

# Ashley and White Horse

By Clark Ness [www.clarkness.com](http://www.clarkness.com)



One day Ashley was out in her yard. She was watering her flowers.

There was a *clop, clop* behind her. She looked and there stood a white horse with wings.

"Hello," said the white horse with wings. "I am White Horse."

"Hello," said Ashley. "I am Ashley. What can I do for you?" Ashley tried to be brave but was a little scared of the big talking horse.

"We are looking for a girl to help us. We need you to ride our young horses. They need to feel what it is like to have a person on their back," said White Horse.

"Have you had a girl ride your young horses before?" asked Ashley.

"Yes, we have, but she has grown up now. So we need a new girl," said White Horse.

"I could maybe help you. I love to ride horses. Only, I have never ridden a horse with wings," said Ashley.

"I will let you feel what it is like," said White Horse. "Hop up on my back."

Ashley hopped up on White Horse's back. He flapped his two huge wings, and they were off. Up, up, up into the sky they flew.

"This is grand," said Ashley. "You fly so well. I feel like I am floating across the sky."

"Yes, this is how the young horses should learn to fly with a person on their back," said White Horse. "Now let me take you back home."

White Horse landed back in Ashley's yard. Ashley jumped off the flying horse.

"Yes, I can help you teach your young horses," said Ashley. "Do we go now?"

"It is good that you will help us. Thank you, Ashley," said White Horse. "The young horses only fly at night in the moonlight. I will come and get you when you are dreaming. I must go now." White Horse flapped his huge wings and went up into the sky.

Ashley opened her eyes. She was lying in the shade of a big tree in her yard.

"I must have been dreaming," said Ashley. "White Horse seemed so real."

She went into her home. That very night when she was asleep, White Horse came into her room and got her. They flew to the land of flying horses.

Ashley rode five young horses that night. At first the young horses did not fly well with Ashley on their back. But after a little while, they learned how to fly well with Ashley. White Horse took Ashley back to her room, and Ashley went back to sleep.

Now, two or three nights each week, White Horse comes and gets Ashley to help him teach the young horses. Ashley loves helping the young horses learn how to fly with a person on their back. She is having a fun summer.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level - 2.1

Flesch Reading Ease - 94.9

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