article says that animal abuse is main theme in *Black Beauty*, as Anna Sewell believes cruelty against animals was a social problem that should never be ignored or despised. Accordingly, she highlights that abuse in the novel but at the same time she shows the positive results of kind treatments to animals. Mistreatment of animals was a heated public controversy at that time, for many people do not believe that animals do feel pain. [4]

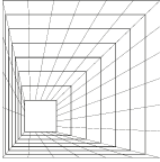
Ritu Hira, Dr. Yogesh Chander Sood, Dr. Ram Krishan analyse anthropomorphism in their article. Sewell's foremost objective is the Anthropomorphism theme-when animals or non-human characters are given human characteristics. Anthropomorphism is slightly different from personification, which is describing an object using human characteristics. Prominent authors have written on Anthropomorphic themes. One of them is George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. A fair story is full of all the anthropomorphic characters. It is an allegorical novella, he depicts rising revolt among the animals, who wish to take over the humans, and the author wrote one of the best satires of the era. A character is antropomorphic if they are not human but behave like a human being.[5]

According to Smita Dhantal, Rani P L in their research " *Black Beauty* through the anthropomorphic lens " anthropomorphism and didacticism meet in Sewell's writing. It is by describing the lives of these horses from their perspective that Sewell fights against the cruel treatment they receive. The animals in this text may not symbolise humans, but they surely have a lot to teach humans. Humans need to understand the strong moral and social messages Sewel wishes to convey. It is not just the cruelty of the men which needs to change. It is also about how humans need to learn " to think " and " to live " simple.[6]

Methodology

It employs a "surface reading" approach, concentrating on the novel's modern general background as well as the book's reception and marketing.

This enables the article to critically examine prevalent assumptions about the genre of the book. Despite being widely read as a children's book, *Black Beauty* really had a sizable adult readership, particularly among working-



class men. Through its contextual reading of didactic tracts on horse care and moralistic, anim
alcentric children's literature, this article offers fresh insight into the genre of Black Beauty.

Result

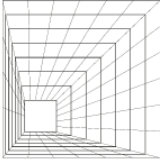
Analyzing the novel, we make sure that animal cruelty is shown for entertainment, fashion and just desire of people. We know that God has created 3 kinds of creatures. They are angels, humans and animals. But the greatest creature is human. The main difference between human and animal is in their intellectual capacity. At times, the forceful actions of humans surpass the aggressive behavior of untamed creatures. Regrettably, even when rendered unconscious, non-human animals do not inflict harm upon people, whereas humans derive pleasure from harming animals for amusement and fashion. One such example is the cruel practice of cropping a dog's tail and ears, purportedly to enhance the animal's physical prowess and intimidate its foes. To train elephants, they are chained at a young age. However, even when they grow up, elephants will not run away or move too much even if the chain is not there, It feels as if they are still chained. People who are enjoying watching animal shows at the circus are likely unaware of how much suffering these animals have to endure. Another example is horses. Master stick the horseshoe on the foot of horses. It is very painful process cause put a hot iron horseshoe on their leg. Then when horses run with horseshoe, they make sound and it would seem very fashionable. Also, driving with a whip on a horse is shown as a fashion.

Discussion

When we speak about animal cruelty it is important to emphasize the life of Ginger horse. She was very unlucky. She served only bad mannered and rough masters until his death. She said that **'Life has been different for me. I was taken from my mother when I was young, and there was no kind master like yours to look after me. I had a bad time when I was trained. Several men caught me in a corner of the field and one held my nose so hard that I could only just breathe. Then another pulled my mouth open to put the bit in, and I was pulled along and beaten from behind. They didn't give me a chance to understand what they wanted.'** [1]

The next tortured horse was Sir Oliver. He was old and has a lot of experience. his attractive and long tail was cut. He said that **Dreadful-ah! It was dreadful; but it was not only pain, though that was terrible and lasted along time; it was not only the indignity of having my best ornament taken from me, though that was bad; but it was this: how could I ever brush the flies off my sides and my hind legs any more? You who have tails just whisk the flies off without thinking about it, and you can't tell what a torment it is to have them settle upon you and sting and sting, and have nothing in the world to lash them off with. I tell you it is a lifelong wrong and a lifelong loss; but, thank Heaven, they don't do it now.** [1]

The little, favourite pony Merrylegs complains that boys treat him like a steam engine or a thrashing machine which can go on as long as fast as they please. **Boys, you see, think a horse or pony is like a steam engine or a thrashing-machine, and can go on as long and as fast as they please; they never think that a pony can get tired, or have any feelings; so as the one who was whipping me could not understand I just rose up on my hind legs and let**



him slip off behind—that was all.[1] Older people and also children are cruel to horses. Because they didn't know how to care animals as they are also living beings. They are beings that help us in our works, they are our friends and one part of family. It is our human duty to take care of them. It is important to know that animals are not created for cruelty, abuse and tortures.

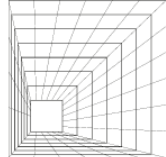
Black beauty also suffers a lot . **The cab was very heavy and I had not eaten or rested since early that morning. I did my best and got along quite well until we came to Ludgate Hill. By then I was exhausted, and the heavy cab was too much for me. My feet went from under me and I fell heavily, knocking all the breath out of me. I lay quite still because I could not move. Indeed, I expected to die. There were angry voices above me and luggage was taken off the cab, but it was all like a dream. I thought I heard the girl's voice saying, 'Oh, that poor horse! It's all our fault!' Someone loosened my bridle and collar, and another voice said, 'He's dead, he'll never get up again.' I heard a policeman giving orders but I did not open my eyes. Cold water was thrown over my head, some medicine was put into my mouth, and I was covered with a cloth.** [1] Below given examples it is clear that in the novel horses were overworked, forced to work under horrible conditions, beaten and improperly groomed and harnessed . Black Beauty's role here is an attempt to highlight the mistreatment of animals and also to induce the reader to sympathize with suffering and pain of horses and animals. Anyway Black Beauty don't forget his mothers advise and to serve faithfully to his masters.

Conclusion

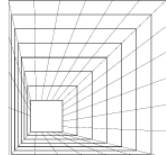
Thus, it is obvious that animals have a big part in the book since it highlights the issue of animal abuse and encourages readers to adopt more compassionate attitudes towards animals. Horses were frequently mistreated due to overwork, forced labour in appalling conditions, beatings, and inappropriate grooming and harnessing. This article addresses this prevalent issue. During the Black Beauty novel, he encountered both good-natured and cruel owners. No matter how the owners treated him, whether punishing him or causing him physical harm, he always followed his mother's advice and served his owners faithfully and with loyalty. When faced with a dangerous bridge that could have led to his owner's death, he sensed the danger and took another route. However, the owner did not understand why he was behaving that way and punished him with a whip, irrespective of what his owner did to him, he saved him from a dangerous situation. It is a symbol of the true loyalty and the main hero of the story.

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