

Supplementary

When Instinct Works

Anna Sewell

[Anna Sewell was an English writer of children's classic 'Black Beauty'. Although it has to come to be treated as a children's book, it was originally meant for those who took care of horses. She talks about kindness, sympathy and understanding in the treatment of horses.]



One morning in the autumn, my master had to go on a long journey, John **harnessed** me to the new cart. I liked to pull as it was very light and the high wheels rolled along so smoothly.

It was about to rain, the weather was very windy and dry leaves blew across the road. Master, John and I went along merrily till we came to the toll gate at the entrance to the low wooden bridge. The river banks were fairly high so the bridge, instead of raising in the arc over the river, went across just level. In the middle, if the river was full, the water would be nearly up to the foot of the bridge. There were good **sturdy** rails on both sides so people were not afraid.

The man at the toll gate said that the river was rising fast. He feared it would be a bad night. Many of the fields were already under water. In one low part of the road, the water was halfway up to my knees. But the cart was so good and master drove gently, so it did not matter.

