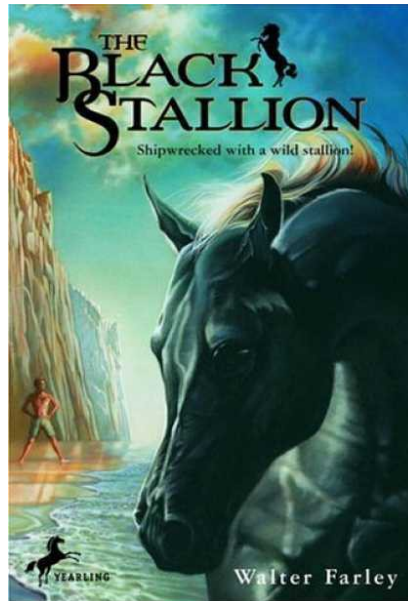


# The Black Stallion



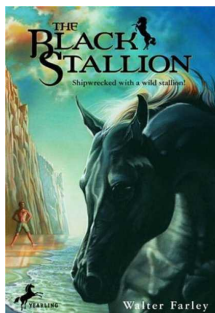
By

Walter Farley

A Novel Study  
by Nat Reed

# The Black Stallion

By Walter Farley



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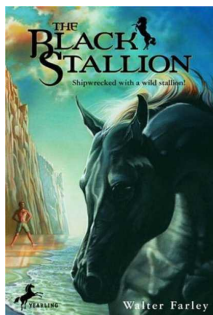
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**About the author:** Nat Reed has been a member of the teaching profession for more than 30 years. He is presently a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites [www.reedpublications.org](http://www.reedpublications.org) and [www.novelstudies.org](http://www.novelstudies.org).

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# The Black Stallion

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## Suggestions and Expectations

This 57 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on two chapters of *The Black Stallion* and is comprised of four different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language and Extension Activities

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking.

### Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters . . . respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included as well as a **Student Checklist**.

**Themes** which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include horseracing, courage and sacrifice, the importance of friends and family, love, perseverance, overcoming difficulty.

Additional icons courtesy of <http://www.iconka.com>

# The Black Stallion

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## List of Skills

### Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words / phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *personification*.
7. Working with anagrams.
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify *similes* and *metaphors*

### Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

### Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify the climax of the novel.
4. Five W's Chart

### Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Protagonists
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Comparing two Characters

### Creative and Critical Thinking

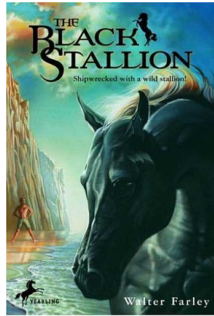
1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete a KWS Chart

### Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Design an Information Card

# The Black Stallion

By Walter Farley



## Synopsis

Alec Ramsay is the sole survivor of a devastating shipwreck. Trapped on a desert island, Alec finds that his only companion is a horse, beautiful, unbroken, and savage ... a horse whose beauty matches his wild spirit.

This first classic story of the Black Stallion, full of action, excitement, and suspense, has set the pace for horse stories for sixty years ... and continues to leave its rivals in the dust.

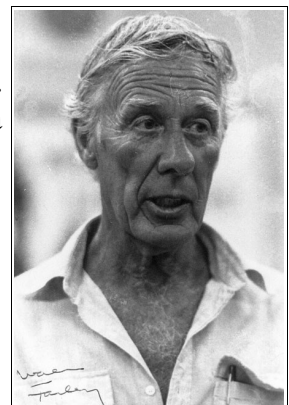
[Courtesy of the Publisher]

Check out the clips for **The Black Stallion** – movie and book trailers - on **YouTube**.  
Also the great site set up by the author's son ~ **Black Stallion Fan Site**  
<http://theblackstallion.com/web/>

## Author Biography

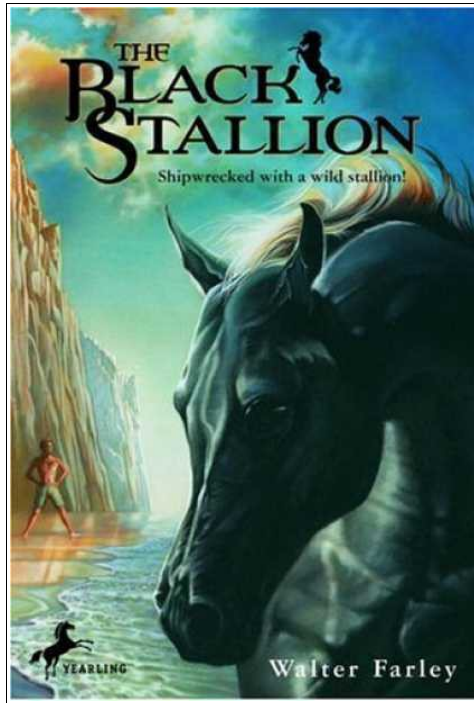
*Walter Farley (1915 – 1989)*

Walter Farley was born in Syracuse, New York on June 26, 1915. He began writing **The Black Stallion** when he was a high school student. Later Farley attended Columbia University where he graduated with a B.A. It was while he was a student at Columbia that **The Black Stallion** was published (1941). Farley's uncle was a professional horseman and taught his nephew various methods of horse training. Farley and his wife, Pamela had four children which they raised on a farm in Pennsylvania and in Florida. Walter Farley died on cancer in October 1989. He had just finished the twenty-first book in the Black Stallion series, **The Young Black Stallion**.





# The Black Stallion

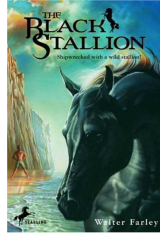


*By Walter Farley*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Black Stallion

By Walter Farley



## Chapters 1 - 2



### Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The main (human) protagonist of *The Black Stallion* is an enterprising young boy, Alec Ramsay. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting protagonist?




### Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

descended	monotonous	clambered	inert	accustomed
customary	diminish	hysterical	instinct	subside

1. The two sisters grew almost \_\_\_\_\_ when they lost their way in the forest.
2. Janie gradually became \_\_\_\_\_ to the kindness of the farmer and his family.
3. Is it \_\_\_\_\_ in your country to greet a stranger with a formal bow?
4. As soon as the storm began to \_\_\_\_\_ the boys ventured outdoors.
5. They found the detective’s \_\_\_\_\_ form lying on the kitchen floor.
6. Lloyd’s first \_\_\_\_\_ was to run from the charging grizzly.
7. As he nibbled on the crackers, Joan felt her hunger gradually \_\_\_\_\_.



8. Princess Anne \_\_\_\_\_ the spiral staircase wearing a beautiful emerald gown.
9. After playing for more than an hour, the game became very \_\_\_\_\_ for the participants.
10. The ogre \_\_\_\_\_ up the hillside and roared his defiance to the world.

## Questions



1. Why had Alec been in India, and where was he now traveling to?


2. Describe the **setting** of Chapter One.


3. Why did Alec consider Arabia to be such a special place?


4. Think of three appropriate adjectives to describe the stallion as he is portrayed in Chapter One:

--	--	--

5. Alec boarded a ship named \_\_\_\_\_, which was piloted by Captain \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Describe Alec's first step in attempting to befriend the stallion.


7. Why do you think the fact that the dark-skinned man drowned might be important later in the story?


8. Describe how Alec managed to reach land after the ship sank.




## Language Activities

### A. Alliteration

Authors often enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. An example from Chapter Two is “The Black had his head out the window.”

Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The cry of a baby	
A train's whistle	
From your imagination	



## B. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **PAN** can also form the word **NAP**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:

a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters.

The words in the left-hand column are found in the first two chapters of our novel.

Word	Anagram	Clue
same		A broad, flat-topped elevation.
horse		Coastline.
coast		A necktie or scarf.
broad		A wooden plank.
sharp		Musical instruments.
thrust		Not falsehoods.

**C.** Choose ten words from these chapters with two or more **syllables**. Indicate the syllables by drawing a line between each syllable. **Example:** good / bye.



## Extension Activity

### Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first two chapters of *The Black Stallion*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.



1	2
3	4
5	6