

Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style) Reading Comprehension Booklet



Name.....

Useful words

A Busy Morning for Meg

whinny

wheelbarrow

hosepipe

Horses and People

Charlotte Dujardin

Looking after Horses

herbivore

farrier

equine

A Busy Morning for Meg

Auntie Sally bipped her horn to tell Meg she was outside waiting in the car. Meg was ready (and had been for an hour). She had put on her wellies, a woolly hat, some old jeans and a pair of gloves.

"Auntie Sally's here, I'm off now, see you later." shouted Meg to her Mum who was upstairs. "Have a great time." replied Mum.

Meg ran up to the car and got into the front seat next to her Auntie. The car was a mess, the back seats were full of hats, saddles, rugs, boots, leather straps and empty drink cans.

Questions

1 Which of these are NOT to be found in the back of the car?

Tick one.

drink cans

hats

saddles

crisp packets

2 Who was waiting in the car?

After 15 minutes Auntie Sally's car pulled up a farm track to some stables. Three horses popped their heads out of their stables and gave a whinny of greeting.

"Right, let's get started, are you ready Meg?" asked Auntie Sally. "First job is to give them food."

They went into a shed at the back of the stables where there was a great big bale of hay. Meg watched as her auntie got a string net, pulled a chunk of hay off the bale and started to fill the net. "Grab a net and get filling." said Auntie Sally. Meg grabbed some hay and started. The hay smelled fresh and sweet. Auntie Sally filled two nets and Meg filled one.

3

Who said, "Right, let's get started, are you ready Meg?" ?

4

What did the hay smell like?

Tick one.

tasty and fresh

sweet and tasty

fresh and sweet

fresh and succulent

5

What were the nets made from?

They took the nets round to the stables and tied them on some hooks outside the stables. "Just be careful when we let them out, the horses are well-behaved but they have big feet and sharp teeth, don't move suddenly, you might frighten them." warned Auntie Sally. The horses were let out and started to munch on their hay. Auntie Sally then got a wheelbarrow and a couple of forks, "We've got to go into the stables and muck them out." Meg held the barrow as Auntie Sally used her fork to pick up the horse poo. When it was half full, Meg wheeled the barrow to a muck heap where she emptied it. Meg was surprised it didn't smell too bad. As she wheeled the barrow onto the muck heap, she was pleased she had brought her wellies with her.

6 Where did they hang the nets of hay?

7 Why do you think Meg was pleased she was wearing wellies?

8 Why do you think Meg emptied the barrow when it was only half full?

9 What might frighten the horses?

Tick one.

sudden noise

shouting

sudden movements

the dark

When the stables were all cleaned out, Auntie Sally got a hosepipe and asked Meg to hold it pointing into a big bucket, she then went to turn the tap on. It spluttered and splashed until it started to gush out, Meg held tight as it filled the bucket. After a few minutes she shouted to Auntie Sally, "It's full!". All the time the horses were watching as they munched their hay.

"I think they need a brush." said Auntie Sally as she fetched a box full of brushes and combs. "This is my grooming kit, it's full of stuff to wash and brush the horses."

Meg was given Tilly, a beautiful, big, black horse to brush. Great lumps of mud and hair came out. Meg enjoyed this and so did Tilly.

10

What did Auntie Sally do when Meg was holding the hosepipe?

Tick one.

turned the tap on

filled some hay nets

emptied the wheelbarrow

parked the car

11

What was the name of the horse Meg brushed?

12

What do you think the water was for?

After half an hour, all three horses looked much smarter, their tails and manes especially.

"I think we're done, let's just check all is safe." said Auntie Sally. They walked round the field where the horses would munch grass all day, they checked the fences and gates. They checked the water too.

"Thanks for letting me help you, Auntie Sally, can I come another time when you do it again?" said Meg.

"Of course you can. In fact, I'll be coming back tonight and twice tomorrow and twice every day for as long as I have horses. You've been a great help and good company."

Meg had had a lovely time but didn't think she'd like to do it as often as that!

13

After they had been brushed, which parts of the horses looked especially smart?

Tick one.

faces and ears

manes and tails

feet and hooves

back and sides

14

Where will the horses spend their day?

Horses and People

Horses have always helped people by doing lots of jobs for them. Before there were cars, buses and lorries, horses were used to pull wagons, carts and carriages for transport. They were very useful on farms too, helping to pull wagons and ploughing fields.

Smaller ponies were often used to pull coal wagons underground in mines. They were strong and sturdy. They were used because they were small enough to work in the low roofed tunnels.

In olden times, horses were ridden by soldiers in battles. This was called the 'cavalry'. Nowadays, the police often use officers on horseback to control crowds. By sitting on the horse, the police officer has a good view of everything that's going on.

15 Why were ponies used in mines?

Tick one.

they were well behaved

they were small enough to work in tunnels

they looked pretty

they could run fast

16 What jobs did horses do on farms?

17 What were soldiers on horses called?

Horses also play a part in many sports. From racing over fences (like The Grand National) or flat courses to Show Jumping, where riders and horses jump over a course of jumps in an arena without knocking them over.

Some people like to train their horses to do something called 'dressage'. This is like dancing and the horse has to do complicated movements all around an arena. The world's best at this is a British woman called Charlotte Dujardin. She has won 3 Gold medals and a Silver medal at the Olympics.

Some people also play a game called Polo. Teams of riders on horses run around a field trying to score a goal.

18

Is the Grand National run over fences?

19

What is the name of the sport where horses are trained to 'dance'?

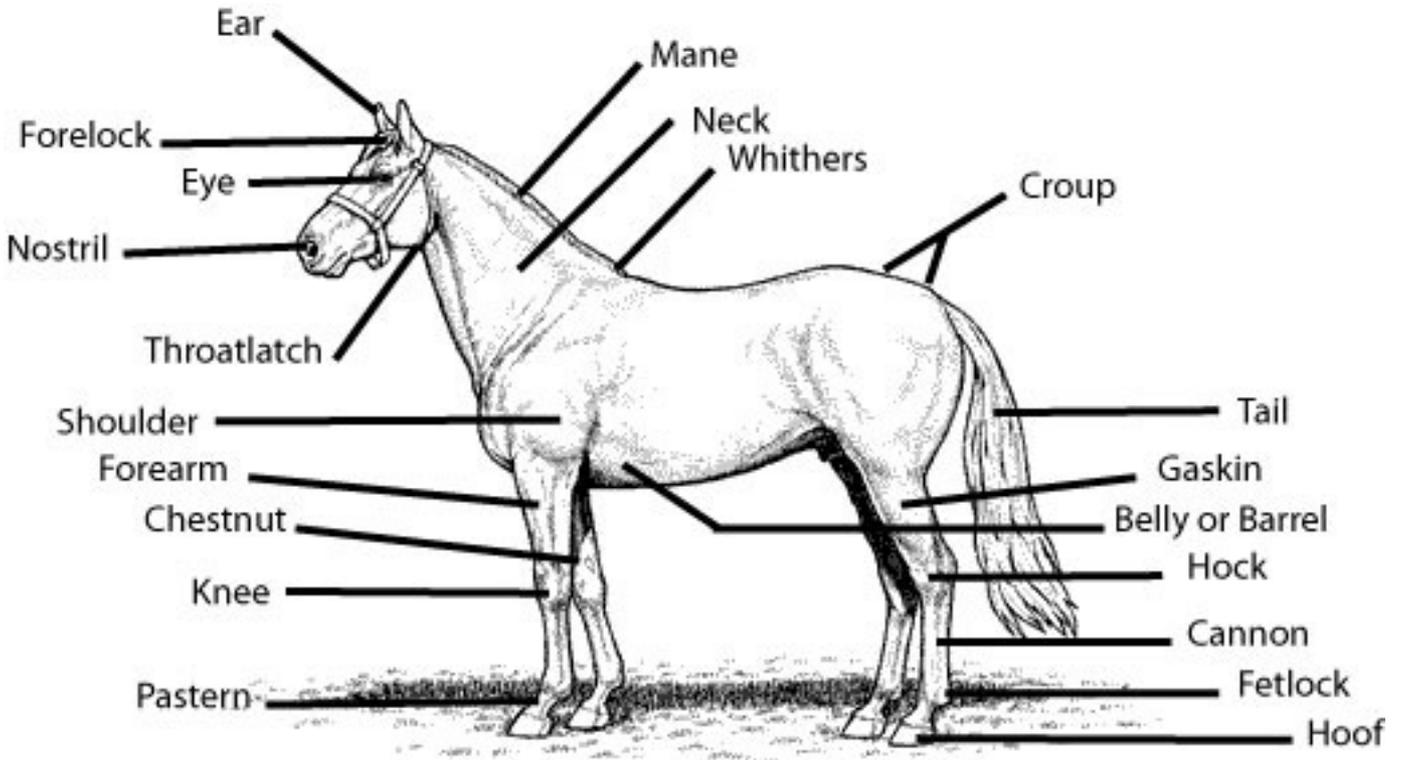
20

How many Olympic medals has Charlotte Dujardin won in total?

Tick one.

 2 4 3 5

The Parts of a Horse



20

On which part of the horse would you find the chestnut?

21

Which part of the horse lies **between** the cannon and the hoof?

Tick **one**.

hock

nostril

fetlock

tail

Looking After Horses

Food

Horses are herbivores. That means that they mainly eat grass. In the wild they graze on grass and pastures. Horses kept by people obviously need feeding too. In the summer, most horses will be out in fields munching grass all day. In winter, when the grass doesn't grow much, horses need to be fed hay which is dried grass harvested the previous summer. As a treat horses love carrots and apples.

22

What do herbivores mainly eat?

23

Why are horses fed hay in winter?

24

What do horses like as treats?

Tick one.

chocolate

apples

cake

buns

Water

Horses should have access to clean, fresh water. A horse can drink up to 50 litres of water a day.

Feet

Horses have hard feet and very strong hooves. But they need looking after. A **farrier** will come to trim horses' hooves (like cutting your toenails) and sometimes put metal shoes on. A farrier needs to see horses' feet every 2 or 3 months.

Teeth.

Just like you, horses need to see a dentist. Horses spend a lot of their time chewing and munching grass, so their teeth are very important. There are special dentists for horses, they are called 'equine dentists'.

25 About how much water can a horse drink each day?

Tick one.

50 centimetres

50 litres

50 kilos

5 litres

26 What is the name of the person who comes to look after horses' feet?

27 What do horses do all day which means that their teeth have to be looked after?
