

MEET JUNIOR: A QUART OF PAINT

Heather, Jose, Zamen, and Kuan are studying heredity in their fifth grade science class. They have been assigned, as a team, to investigate and report on the family traits of an animal one of them owns. They have decided to learn about Kuan's horse, Junior, and have met at her family's ranch.

Kuan: Lots of horses are almost all one color on their face, body, legs and even their mane and tail. Here's my horse, Junior. I like him because he has areas of white that make him unique. What traits do you see that he has?

Zamen: His body is black with white patches and he has white legs.

Kuan: Right. He's called a Paint.

Jose: Junior's tail is white with a black tip and his mane is white with a black forelock, which is the part that hangs down on his forehead.

Heather: His face is all white, but his ears are black.

Kuan: A white face is called a "bald" face on horses.

Zamen: His eyes are blue.

Kuan: One thing that doesn't show just by looking at him is his well-mannered but lively personality.

Jose: Kuan, do you know who Junior's mother and father are?

Kuan: Yes, his mother is right over there. Her name is "Fancy Lady".

Heather: Her body, face and mane are black colored but she has white legs.

Zamen: Her tail is white with a black tip.

Jose: She has brown eyes. What's her personality like, Kuan?

Kuan: She is very gentle.

Heather: Who is Junior's father, Kuan?

Kuan: His father is "Blazing Away". He's in the separate pasture over there. He's a very calm horse.

Jose: Now he's a different color - a light reddish brown.

Kuan: That color is called sorrel.

Jose: His mane and tail are the same color as his body.

Heather: He has a white stripe on his sorrel face that runs between his eyes down to his nose.

Kuan: That white stripe is called a blaze.

Heather: Oh! That's how he got his name!

Zamen: He has brown eyes, just like Junior's mother. That's a surprise, since Junior's eyes are blue.

Kuan: Yes, blue eyes are a trait that appears and disappears in Junior's family tree. His father's mother is "Pretty Gal". She's over there under the tree.

Jose: She's a dark red color with a black mane and tail.

Zamen: Her legs are black except that she looks like she's wearing little white socks. She has brown eyes, too.

Kuan: She's very gentle. But Junior's father's father is a bit wild and difficult to work with. His name is "Daredevil", and he's in the pasture with Junior's father.

Heather: He's sorrel with white socks just on his hind legs.

Zamen: He has brown eyes, too, just like most of the horses in Junior's family tree.

Jose: What about Junior's grandparents on his mother's side?

Kuan: Junior's mother's mother is right over there. Her name is "Spotted Beauty". We liked her when we were younger because she was so gentle.

Jose: She has a black body with white patches and black mane and tail.

Heather: She has a white face and four white legs.

Kuan: "High Stepper" is the father of Junior's mother. He's also very gentle.

Zamen: He's sorrel with four white socks on his lower legs.

Heather: He has brown eyes, too.

Jose: Now that we have all of the information about Junior's family tree, it's time to see if we can figure out who he inherited each of his traits from. I'm really interested in where he got those blue eyes!