

TWO HORSES

Warm up



This is a picture of two horses. Do you know:

1. What a female horse is called?
2. What a young horse is called?
3. What is a pony?
4. What is a male horse called?
5. What is the name of the seat that a rider sits on when riding a horse?

Answers: 1. Mare 2. Foal 3. A breed of small horses
4. Stallions 5. Saddle

Vocabulary

grazing: the act of animals feeding on grass in a pasture

muscular: having well-developed muscles or strength

elongated: stretched or lengthened

guided: led or directed someone in a particular direction or course of action

celebrate: to do something special or enjoyable for an important event, occasion, holiday, etc.

treasure: to value something greatly; to consider something precious or valuable

astray: to go away from the correct path or direction; off course

occasionally: happening once in a while; not often, irregularly

shelter: a place providing protection or refuge, especially from harsh weather conditions

access: entry

barn: shed for horses and other cattle

put down: In the context of this passage, it means to 'kill', often to save an animal from pain or suffering.

halter: A strap or rope placed around the head of a horse or other animal, used for leading or tying it.



Two horses

Some time ago I visited a farm with two horses. They were grazing quietly in a field. From a distance, each horse looked like any other horse. They had oval-shaped hooves, long tails, short hair, long slender legs, a muscular body, long thick necks, and large elongated heads.

They had a safe outdoor space to roam and graze on and access to the shelter of a barn nearby. The barn protected them from rain and bad weather and they slept in it at night.

Gazing at the beautiful animals, I noticed something quite amazing. One of the horses was blind. His owner had chosen not to have him put down but had made a good home for him.

I could hear the sound of a bell nearby. Looking around for the source of the sound, I saw that it came from the smaller horse in the field. There was a small bell attached to the small horse's halter. When the horse moved, the bell rang. This let the blind horse know where the other horse was. The sound helped the blind horse follow the small horse.

As I stood and watched these two friends, I saw that the horse with the bell was always checking on the blind horse and that the blind horse would listen for the bell and then slowly walk towards the other horse. He trusted his friend and knew that he would not lead him astray.

When the horse with the bell returned to the shelter of the barn each evening, he stopped occasionally and looked back. He wanted to make sure that his blind friend was not too far behind to hear the bell.

We must have faith that God, like the owner of these two horses, does not throw us away if we are not perfect, or because we have problems. He watches over us and even brings others into our

lives to help us and ring the bell for us when we are in need.

Sometimes, we are the blind horse, being guided by the little ringing bell of those whom God sends into our lives. At other times we are the guide horse, helping others to find their way.

Good friends and family are like that. You may not always see them, but you can hear the bell and know that they are always there. Friends and family can help you celebrate good times and support you during bad times. Always treasure your friends and family.

A. Choose the best answer.

1. What did the smaller horse in the field have attached to its halter?
 - a. a rope
 - b. a bell
 - c. a ribbon
 - d. a saddle
2. Why did the blind horse listen for the bell worn by the other horse?
 - a. to find food

- b. to follow the smaller horse
 - c. to alert the owner
 - d. to scare away predators
3. What is the lesson that the author wants to convey through the story?
- a. horses are beautiful animals
 - b. God watches over us and helps us
 - c. the blind horse was a burden to its owner
 - d. people should treat their animals well
4. How did the horse with the bell behave when returning to the shelter?
- a. it galloped away
 - b. it constantly looked back
 - c. it went straight to sleep
 - d. it started to eat its food
 - e. it ignored the blind horse
5. In the story, what does the "little ringing bell" symbolize?
- a. independence
 - b. friendship
 - c. obedience
 - d. competition

6. Answer in your own words.
- Describe how the bell attached to the smaller horse's halter helped the blind horse.
 - What did the blind horse do when the horse with the bell returned to the shelter each evening?
 - What does the author want the readers to understand about God?

C. Match the animals and their young ones.

pig	puppy
duck	calf
butterfly	lamb
cat	kitten
cow	tadpoles
dog	piglet
sheep	duckling
frog	caterpillar

D. Fill in the blanks with words from vocabulary.

- The _____ shadow of the horse stretched out as the sun began to set.

2. The wise old horse _____ the young foal through the winding paths of the forest.
3. The family decided to _____ the horse's birthday with a special cake and decorations.
4. Lost in the woods, the horse wandered _____ from the familiar trail.
5. The horse's _____ body allowed it to run swiftly across the field.
6. The horses were _____ peacefully in the field, enjoying the fresh green grass.
7. The young girl would always _____ the memories of riding the horse through the meadow.
8. Seeking _____ in the storm, the horses found a barn.
9. The horses would _____ gallop together in the open field, enjoying their freedom.

E. Use the words from vocabulary to make sentences of your own.