

# Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project



Lessons and activities created to compliment the  
**Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project**

Activities and teacher input ideas adaptable to all grades

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Developed by Cheryl Assaly



[www.arabianhorsereading.com](http://www.arabianhorsereading.com)

# Why we use Horses

## Why we use horses to help children and adults?

Horses have the ability to relax peoples' defenses and the walls they build up around themselves. This opens the relationship between oneself and others. Horses are a bridge to self-esteem and emotional strength, establishing trust bonds that overcome fear and aggression. This bond tends to inspire productive behaviour, caring attitudes and a philosophical orientation to life.

The Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project encourages responsibility, trust and positive relational skills. By inviting the children (and adults) in to the barn, the horse's environment, they are forced out of their asphalt and concrete world into a natural, safe place. This 'barn environment' encourages individuals to be relaxed, creative as well as discover the importance of respect, boundaries and resulting freedom.

Horses are not only beautiful creatures to be with, but they offer a gift of love and healing to all of us, no matter what our situation or circumstances.

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ARABIAN HORSE READING  
LITERACY PROJECT

ABOUT US

THE  
PROGRAM

BOOKS &  
MATERIALS

CONTACT US



## OUR STALLION: TRIFON

"ASK TRIFON"

TRIFON'S ANSWERS

## BACK TO THE BARN:

STORIES, POEMS,  
ART GALLERY

## THE ARABIAN HORSE

## HORSING AROUND:

UPCOMING EVENTS

## HORSES IN THE PROGRAM

## HORSE PLAY:

CHAT WITH  
NICKERSON & ZORO

## KID'S ACTIVITIES

## TEACHERS ONLY

## HorseSense

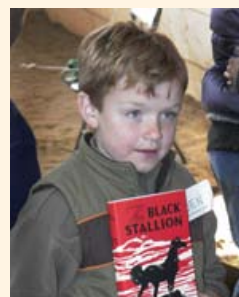
HorseSense is a workshop where we step out of our "highly evolved" world and step into the world of nature ... the world of horses in particular.

It is a quick study in horsemanship and the "horse whispering". The horses share their highly effective methods of communication. They desire "natural leadership" from those who work with them.

They provide immediate feedback

*The 'kids' are  
reading to the  
horses ...*

*and loving it!*



Providing 'kids' with an

# The Foundation

**The Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Foundation (AHRLF)** is the not-for-profit arm of the Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project.

The AHRLF raises funds and gratefully accepts donations. All money is put back into the project to:

- purchase books
- subsidize school classes and groups who participate
- support and encourage reading literacy among children and adults by motivating people to want to read
- publish books and writings of the students
- to maintain an effective and interactive website
- to support the development of new and innovative programs
- supports the training and development of AHRLP instructors
- supports ongoing research in the area of reading literacy

It is because of creative and passionate teachers that this program has developed and continues to develop. As a teacher, your input is a valuable component. Let us know what is working for you and your students. Let us know about innovative ideas you have incorporated so we can share them with others.

Thank you for participating in the program and ... have fun!

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# List of Vocabulary

## List of Vocabulary

### SEX AND AGE

stallion, gelding, foal, mare, colt, filly, yearling

### PARTS OF A HORSE

poll, forelock, muzzle, cheek, shoulder, chest, forearm, knee,  
cannon bone, pastern, elbow, flank, coronet, hoof, heel, fetlock,  
hock, gaskin, tail, dock, croup,  
back, wither, mane

### GROOMING TOOLS

hoof pick, grooming brush, rubber curry comb, finishing brush

### STABLES AND FIELDS

trough, feed bucket, manure, run-in shed, hay storage,  
tack room, stable, mucking

### PARTS OF TACK

head piece, brow band, cheek pieces, nose band, throat latch, bit

### ACTIONS AND MOVEMENT

walking, trotting, cantering, galloping, chewing, whinnying,  
pawing, kicking, snorting, jumping

### PARTS OF A HORSE HOOF

heel, seat of corn, bar, point of frog, sole, white line, wall of foot,  
toe, frog, cleft of frog

### WORKING HORSES

ploughing, ranching, draught, military, ceremonial, police, performing,  
rodeo, polo, racing, showing

### HORSE COLOURS

chestnut, bay, roan, black, grey

### MARKINGS

Head: snip, star, stripe, blaze, white/bald face, wall eye  
Leg: ermine marks, white pastern, sock, stocking

# List of Resources

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### *Individual Books Ages 5 to 8*

Little Black, The Pony – W. Farley  
Luke's Mule – Barrons  
Starlight – Breyer Stablemates  
Jo-Jo the Melon Donkey – M. Morpurgo  
Magic Tree House #2 – Knight Before Dawn – M.P. Osborne

Little Black Goes to the Circus – W. Farley  
Patch – Breyer Stablemates  
The Water Horse – D.King-Smith  
The Donkey That Went Too Fast – D. Orme

### *Series – ages 5 to 8*

Blaze – C.W. Anderson (11 books) #1 Billy and Blaze  
Sandy Lane Stables – M. Bates (9 books) #1 A Horse for the Summer  
Pony Pals – J. Belancourt (38 books and 6 super specials) #1 I Want a Pony  
Pony Tails – B. Bryant (16 books) #1 Pony Crazy  
Unicorn's Secret – K. Duey (8 books) #1 Moonsilver  
Pony-Crazed Princess – D. Kimpton #1 Princess Ellie to the Rescue  
Double Diamond Due Ranch – L. Ladd #1 Call Me Just Plain Chris

### *Individual Books – Ages 8 to 12*

Jeanie and the Gentle Giants – L. Armstrong  
Noreen and the Amazing No-Good Horse – M. Brooker  
Justine Morgan Had a Horse – M. Henry  
Misty of Chincoteague – M. Henry  
Henry  
The Margaret Trilogy – B. Hunter

- A Place for Margaret
- Margaret in the Middle
- Margaret on Her Way

Wild Horse Summer – H. Ryden  
Black Beauty – A. Sewell  
Gallop to the Sea – S. Siamon  
Adventures of the Little Wooden Horse – U. Williams

National Velvet – E. Bagnold  
Blue Roan Child – J. Findlay  
King of the Wind – M. Henry  
San Domingo: The Medicine Hat Stallion – M.

Rider in the Dark – V. Holmes  
Exiled – K. Karr (*camel*)  
My Friend Flicka – M. O'Hara  
Willow King – C. Platt  
The Horse Shadow – L. Scanlan  
Gallop for Golkd – S. Siamon  
A Horse for Josie Moon – S. Siamon

### *Series – Ages 8 to 12*

The Black Stallion – W. Farley  
Chestnut Hill – L. Brooke (2 books) #1 The New Class  
Heartland – L. Brooke (20 books and 1 special edition) #1 Coming Home  
Saddle Club – B. Bryant (101 books, 3 special editions, 7 super editions) #1 Horse Crazed  
Thoroughbred – J. Campbell (72 books, 7 special editions) #1 A Horse Called Wonder  
Thoroughbred : The Ashleigh Series – J. Campbell #1 Lightning's Last Hope  
Phantom Stallion – T. Farley (16 books) #1 The Wild One  
Horsefeathers – D. Mackall (8 books) #1 Horsefeathers  
Winnie the Horse Gentler – D. Mackall (8 books) #1 Wild Thing  
Horses of Half Moon Ranch – J. Oldfield (18 books, 3 season specials) #1 Wild Horses  
My Magical Pony – J. Oldfield (6 books) #1 Shining Star  
Mustang Mountain – S. Siamon (9 books) #1 Sky Horse  
Golden Filly – L. Snelling (10 books) *Christian themed* #1 The Race

***Individual Books Ages 12 +***

Black Gold – M. Henry  
Black Horse for the King – A. McCaffrey  
Beautiful Jim Key – M. Rivas  
Shy Boy – M. Roberts

The Horse and His Boy – C.S. Lewis  
Blind Beauty – K. Peyton  
Man Who Listens to Horse – M. Roberts  
Black Storm Comin' – D. Wilson

***Series – Ages 12 +***

Pine Hollow – B. Bryant (17 books) #1 The Long Ride  
Morgan Horse – E. Feld (4 books) #1 Blackjack  
The Immortals – T. Pierce (4 books) #1 Wild Magic

***Nonfiction***

If I had a Horse, How Different Life Would Be Melissa Sovey-Nelson  
Chicken Soup for the Horse Lover's Soul  
Horses – S. Simon  
New Encyclopedia of the Horse – D.K.  
Usborne Beginner's Horses and Ponies  
Usborne Book of Horses and Ponies

***Other:***



# Teacher Input Ideas

## Teacher Input Ideas

1. Introduce the topic of “Horses”, with a visit from Trifon, the Arabian horse (Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project) and the book Little Black, The Pony by Walter Farley author of *The Black Stallion*.
2. Alternative introduction: show a good film or video of horses. See resource list for ideas or look through your own board’s film catalogue or visit the local library’s film department. Choose a film that is appropriate for your grade level. Discuss film with class.
3. Set up a “Horse Centre” with horse pictures, books, magazines, newspaper clippings, horse grooming tools/tack (if you can get your hands on examples). Have the students take a “book discovery walk”. Allow 10-15 minutes for students to freely explore center then regroup and share some of their discoveries and questions about the new unit.
4. Start a KWLS chart (see black line masters for sample). Add to chart throughout unit.
5. Brainstorm vocabulary charts as books and videos are shared with the students.
6. Visit the stable (Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project Part 2), for hands on experience with live horses.
7. Start a class pictionary or individual student pictionaries. Students record new “Horse Words” daily/weekly, their meanings, and an illustration if suitable.
8. Read fiction and non fiction stories and poetry about horses. Suggested class activity for Little Black, The Pony: Literature Circles, small groups to practice reading for Part 2 of Arabian Horse Literacy Reading Project.
9. Have students independently or in small groups, research Arabian Horses prior to the fieldtrip.
10. Take pictures during class activities and on fieldtrip. Students can create pages for a class scrapbook to share with the rest of the school at the completion of the unit.
11. Ensure students have graphing practice and gathering/recording data with moving objects prior to stable visit. E.g. Have students observe other students at recess (running, skipping, playing ball games, running, etc.), set a time limit for them to gather data. (Great opportunity to create and analyze graphs after fieldtrip.)

# Specific Activities

## Specific Curricular Activities

### Research (all)

- What kind of work do horses do today? List jobs and how they help people. Illustrate favorite job.
- Favorite type of horse.
- Horses in the news. Find an article about horses and write a short summary (5 W's)

### Social Studies (Grade 1/2)

- Compare the use of horses in Alberta/Canada's past and present.

### Health (all)

- Self-esteem: read What's the Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses by Richard Van Camp. Students can write a new version about themselves.

### Science (Grade 1)

- Gather facts on fieldtrip about the needs of horses in captivity (Needs of Animals). Also gather information about horses home to build a mini stable after fieldtrip (Building Things).
- Study the 5 senses of a horse and compare them to human senses. (5 Senses)

### Math (all)

- Graphing: measurement activity at stables and horse interactions.

### Writing

- Poetry about horses.
- Journal Writing About Fieldtrip
- Letter to horses
- Scrapbook pictures from fieldtrip + journal about pictures (could also be done as a powerpoint presentation).
- Story Writing – fiction or non fiction; magical horses

### Art

- Horse Sketching
- Models of horses
- Wire Art
- Mosaics