

TWIST OF FATE

THE MIRACLE COLT AND HIS FRIENDS



Companion Teaching Activities

To the serialized story for young readers

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**“Twist of Fate”
Companion Activities**

Chapter 1

1. Twister mentions sounds that surround the farm. Brainstorm other sounds you might hear on a farm.

Use your sound words to write a descriptive poem on a separate piece of paper.

2. What are the advantages of living at Longmeadow Rescue Ranch?

Search through the newspaper for a place you'd like to live. Cut and paste your picture on a separate piece of paper, and write a short paragraph describing why you'd like to live there.

3. Is “Twist of Fate” a good name for the colt? Use at least two details from the story to explain your answer.

4. What do you think “taking the cart before the horse” means? Use clue words from the story to explain your answer.

5. Name reasons why a horse might be sent to a slaughterhouse. What can we, as citizens, do to protect horses and other animals?

6. Horses, and other equines, are measure in hands. A hand equals 4 inches. Parts of a hand are given after a decimal point. For example, 10.3 hands is the same as 10X4 inches (40) +3 inches =43 inches. Convert the following measurement to inches.

$$16.1\text{hh} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{in.}$$

$$16.3\text{hh} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{in.}$$

$$17.2\text{hh} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{in.}$$

$$18\text{hh} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{in.}$$

Locate pictures of items in the newspaper that could be measured in hands. Cut and paste the pictures to a separate piece of paper, and write an estimate.

The Humane Society of Missouri’s Longmeadow Rescue Ranch is a real ranch located in Union, Missouri. To learn more about their mission, go to www.longmeadowrescueranch.org.

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Chapter 2

1. Lip tattoos are used to mark racehorses with their year of birth (marked by a letter) and the last 5 digits of their jockey-club registration. Research to find out what letter you’d have on your lip if you were a racehorse. What other historical information would you include on your tattoo (in code)? Why?

2. What was Stan’s official name? If you could give yourself a racing name, what would it be? Why?

3. Locate names in the newspaper. Chart them according to proper name and nickname.

Proper Name	Nickname

4. What simile is used to describe the way Stan eats hay?

5. Write a simile describing the way you eat.

6. Why is Stan described as an escape artist? Tell about a time when you were an escape artist, escaping an unwanted situation.

7. Find a picture of someone in the newspaper with unique talents. Paste the picture on a separate piece of paper and write a short paragraph about his/her/its talent.

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Chapter 3

1. Use details from the story to describe Donk.

2. Create a chart to compare and contrast a mule to a hinny. With adult supervision, you can use the Internet to find more information.

3. Hinnies and mules are categorized as long ears. List at least three other animals with long ears.

4. Use context clues from the story to give the meaning of the following words.

girded _____

vehemently _____

etiquette _____

coerce _____

5. Twister uses similes to describe things. Name at least two similes Twister uses in the story.

Locate similes used in the newspaper. Paste them below.

6. Earlene believes Donk may have been abused in the past. What should you do if you see an animal being abused?

7. Search the newspaper for pictures of people who you think would take good care of a pet. Cut and paste them on a separate piece of paper. Write a sentence describing why each person would make a good pet owner.

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Chapter 4

1. Why was the Longmeadow Ranch Staff shocked to find Clueless Too on the truck?

2. “Dynamic duo” is a type of figurative language called alliteration. Locate three examples of alliteration in the newspaper, then cut and paste the examples below.

3. What does the author mean when she says, “Clueless Too could have been Clueless Two?” Use details from the story to explain your answer.

4. TOO and TWO are homophones. Locate homophones for the following words in the story.

reel _____
blew _____
knight _____
tale _____

5. Laredo was rescued from a neglectful owner. Can you think of any recent stories in the newspaper about people abusing animals? What would you say to people who neglect and abuse animals and how would you persuade them to change their ways? Write an editorial that addresses these questions.

6. Clueless Too is up for adoption. On a separate piece of paper, design a flier providing information about the horse, its history, best features. Explain reasons why Clueless Too would be a wonderful animal to take home.

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Chapter 5

1. According to Snortin Norton, the Nez Perce Indians started the Appaloosa breed. With help from an adult, research on the Internet to find out how other breeds came into existence. Name at least two breeds and who is credited for their start.

3. Name at least two of D.D.’s bad habits.

Search the newspaper for words and pictures that show bad habits. Cut and paste them into a collage labeled “Break the Bad Habits.”

4. Bad habits often have negative effects. Complete the chart below naming bad habits and their effects.

Bad Habit	Effect

5. D.D. was easily spooked? What does that mean? What spooks you?

6. Lucinda says that horses need to be taught when they are young so they don't have bad habits as adults. What types of things should be taught to a colt?

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Chapter 6

1. At Lori’s Crazy Acres Ranch, you can find a variety of pets.
According to the story, how many pets does Lori have altogether?
_____ How many more horses does she have than cats?
_____ How many dogs and cats does she have altogether?

2. Locate the pets for sale in the Classifieds of your newspaper. Write a story problem using the information in the ads. See if you can solve a friend’s story problem.

3. Frankie’s eyes are described as a “startling robin-egg blue.” Write three adjectives that describe the color of your eyes.

4. What did Lori give Frankie for a treat? _____
What is your favorite treat? _____

5. MERS is an acronym. What does it stand for?

What does MERS do? Visit the Web site www.mersteam.org to find out more about the organization.

6. Frankie is compared to a lawnmower. How can a horse be like a lawnmower?

6. Twister says, “She’s an example of how good things come from bad,” when talking about Frankie. What does that mean? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

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Chapter 7

1. There are many different breeds of horses. Label each of Twister’s horse friends according to its breed: Paint, hinny, Thoroughbred or Appaloosa.

Stan _____

Bazonka Donk _____

Clueless Too _____

D.D. _____

Frankie _____

Willy _____

2. Describe the Barn Buddy program.

3. Willie is a Barn Buddy. Visit the Longmeadow Rescue Web site, www.longmeadowrescueranch.org, to see pictures of the other Barn Buddies. Tell which Barn Buddy you'd like to sponsor and explain your reasoning.

4. Most of the horses in this story have nicknames, such as Twister for Twist of Fate. Find an interesting article in the newspaper about someone in your community. Cut and paste the picture on a separate piece of paper. Give the person a nickname based on the information given in the article. Below the picture, write the nickname and one sentence explaining why that person deserves the nickname.

5. What does the expression, "one who sees the trough half full instead of half empty" mean?

6. This story is based on a real-life event but told in a fictional way. Use the chart below to categorize events from the story as fact or fantasy.

Fact	Fantasy

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Chapter 8

1. Norton used the word “cereal” instead of “serial.” These words are homophones. Locate other homophones in your newspaper. Cut and paste them below.

2. Norton’s caregivers feed him healthy food but he prefers unhealthy food. Locate food items in a grocery store insert from the newspaper. On a separate piece of paper, cut and paste the foods in a chart labeled HEALTHY and UNHEALTHY.

3. List three responsibilities of owning a horse.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. In your opinion, what’s the most important responsibility of owning a horse? Why?

5. What is the job of a farrier? What qualities would a farrier have to have to be a good at his job? Use context clues to explain your answer.

6. Animals get a second chance at Longmeadow Rescue Ranch. Tell about a time when you were given a second chance. How did you feel?
