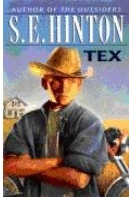


Passages

Reading Level 4



Title: Tex

Author: S.E. Hinton

Sample From The Book

A sudden gust of wind rustled the bush and Negrito gave a snort and a huge sideways leap and tried to take off. I kept him back long enough to let him know it was my idea to gallop, then we went. The drumming of his hooves was better than music.

"There's a ditch coming up, man," I said. I could tell by the way he was holding his head up that he saw it.

"Do you want to jump it or not?"

I felt him weave a little, so I leaned back and pushed, tightening my leg. "Sure you do."

We soared over the ditch without breaking stride, but once we landed, he bobbed his head and bucked a little.

"Boy, that was fun! You're a great jumper. A really great jumper," I said, slapping his neck with the reins. "Next year we make the Olympics."

Then, worried that I sounded too sarcastic, I added, "For a cow horse you are a really good jumper."

We loped on. This was the first day I could really feel fall coming on, not so much because it was chilly, but there was a slant to the sunlight and a smell in the air that meant fall.



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