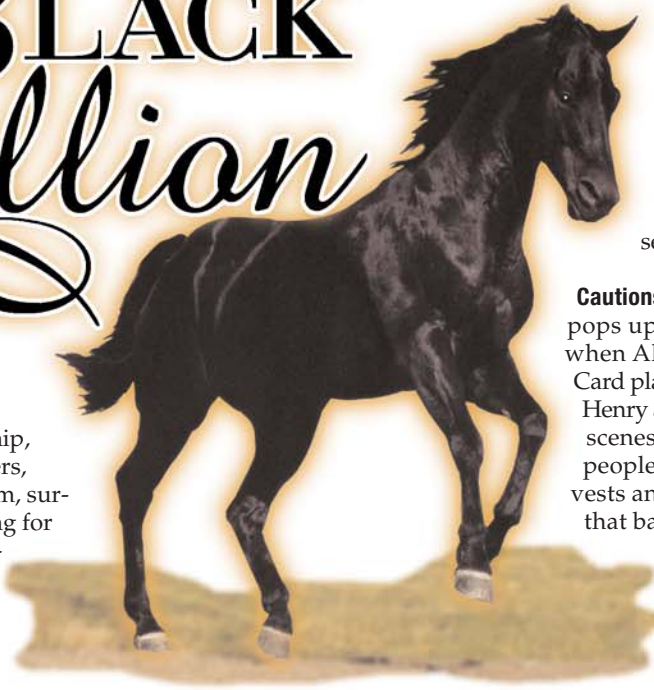


THE BLACK Stallion



Rated: G
Running Time: 117 minutes

Themes: Courage, friendship, unselfishly accepting others, patience, pursuing a dream, survival, self-discipline, caring for animals, personal redemption, being trusted with a

Story Summary

Alec Ramsey and his dad are traveling by ship along the North African coast in 1946. While exploring the deck, the boy encounters a beautiful and fiery Arabian stallion. Then a vicious storm destroys the ship. Alec manages to rescue the horse, which is the only other survivor to wash up on a deserted island. The boy must be resourceful to survive. After “The Black” saves his life by stomping a cobra, he gently and patiently seeks to bond with the animal, and they gradually trust each other. Alec even learns to ride him. After several months as castaways, the pair are rescued by fishermen.

Civilization poses new challenges ... and opportunities. The feisty Black escapes Alec’s small backyard and winds up with Henry Daily, a retired racehorse trainer whose farm becomes a refuge for horse and boy. The stallion’s unbelievable speed inspires Henry to stage a comeback, so he secretly trains the steed and its young rider. Their first contest? A highly publicized race against the country’s two fastest, most famous Thoroughbreds. After a rough start, the unpedigreed desert horse makes an exciting run that causes the racing world to rise to its feet and applaud this mysterious underdog.

Unlike busy, kinetic family films designed for an attention-deficit generation, MGM’s *The Black Stallion* (1979) operates at a much more leisurely pace, especially during Alec’s tenure on the island. From shipwreck to rescue, more than 30 minutes pass without any dialogue. Even so, this motion picture features beautiful cinematography and the birth of a friendship, which is communicated clearly without any words or wiz-bang special effects. More than just a wholesome film, this is a great chance to expose children to a terrific, heartwarming story unclut-

secret, taming a wild beast

Cautions: The expression “by god” pops up. Gambling looks lucrative when Alec’s dad wins big at poker. Card players smoke and drink alcohol. Henry also puffs on a cigar. Shipwreck scenes are vivid and chaotic, with people screaming, fighting for life vests and struggling against waves that batter the boat (Alec’s father is among those lost). A cobra threatens Alec.

tered by computer-generated trappings.

Family Activity

Horses are gorgeous animals that display God’s creativity, combining grace and power. Consider taking your children to a stable or ranch to watch people interact with equines up close. You could even go horseback riding as a family. If that’s not possible, go online together and learn more about stallions like The Black at arabianhorses.org (click on “education” and “breed history”).

Talking Points

1. Alec used courage, insight and patience to gain the animal’s trust. Is there a difficult person or situation in your child’s world requiring similar patience? Read Romans 12:18, and explore ways that Alec’s sensitive, unselfish “outreach” to The Black can serve as an example to us.

2. The shipwreck changes Alec’s life dramatically, yet he is resourceful, never grumbling or complaining. He even learns to be content. Has your family experienced a crisis that changed everything? How did you handle it, and how do you feel now? Look at Romans 8:28

together for reassurance that God is with you, and talk about ways you can take healthy steps forward.

3. Ask your child, “If you were stranded on a desert island, what wild animal would you like to become friends with? Why?” Have them imagine what it must’ve felt like to be alone in a strange place. Ask, “Based on Alec’s experience, what part would’ve been the most fun? What would’ve been the worst part of being stranded?”

—by Meredith Whitmore



Maggie liked seeing The Black rescue Alec from that ol' snake, 'cause it reminded her of how we met.* Now let's saddle up for some puzzle fun!



* To learn more about the story of PI Guy and Maggie, go online, visit our Movie Nights page and click on "PI Guy to the Rescue!"

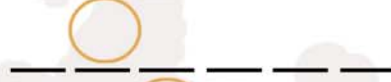
Horsing Around

Unscramble the letters to form words related to horses. Then use the circled ones to identify a common enemy of Alec and The Black.

1. FOHO



2. LAOGPL



3. JYCEKO



4. RCBBEKAA



5. _____

Draw a Horse, of Course!

See if you can draw a horse in the space below. Start off with the basic shapes, then add details in the steps that follow. Color it, add personal touches, and don't forget to give it a name!

1.



2.



3.



4.

