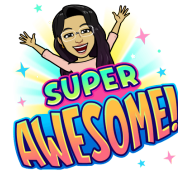


T.W.

Mrs. McCowan

SSS Year 1 Level A

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Fastest horse alive

The King of the Wild was written by Marguerite Henry, who is a popular author. This book is a children's historical fiction genre, which won a Newberry Award. It is about an influential boy, Agba, and his thoroughbred horse, Sham. He loves and cares for this horse because after Sham's mother passes away Sham connects with Agba. This horse is the ancestor of some of the fastest racing horses in the world.

Agba is a diligent, kind, loving, horse boy with a heart of gold. Agba lived in the Morocco desert in the 1700s. He works in the royal stables of the Sultan, which is a hard job. The horse he loves is named Sham, whose mother died when he was born. Then Agba bravely steps into the role of father and he loves and cherishes Sham with all his heart because he needs love and caring.

Agba cares for Sham and loves him after his mother dies. They start to grow feelings of respect for each other. Happily the Sultan ships six boys and their horses to the king of France. However, the captain of the ship starves them and keeps the money to feed the horses, which is a greedy thing to do. Then he forces the horse boys to work on his ship. When they arrive in France, the king leaves Sham and Agba with the royal cook to work for him. The cook whips Sham and then sends him to the horse fair because he cannot manage Sham alone. The buyer is a carter who whips Sham and abuses him with fire under his tail because Sham's breed is not built to pull carts. Thankfully Sham is saved by Mr. Coke who buys Sham out of pity. Mr. Coke's son-in-law named Benjamin Biggle is embarrassed when he is thrown from Sham's back. After

this ordeal, Mr. Coke must sell him, but he reads Job 39:19-25 and this passage brings a smile to his face.

At the climax of the book, Agba is sent to jail for trying to steal Sham. Mr. Cockburn and the Duchess get Agba out of there and he goes to work for the Earl of Godolphin as his stableboy. Unfortunately, Sham starts a fight with the prized horse Hobgoblin over the young filly named Lady Roxana. Because of what Sham did, Agba and Sham are banished to Wicket Fen. Then miraculously the trainer calls them home to tell them the good news, which is that Sham's children had made a whole new breed of racing horses. The breed is eventually called thoroughbreds.

Readers would enjoy this book because it has action, suspense, and romance. It is maybe a 7 on my book scale of 1-10. The lesson readers can learn is to never give up, just as Agba never gives up on Sham.