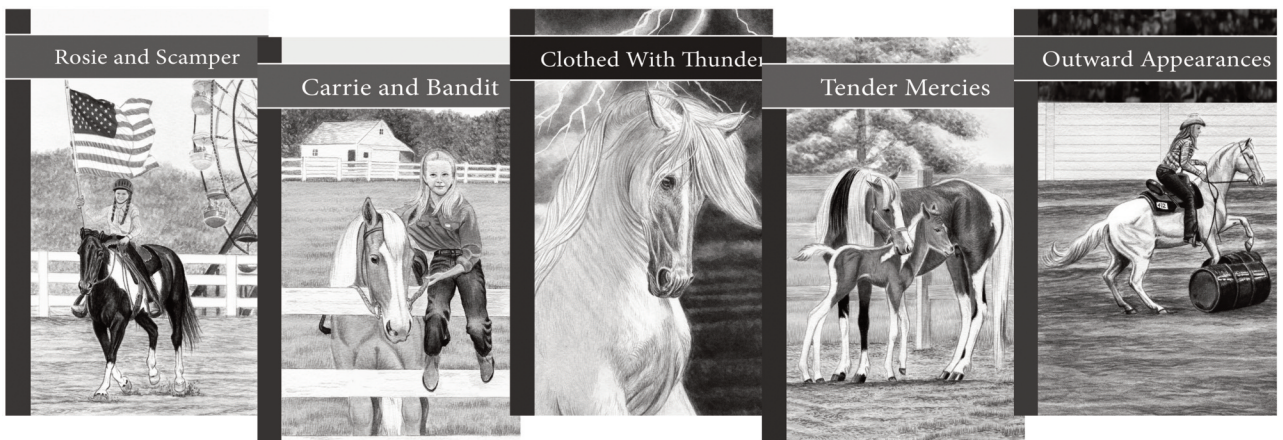


Sonrise Stable Companion: Books 1 to 5



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Sonrise Stable Companion: Books 1 to 5

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Dear Reader,

I hope you're enjoying reading the Sonrise Stable books as much as I enjoyed writing them! I wish I could discuss the books personally with you. I love talking about them! The included questions are the type I would ask if we could meet. They're designed to make you think about important things. In this companion guide, you'll be able to record your thoughts and feelings about the stories.

There's also plenty of space to practice the drawing lessons created by the books' illustrator, Janet Griffin-Scott. A variety of horse puzzles and activities are provided too.

You'll learn more about horses with the additional information included in this guide. But even more importantly, I'd like you to see how these beautiful animals point us toward the amazing God who created them for us, so we could love, care for, and use them for our purposes. In many ways, our role as a horse's good master can help us understand the relationship we have with God.

It's an ambitious goal, but I hope as you learn Scriptural truths and see the Sonrise Stable characters striving to live godly lives and share the Good News, the books will have a lifelong impact on you. In addition to sharing my love of horses, the books were written to help you understand and love God more and as you grow, to become a godly role model for others.



Vicki Watson

1

Rosie and Scamper

Rosie and Scamper



Chapter 1

The Sunrise Stable sign at her grandmother's home was like an anchor for young Rosie, a source of comfort and stability. Do you have anything like that in your life? A landmark, building, or place that produces similar feelings for you?

After her parents, Rosie was closest to her grandmother. Describe an adult, whether a relative or friend, who has been a positive influence in your life. How could you thank them?



Preparing For Winter

You might think horses and ponies' long winter coats begin to grow when the weather turns cooler. Actually, the increased hair growth doesn't happen because of lower temperatures; it's activated by the number of daylight hours. It takes a while for the animals' winter coats to grow fully, so if it was triggered by cool temperatures, they wouldn't be able to grow hair fast enough to stay warm.

As the hours of sunlight decrease, a horse's body produces more of a substance called melatonin. That's what causes the increased hair growth. In colder areas, this may start as early as late August or early September.

By the time cold weather arrives in full force, a pony may look something like the one pictured here. The coat length and thickness varies by breed. Even within the same breed, the growth will differ from one horse to the next with ponies tending to develop thicker coats than horses.

Have you ever had goosebumps? They are a result of **piloerection**. In horses, this same process causes their hair to stand up rather than lie flat. It gives the animals that full, fluffy look, but more importantly it helps keep them warm by creating insulating pockets of air within their fur coat.

Many, perhaps most, horses don't need to be blanketed in the winter. On warmer days, blankets may make them too hot and cause sweating. On cold days, a blanket can flatten the winter coat causing a loss of the built-in insulation provided by a fluffy coat.

Horses aren't fluffy year round. The process reverses in the spring. As the amount of daylight increases, the horse's production of melatonin decreases. If you have a horse or have been around any in the spring, you know what happens then—shedding! When it's no longer needed, that long, thick coat comes out in piles!

Grooming a shedding horse on a windy day results in horsehair in your mouth, eyes, nose—everywhere! But horses will appreciate your help in removing their winter coat. It tends to make them very itchy as the temperature rises!

It's estimated there may be 2,000 hairs per square inch of skin on a horse. Horses' hair continually repeats a three-phase cycle—growth, rest, and shedding. Notice that I'm using the words "hair" and "coat" for horses. Although hair and fur are basically the same thing, most people don't use "fur" when talking about horses.

When God designed the horse, He made sure they would be comfortable in any kind of weather. He also made them beautiful! Their coats come in a variety of colors (*more on that in book 5*).

Rosie was amazed that Jet's winter coat was growing to keep her pony warm over the cold winter months. Look around you (preferably outdoors). Imagine that you're seeing everything for the first time. What are some of the complexities surrounding us daily that we often take for granted?

Chapter 2



Fall was Grandma's favorite season. Describe your favorite season and what you like about it.

Were you as surprised as Rosie to learn that Jet was going to have a foal? Has your family ever raised a young animal? If so, describe what it was like and how you helped.

Rosie enjoyed helping her grandmother at Sonrise Stable. Horses require a lot of work every day—feeding, grooming, and cleaning up after them. Some young people love the idea of having a horse to ride, but are not prepared for all the work. If you don't have a horse, do you think you would be willing to put in the effort required to take care of one? If you do have one, what are some ways you can approach the work with a good attitude and make it enjoyable?

The following photos show the basic tack Rosie had to become familiar with as she was helping her grandmother with the horses and learning to ride.

Halter



This horse is wearing the most common style of halter. It's typically made of flat nylon or leather straps. As with most tack, it buckles on the horse's left or near side. The lead rope attaches to a circular ring on the bottom of the halter in the area just behind his muzzle.

The size is adjusted using the strap that fastens around his ears. Once adjusted on this type of halter, you can leave the top buckle fastened and use the snap shown below his jaw to quickly and easily put the halter on or remove it.

The flat straps don't apply much pressure on the horse's nose. If you have a well-behaved horse, you will have no problem using this style of halter. Animals that don't lead well may pull the handler when fitted with a halter like this.

Do you know what the coloring of this horse is called? (*answer below*)



Pictured to the left is an alternate style called a rope halter. These halters are made from one continuous length of rope knotted at strategic points.

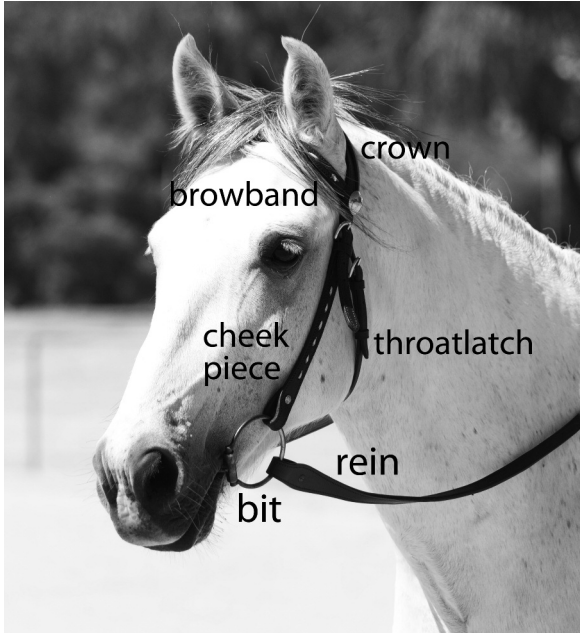
There are no buckles or snaps. The halter is fastened by tying a knot (*to the right of the horse's eye in the photo*). If tied properly, the excess cord of the rope will face the back, away from the horse's face.

Since the rope isn't flat, when the handler pulls on the lead rope, more pressure is applied to the horse's nose and other sensitive areas such as behind his ears.

The pressure isn't constant, only when the handler pulls on the lead rope. If the horse is obeying, he feels no pressure. But if he's acting up and there's a tug on the lead rope, the horse will notice it much more than with the flat style halter and should be more likely to obey.

* *flea-bitten gray*

Bridle



There are many styles of bridles. They are most often made of leather and are black or various shades of brown. The one shown here is a basic western one.

The part that goes up behind his ears is called the crown piece. Cheek pieces are the leather straps that run from the bit to the crown.

The browband runs across the forehead in front of the ears. In this photo, the browband is partly covered by the horse's forelock. The throatlatch is the strap that fastens under the horse's jowl.

Some western bridles have a noseband running over the horse's nose, however those are more common on English bridles.

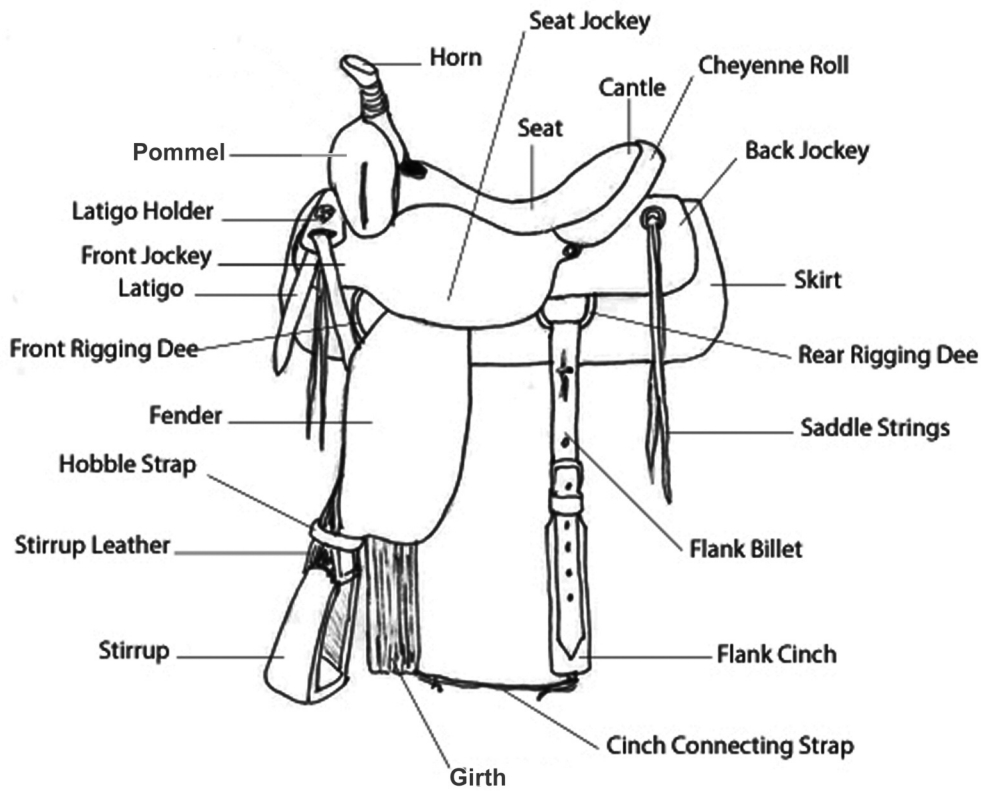
A rein attaches to the bit on each side. The reins are used by the rider to control the horse.

Bits are an interesting topic. They come in a wide variety of styles. Bits will be covered in more detail in a later volume. This is a snaffle bit, one of the mildest bits available (*most comfortable for the horse*).

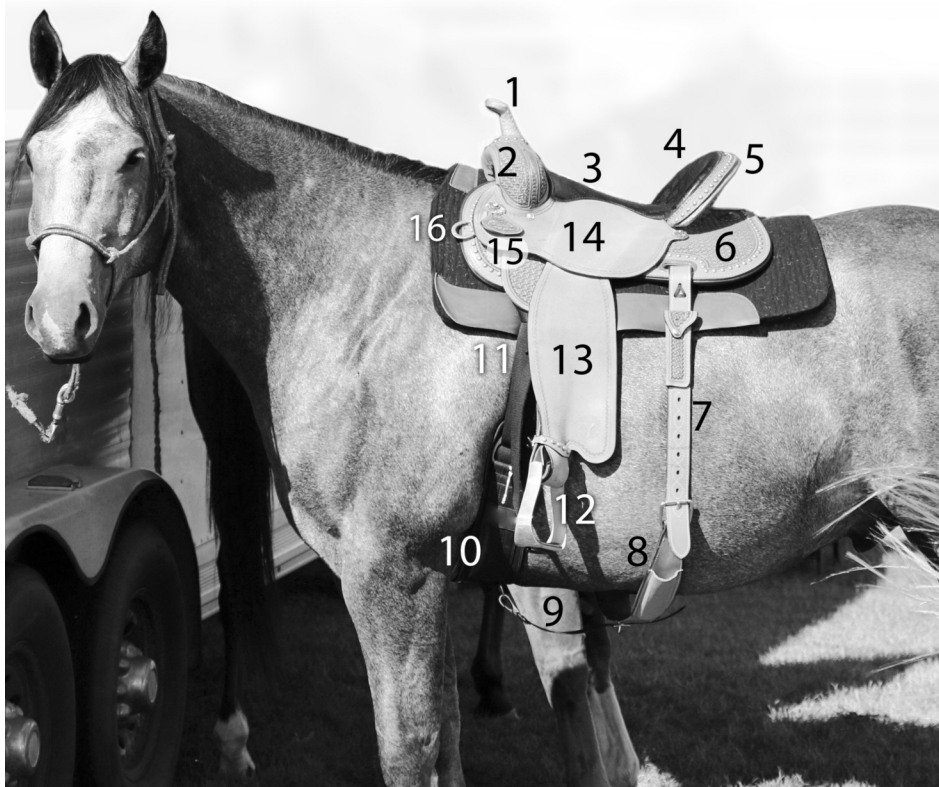
Draw a western bridle on the horse below and label the parts.



Saddle



The illustration above lists the parts of a western saddle. Can you identify them on the real saddle below? Not all saddles have exactly the same parts so you may not find all of them.



List the Saddle Parts From the Photo

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

Chapter 3

Grandma read the Christmas story from Luke 2, to Rosie in the barn. Do you have any interesting or unusual Christmas traditions?



Jet ruined the gift Rosie had given her. If you have pets, you've probably experienced something similar. Describe a time when your pet has made a mess or destroyed something.

When Rosie heard an animal making a strange noise, she ran back to her Grandmother's side where she felt safe. Describe a time when something frightened you. What do you do when you are afraid?

Chapter 4

There isn't any hurrying the birth of a foal. Rosie felt as if she "couldn't wait" for the foal to be born, nevertheless, she had to. If you've ever had to wait a long time for something, describe how you felt. Were you patient as you waited? Was it worth the wait in the long run?

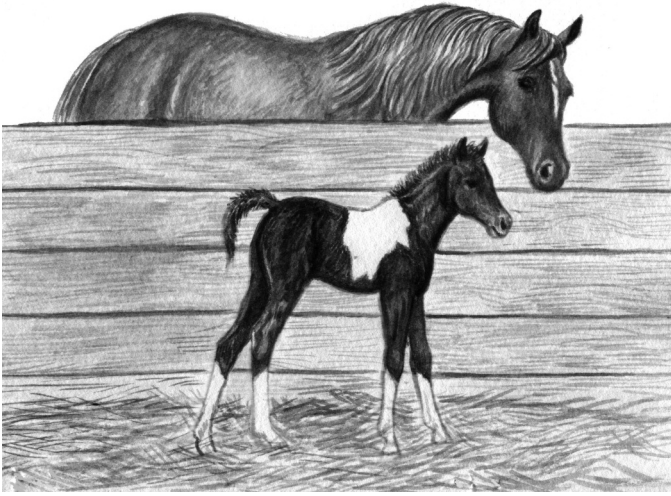
In the Bible, God sometimes revealed things to people through dreams or visions. Can you think of some examples? Do you believe this still happens today? Grandma awoke with a feeling that something was wrong at the barn. Do you think feelings like this come from God? Should we always trust our feelings?

Chapter 5

Have you ever lost a dearly-loved pet? It can be quite painful, but unfortunately it's something many young people, as well as adults, experience. Do you think our pets will someday be in heaven with us? What does Scripture indicate about this?

Grandma compared Jet's death to save her foal, to Jesus' death for us on the cross. When we've heard or read about the crucifixion story often, we may not be impacted as strongly by the physical and spiritual pain Jesus suffered as we were the first time we learned about it. How do you feel knowing what Jesus went through to save you?

You will sometimes hear people use the term “colt” when referring to any young horse, however the correct terminology for young horses is:



- foal for either gender
- colt for a male foal
- filly for a female

Describe Jet’s colt or draw a picture of him.

Chapter 6

Three months later, Rosie still felt sad at times about the loss of her pony. In Hebrews 2:10, it says that Jesus was made perfect (or complete) through suffering. God chooses to make us perfect through suffering as well. What do you think we learn through painful experiences that we may not be able to learn any other way?

The concept of a “pecking order” comes from the world of chickens, but it also applies to a herd of horses. The horse who is the leader (usually a mare) is dominant—the boss. The lead mare is not necessarily the largest or strongest horse in the herd, but she is wise and commands respect. The other horses submit to her authority because they feel safe under her leadership. How does the horses’ pecking order compare to God’s plan for us? Who does God ask you to follow, respect, or submit to?

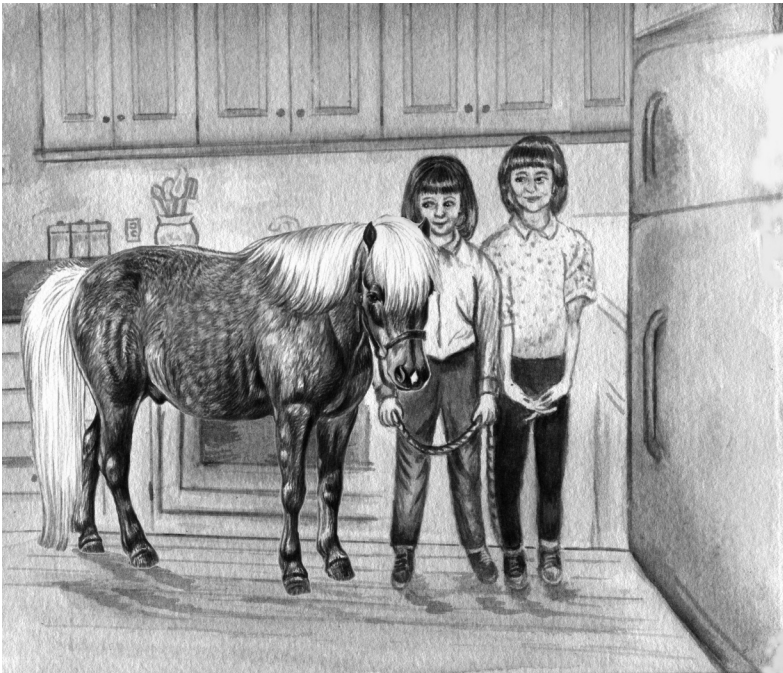


Many people picture training a horse as dramatic and exciting—like an old cowboy riding a bucking bronco. However, when done correctly, training a horse is actually pretty boring. The trainer repeats the same lessons over and over until the horse’s correct responses become automatic.

The trainer helps the horse form good habits. If you begin the training when a horse is young, when he is old enough to accept a saddle and rider, he usually will not object. How does this compare to Proverbs 22:6?

Chapter 7

Carrie persuaded Rosie to do something Rosie knew was wrong. Why did Rosie listen to Carrie and disobey her grandmother? Can you think of a time when someone tried to get you to do the wrong thing? How did you respond? In addition to 1 Corinthians 15:33, what other verses address this issue?



Grandma tried to teach Rosie valuable lessons through the stories she told from her experiences as a child. Do you have any relatives or friends that tell stories like that? If so, what is one of your favorites, and what did you learn from it?

The photo below is me (*on the left at about age 9*). The artist used that image as a reference for the illustration. Check out the telephone in the upper left corner. That dates me a bit. We had a party line. And us kids were never permitted to use the phone back then!



Chapter 8

Why do you think Grandma told Carrie the story of Satin and Kezzie?



Carrie moved with her foster parents to the home next door to Grandma. As a result, she met Grandma and became friends with Rosie. Have you ever considered the people God has brought into your life and the purpose He has in doing so? Think about someone in your life, maybe your parents. Then think back about all the things that had to happen in their past to bring them together at the same time and place. It's a great example of how God works all things together for good to those who love Him.

Chapter 9

Carrie had been excited about riding a horse for the first time, but when it came time to actually do it, she was a little afraid. Have you had a similar experience when you were excited about something at first, but later were afraid?

Some people seem to think riding a horse is like riding a bicycle. You just push the pedals to go and apply the brakes to stop. If you can ride one bike, you can probably ride any, since they all function basically the same. However, horses are not machines. They have personalities. Learning to ride a horse involves learning to communicate effectively with that specific horse. What kinds of problems did Carrie experience on her first ride with Kezzie? If you've ridden before, what did you find the most difficult the first few times you rode?

Chapter 10

Why do you think Rosie didn't just come right out and tell her grandmother that she was worried about riding Scamper? Why did she make up the excuse that she couldn't find her helmet?

Grandma encouraged the girls to memorize 2 Timothy 1:7. If you don't already know it, you should memorize that verse also. Rather than having a spirit of fear, what should we have? What exactly do you think the verse means?

Can you think of people in the Bible who were afraid to do what God called them to do? Did they later obey?

Chapter 11

Grandma insisted that anytime the girls were on their horses, they had to have a helmet on their head. Do some research to see whether helmets are effective in preventing head injuries. Do you agree that helmets should be worn? Equestrian helmets are not the same as bike helmets. Do you think the current designs of helmets are effective in preventing injuries or would changes to the design be better?

The girls worked hard to bathe the horses and get them clean, but as soon as they let them out in the field, they rolled and got dirty again. How is that like 2 Peter 2:22? Warning: you might think it's a somewhat gross verse. Since every verse in the Bible is profitable for our instruction, what was God's purpose in including that one? What can we learn from it?

Sometimes even when we want to witness to people, it can be hard to find a way to get started. Grandma named her farm “Sonrise Stable” in order to make a statement about her faith and to create opportunities to steer conversations toward the topic of Christianity. What are some ways you could create Christian conversation starters?

Chapter 12

How do you think Carrie might have felt when the families arrived for Cousins Camp, since she was the only one who wasn’t related to the others?

Rosie was surprised that her grandmother had included work projects as part of Cousins Camp. Do you enjoy working? Look up Colossians 3:23 to see what God has to say about our attitude toward work.

Jessie liked to trick people who couldn’t tell her apart from her twin sister, Jamie. If you aren’t a twin, would you like to be one? What would be the positive and negative aspects of being an identical twin?

Chapter 13



Rosie was determined to beat Jared in the egg and spoon contest. How do you feel about competition, winning, and losing? What is good and bad about competing with others?

Jessie thought it was funny to hit Carrie with a raw egg. What do you think about her action? Should the girls have told their parents what Jessie had done?

At a relatively young age, Jared was busy helping the men stack hay bales. Sometimes young people want to remain childish, rather than striving to become responsible. Look up Matthew 18:3 and 1 Corinthians 13:11. Briefly, one says to become like a child, while the other says to leave childish ways behind. Since the Bible never contradicts itself, what is meant by these two verses?

Chapter 14

The kids planned a campout in Grandma's barn. Have you ever been camping? If so, what are some of your favorite camping memories?

God created each of us with a different personality. What character from the book do you identify with most so far—Rosie, Carrie, Jessie, Jamie, Lauren, Jared? God can work through our strengths and our weaknesses as long as we submit ourselves to Him. Something like stubbornness is usually thought of as a negative trait, but it can actually become a positive one (determination, perseverance) if we allow God to mold it for His use. What are some of your personality strengths and weaknesses, and how do you think God can use them for good?

Rosie let her imagination run away with her when she was frightened by the creature in the barn during the campout. Have you ever had a similar experience, where you were frightened, but it turned out to be not nearly as bad as you imagined?

Possums and EPM

Although the possum wasn't a dangerous animal to Rosie and the others, they aren't an animal you want to have around horses. Possums may be infected with a protozoa (parasite) that causes a serious disease in horses—EPM or Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis.

When an infected possum uses the bathroom on hay, grain, pasture, or in water that is later ingested by a horse, the horse may develop the disease.

EPM affects the brain and spinal cord. One side of the horse's body may be affected more than the other. The muscles of an infected horse may shrink in size and become weaker. He will experience a loss of balance and be uncoordinated.

One simple way to keep possums away is to keep all grain and other feed in enclosed containers. Possums love cat food, so if you have barn cats, make sure all their food is put away before evening.

Chapter 15

Grandma didn't want Rosie to train Scamper for barrel racing when he was young, because she'd seen horses ruined by contesting them too early. She wanted Rosie to wait until Scamper was well-trained and old enough to be calm and reliable. Contesting means participating in horse speed contests like barrel racing, pole bending, etc. Those types of events make some horses excitable, nervous, and difficult to control. While barrel racing is not a bad thing, it was not the right time for Scamper to learn it. Can you think of something your parents have said you can't do until you're older? It may be hard to see now, but trust that your parents have a good reason for asking you to wait.

What do you think about Carrie getting even with Jessie by splashing paint on her arm? Could there have been a better way to handle the anger she still felt about Jessie throwing the egg at her?

Chapter 16

Rosie's family and Carrie enjoyed their trail ride together. In today's world, people are often disconnected from each other even when they're physically together—because of TV, radio, phones, computers, etc. What's something your family or friends do that involves some good "old-fashioned" togetherness, fully engaged with each other with no distractions?

“The sound of swishing tails, jangly reins, squeaky leather saddles, and buzzing flies merged with hoof beats and the riders’ voices to form a sort of trail song in Rosie’s ears.”

This sentence attempts to create a word picture of what a trail ride on horseback is like, for readers who have never experienced one. Think of something you like to do, and write one sentence that describes it as completely as you can. Try to pick the perfect words that will make someone else experience it the same way you do.

Rosie wished that she lived at a time before cars were invented so she could ride Scamper everywhere. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of traveling everywhere by horseback?

Chapter 17

In her story of being lost on the trail, Grandma wondered whether she might have encountered an angel (Hebrews 13:2). Have you, or anyone you know, ever had an experience that might have been an encounter with an angel?

While we are not to put too much emphasis on angels, and are definitely not to worship them, the Bible does indicate they have a role in our lives. Read these verses about angels to get a sense of their purpose. Psalms 91:11, Matthew 18:10, Psalms 34:7, Hebrews 1:14, Daniel 6:22, and 2 Kings 6:8-23.

Some horsemen claim that horses cannot think deeply enough to fake lameness; however Maggie's trick on the trail was a real experience, and it certainly seemed intentional. Do you know of any animal, yours or someone else's, that has exhibited behavior that seems to show them thinking through a situation at a level we don't usually give animals credit for?

Chapter 18

When you listen to Christian music, do you listen more to the tune or the words? Carrie, for the first time, began to consider the meaning of the words she was singing. What is your favorite Christian song, and what does it mean to you?

God uses different experiences in each person's life to draw them to Him. Through the stories from Grandma, Rosie's story about Jet, the loss of her parents at a young age, going to church with her foster parents, and the love and warmth she experienced from Rosie's family, Carrie came to be saved. Describe how God has worked in your life or someone in your family. Everyone will have a unique story of their journey to faith in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 states, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." In what ways was Carrie different already? How do you think God will continue to change her?

Chapter 19

Rosie dreamed of winning a ribbon or trophy at a horse show. Was that a good or a bad goal?

When they arrived at the fair, Rosie was both excited and nervous at the same time. Why? Describe a time you experienced both those emotions at once.

Chapter 20

Rosie enjoys drawing, and Carrie likes to write. Read Matthew 25:14-30. God gives each of us different talents and abilities that we are to use for His glory. What talents or special interests do you have, and how will you develop and use them for God?

Remember horses are not like bicycles. You could ride a bicycle in any setting, and it will always respond the same way. Horses need a chance to get used to different places or situations that make them nervous or frightened. Scamper was calm at the fairgrounds until the carnival rides began with their movement and noise. How did he respond, and how did Rosie help him calm down?

Billy was cruel to his pony, Bandit. Read these verses, and describe how God wants us to treat the animals He created. Genesis 1:28-30, Exodus 23:4, Exodus 23:12, Deuteronomy 25:4, Job 12:7-10, Proverbs 12:10, Proverbs 27:23, Matthew 6:26, Matthew 10:29, Matthew 12:11.

Chapter 21

How do you feel about Billy's action that resulted in Rosie not winning a prize in the horse show? Why do you think Billy acted the way he did?

Rosie said she hated Billy for what he did in her class and for how he treated Bandit. Rosie had certainly been taught that it was wrong to hate, but *knowing* how you're supposed to act, doesn't necessarily mean you will respond that way in a difficult situation. What could Rosie do to correct her inappropriate response?

Carrie generously offered to give Rosie the ribbon she had won. Why didn't Rosie accept it? Would you have taken the ribbon? Why or why not?

Chapter 22

Grandma saw spiritual meanings in many of the things and events in her everyday life, especially related to horses. Jesus Himself, often taught by referring to everyday things surrounding Him: rocks, sheep, gates, bread, water, soil, etc. Can you think of an example of some thing or event in your own life that illustrated a spiritual concept?

There's something special about adoption. Kristy and Eric's choice to adopt Carrie is a reminder of how God chooses us to be part of His family. According to John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you..."

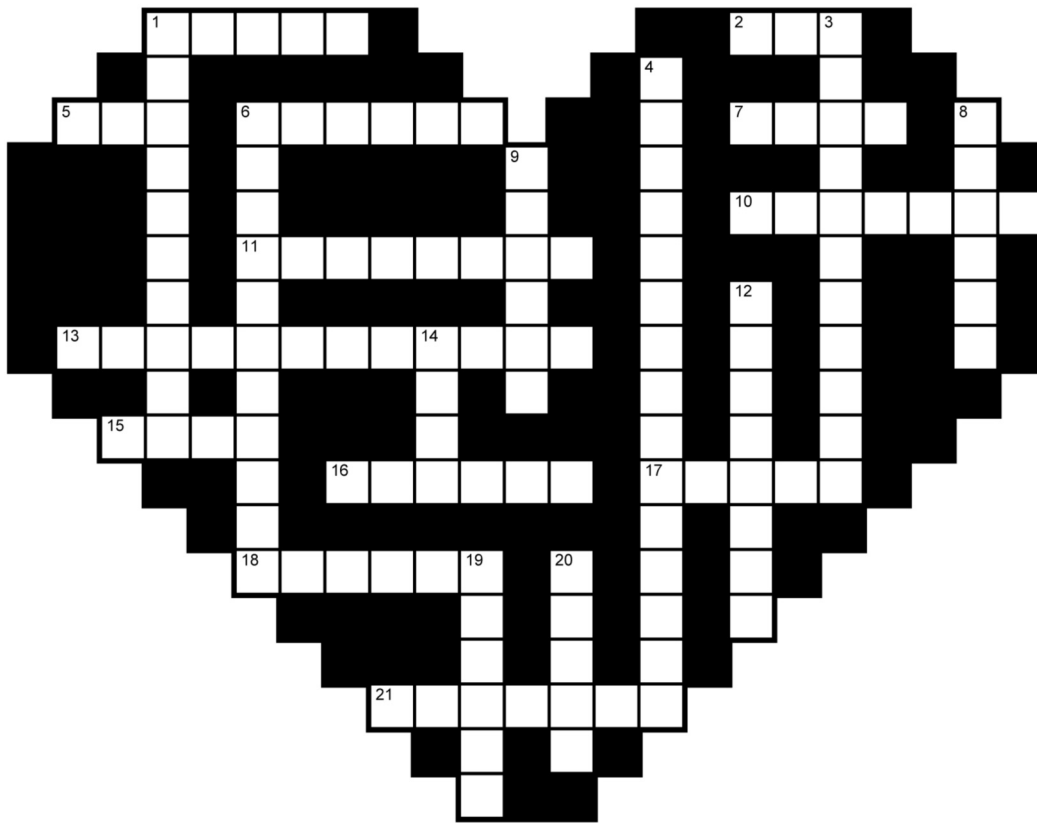
Ephesians 1:5 says, "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will..."

How does it make you feel that, as Christians, we are God's adopted children?

Grandma said, "Life has its difficulties, but God has a way of working all things together for good" Read Romans 8:28 to see the entire verse that forms the basis for her statement. How have you seen God work all things together for good in your own family?

What do you think life will be like for Rosie and Carrie once they become sisters?

Tack Crossword



Across

- 1 part of bridle which goes behind the ears
- 2 part of bridle which goes in the mouth
- 5 a ring to which straps are attached
- 6 head piece worn by a horse when being led
- 7 it doesn't blow, but you can hang on to it
- 10 a mild type of bit with no shanks
- 11 part of bridle that goes across the forehead
- 13 smooth, rounded area at the edge of the cantle
- 15 the part of the saddle you sit on
- 16 wide leather flap that leads to the stirrup
- 17 fits around the horse's abdomen to hold the saddle in place
- 18 raised area on either side of the horn
- 21 a rider's foot goes in this

Down

- 1 part of bridle which fits along the sides of the head
- 3 part of bridle which goes under the neck
- 4 this strap attaches the flank cinch to the girth
- 6 strap which holds the stirrup leathers together
- 8 strap that connects to saddle or the girth or flank cinch
- 9 raised area at the back of the saddle seat
- 12 attaches to halter to lead or tie the horse
- 14 leather strap a rider uses to guide a horse
- 19 flexible strap used to tighten the girth
- 20 large saddle flaps that fit over the horse's back



Tack Word Search



- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Billet | Flank cinch | Seat jockey |
| Bit | Girth | Skirt |
| Browband | Halter | Snaffle |
| Cantle | Hobble strap | Stirrup |
| Cheek piece | Horn | Stirrup leather |
| Cheyenne roll | Latigo | Throatlatch |
| Connecting strap | Lead rope | |
| Crown | Pommel | |
| Dee | Rein | |
| Fender | Seat | |



Circle the words related to western tack. Words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and reversed.

Draw Scamper with Janet Griffin-Scott

Would you like to learn how to draw horses? I'm Janet Griffin-Scott, illustrator of the Sonrise Stable series. I love drawing horses of all kinds—ponies, foals, drafts, donkeys, or mules—it doesn't matter, I love them all! In fact, when I was in ninth grade, I nearly failed art class, because my teacher was frustrated with me for turning every assignment into a horse project!

In this first lesson, we'll draw Rosie's pony, Scamper. Here is the original photo I worked from.

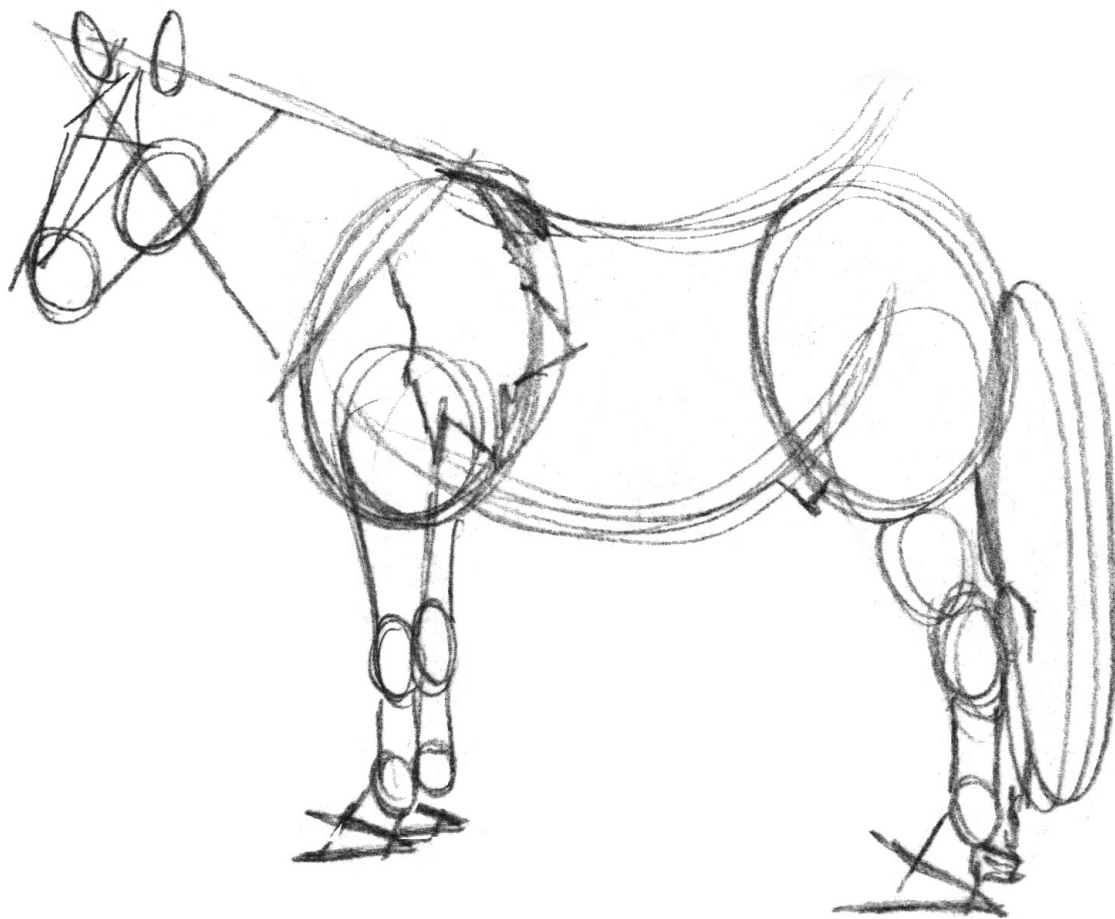


With a dark horse, the challenge for the artist is to provide muscle definition so that you don't end up with a flat, black blob. Decide what your focus will be, and eliminate any unnecessary background details. If you know how to use graphics software and have a digital version of the photo, lightening the image will show more muscle definition in the dark areas.

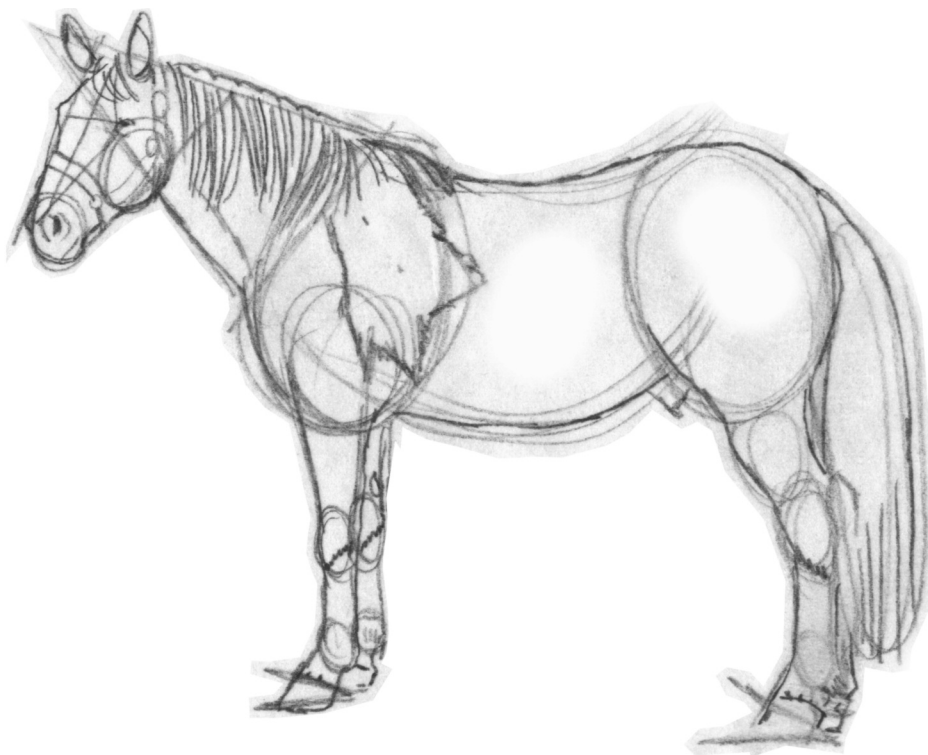
The first step is to break your subject down into its basic shapes: circles, squares, triangles, and ovals. For instance, we see the kite shape in his head, lining up his eyes. His jowl and muzzle are ovals, as are the joints in his legs.

His hooves are triangles with the ends cut off. Even his tail and ears can be seen as stretched-out ovals. His barrel looks like a banana shape, but is actually a sagging oval with pointed ends.

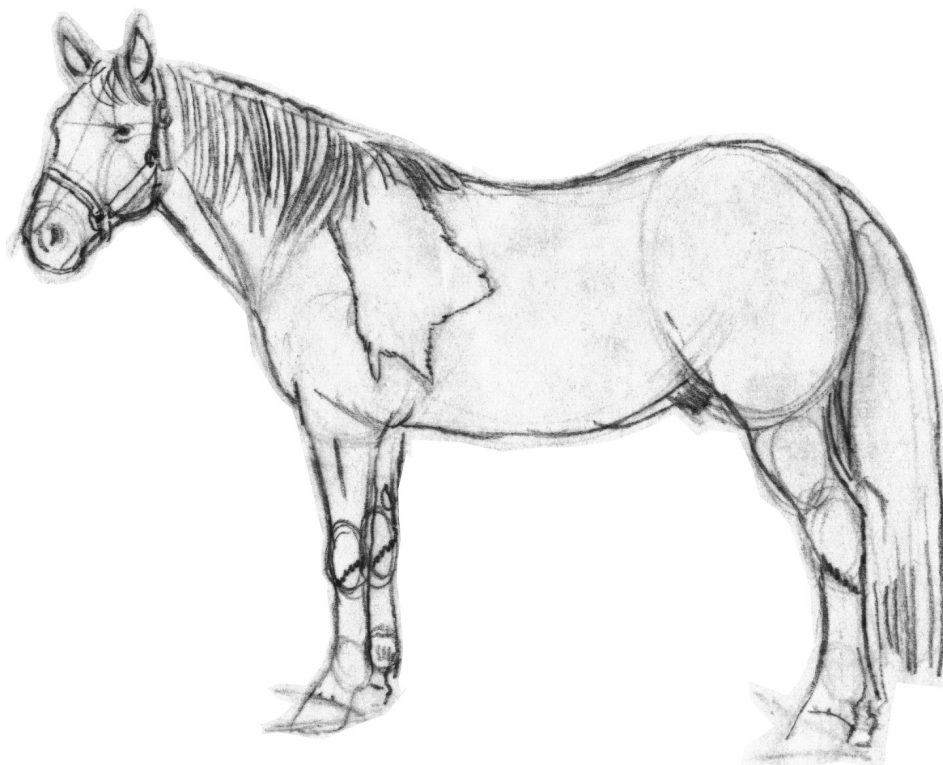
Making sure the outline shape matches the photo of the horse is the hardest part, because all horses are put together in a slightly different way. Spend lots of time on this first step.



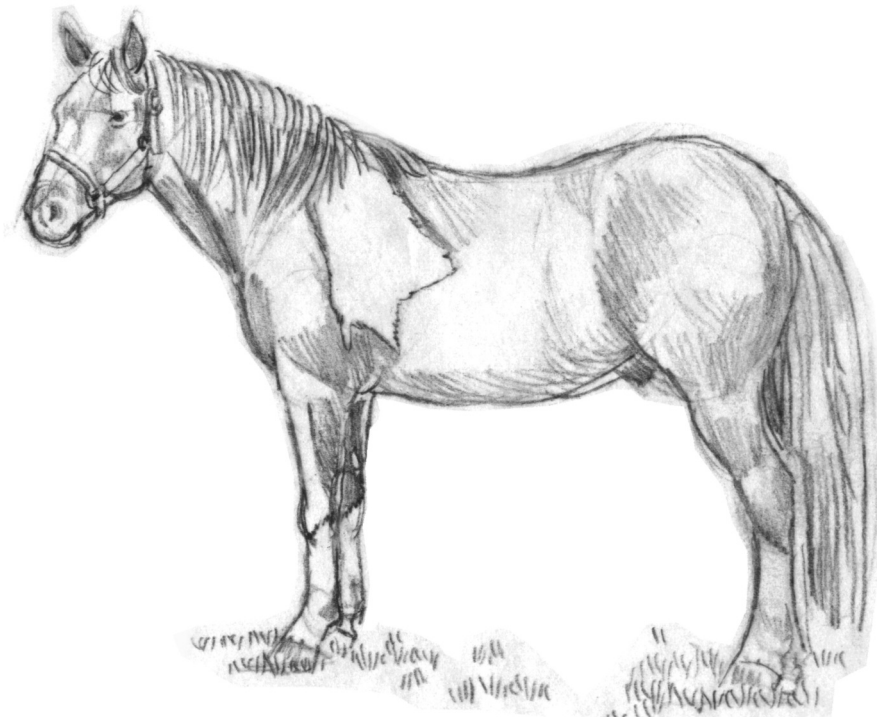
Next, outline the shapes while carefully studying the photo. Sketch in the paint markings on his shoulder, using the underlying circles as a guide. It's important to study the photo as you work in order to get a good likeness.



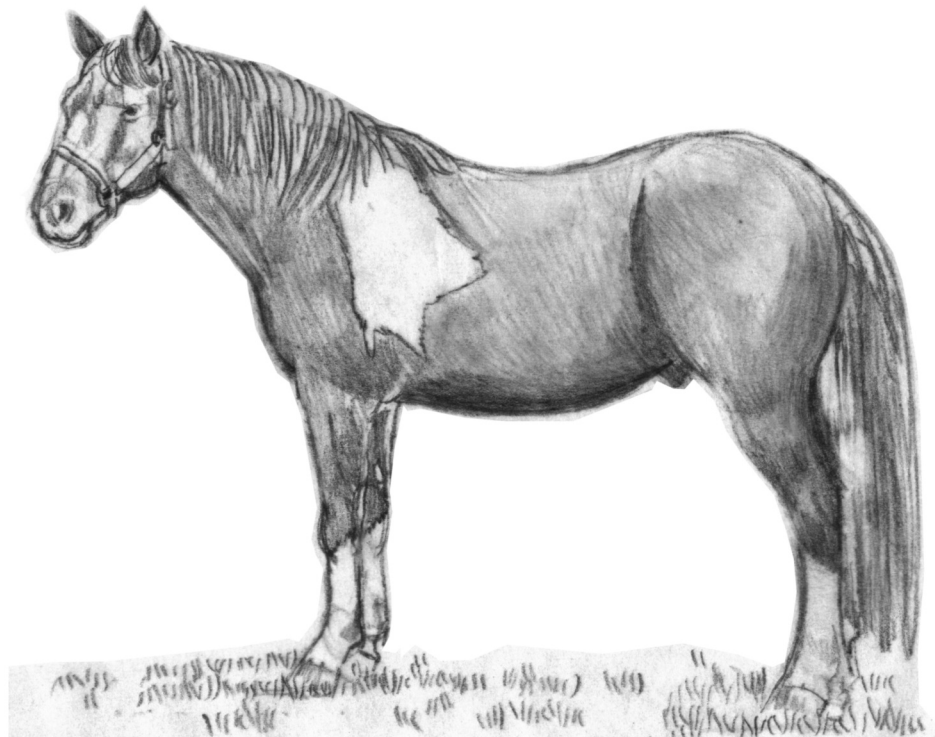
Then erase the underlying shapes. If some of the outline disappears in the erasing process, gently draw it back in. Do a rough sketch of the markings on his legs. Begin adding details of his mane, halter, and eyes. Add a few strokes of long lines for his tail hair.



Add small strokes with a sharp pencil to suggest blades of grass. To make it look realistic, aim the strokes in the directions grass grows, from the bottom up. Begin to add rough shading on his barrel, neck, and along the lower part of his neck (the brachiocephalic muscle). This muscle is usually in shadow due to its large size and shape under the shiny hide.

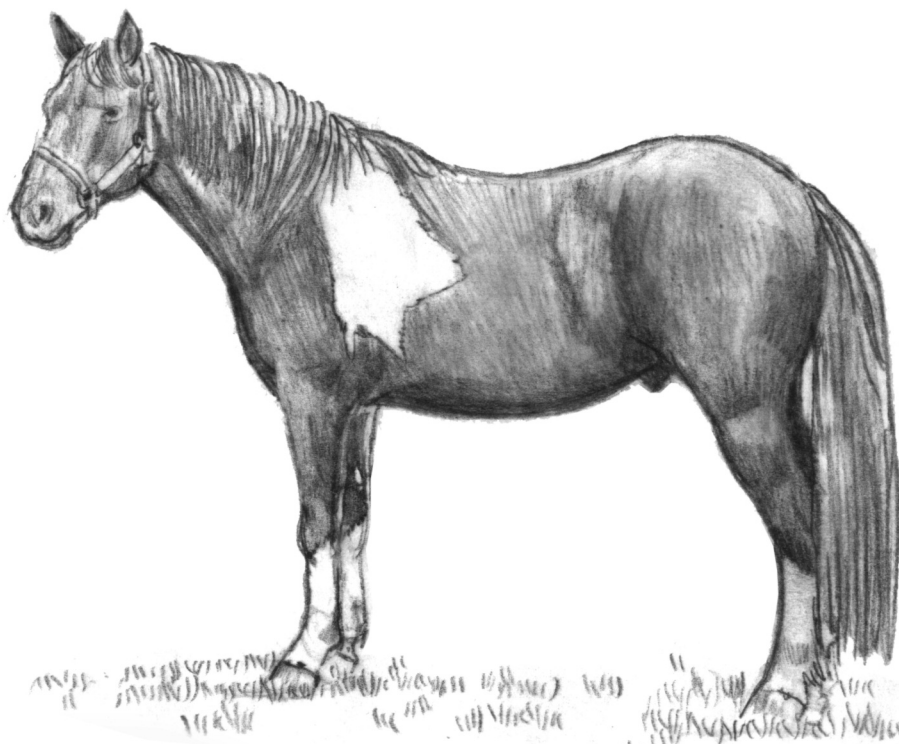


Next add large areas of shading to darken him. There are several different ways you can do this—by using long thin parallel strokes or circular strokes, then smudging and blending the areas with a cotton swab, tissue, or dry paintbrush. Crosshatching, where the pencil strokes go in different directions to darken the color, may also be used.



Create darker areas by making several passes of the pencil over the same area. His rump, stifle area, neck, and barrel all get extra strokes with more pressure on the pencil. When shading, use the pencil at a lower angle to the paper to get a softer, wider stroke. Hold the pencil more upright to create narrower lines and tighter detail.

In this next step I gradually darken the whole drawing, building up the darker areas with repeated strokes and blending. You can use a kneaded eraser with a point pulled up to remove areas that get too dark. Drawing is messier than painting, so my hand smudges areas, and I have to keep erasing outside the drawing to keep the surface clean. Fixatives can be sprayed on the finished drawing to set the graphite.

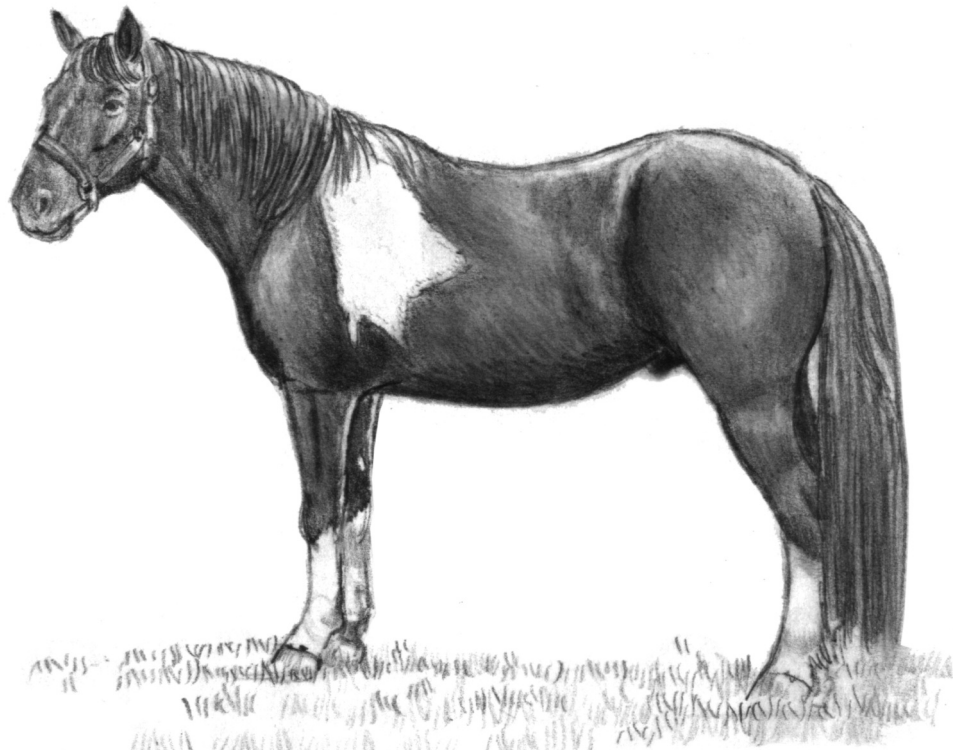


Notice the small dark strokes in Scamper's white markings. Look at the original photo again, and you'll notice this halo effect where dark skin appears under the light-colored hair. Some horses have markings with a straight edge, and others have this transitional area. I have darkened his belly and tail again with additional alternating strokes and blending.

From the photo, you can see that the light was overhead, making his topline lighter, with a very light area on his back and rump. Early in the morning or later in the day, the shadows are longer and at different angles. When drawing, always ask yourself what direction the main light is coming from. That way you'll get the light and shadowy areas correct. This is critical to making the drawing look realistic.

Scamper is a black horse, but you can still use darker areas to suggest the curves and angles on his body. I mainly use kneaded erasers for creating highlight areas and to clean up smudges. Vinyl erasers, when they are new, have sharp edges that can be used in small areas.

I continued to add graphite all over, stopping in between layers to blend with my fingers, tissue, cotton swab, and paintbrush. This is a flexible process that goes differently for each drawing. I erase small areas to add highlights, allowing the white paper to show through.



To develop an eye for horses, it's important to observe them in a variety of settings—at work, rest, and play. This is a good excuse for attending as many horse events as possible! For most equestrian sports, the horses are moving too fast to draw from life. It's important to become a good photographer in order to capture the beauty of the horse in a still form that's easier to translate into a sketch or painting. Photos from horse magazines or the internet are all right to practice with, but check for copyrights. If an image is protected by a copyright, it's illegal to use it for other purposes.

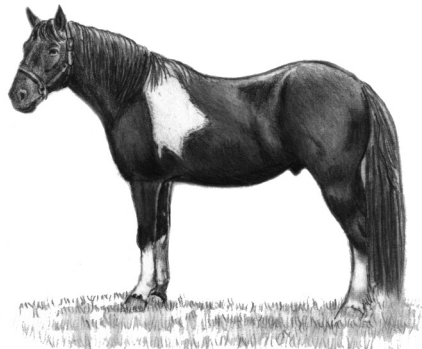
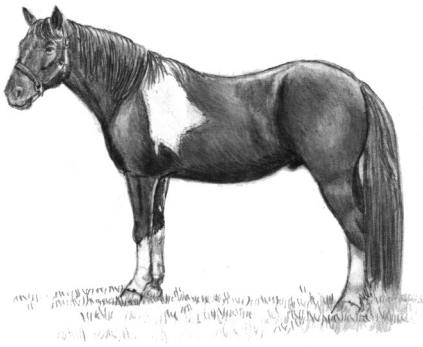
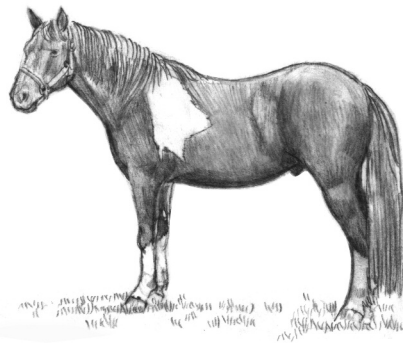
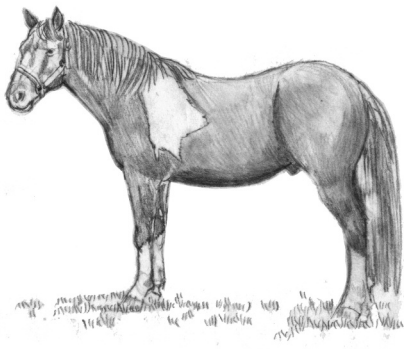
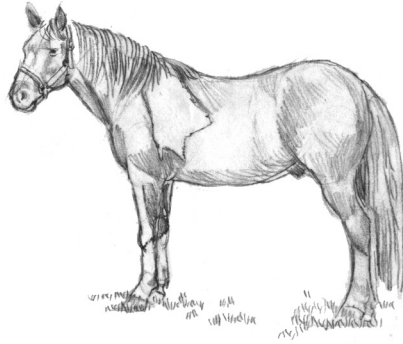
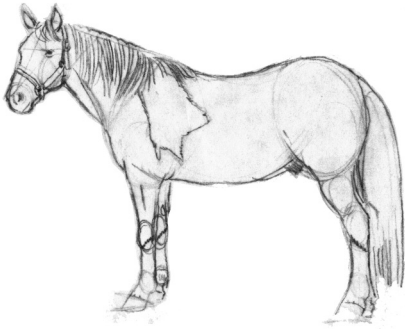
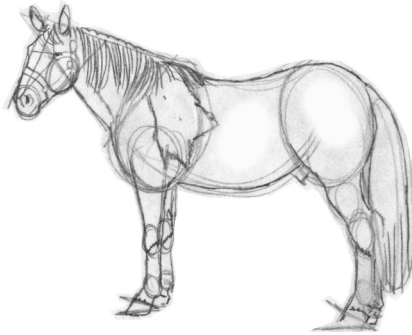
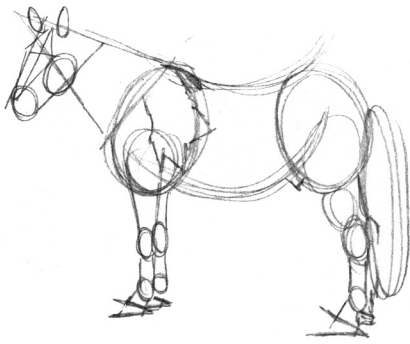
You don't need to spend a fortune for art supplies and equipment. Inexpensive cameras, or even a cell phone, will provide acceptable quality for your photographs. I created the drawing of Scamper for this lesson with a cheap drawing pencil from an office supply store and plain bond paper used in photocopiers.

Don't be discouraged if your first drawing of Scamper doesn't look exactly like mine. I've been doing this for a long time, and many artists consider horses to be one of the more difficult animals to draw. No one learns to ride a horse by taking just one lesson. Learning to ride requires continued effort and practice. The same is true for drawing. No one was born an artist. It takes lots of study and practice to learn to draw well. It's fun and encouraging to draw with a partner. Why don't you invite someone to draw Scamper with you?

Here's my guarantee—you will improve—if you continue to study and practice! Keep a notebook of your sketches, and you will begin to see progress. Draw Scamper several times and learn from your mistakes.

As Rosie's grandmother says, "Just do your best."

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. - Colossians 3:17 NKJV




Janet Griffin Scott
janetgriffinscott.com

Scamper Sketches



Rosie and Scamper

Book Rating:  worst best

The part I liked best...

Favorite person:



Favorite animal:

Memory Verse:

Scamper Drawing:

Something I learned about horses...



A series of 20 horizontal lines, evenly spaced, extending across the width of the page. These lines are intended for writing.