

THE ADVENTURE OF TOTO

TOTO MONKEY IS BOUGHT

The narrator's Grandfather bought a monkey from a tonga-driver. He cost him Rs. five. It was Toto. Grandfather bought him to keep in his private zoo.

TOTO IS DESCRIBED

Toto was a pretty monkey. He had mischief in his shining eyes. His teeth were white like pearls. His hands were dried-up. His fingers were quick. His tail served as a third hand.

TOTO IS KEPT IN A SECRET PLACE

The narrator's Grandmother fussed when his Grandfather added a new animal to his zoo. So Toto was kept in a secret place. It was a little closet. It opened into the narrator's bedroom. Toto was kept tied to a peg.

TOTO'S MISCHIEFS

A few hours later, the narrator found a change in his bedroom. Toto had removed the ornamental paper from the walls. He had also pulled out the peg. He also tore up the narrator's school blazer. Grandfather seemed pleased with Toto's mischiefs.

TOTO IS TRANSFERRED TO SERVANTS' QUARTERS

Toto was now transferred to a big cage. It was in the servants' quarters. There Grandfather's other animals lived sociably. These were a tortoise, a pair of rabbits, a squirrel, a pet goat. The monkey didn't allow them to sleep peacefully. Grandfather had to leave Dehradun. He had to collect his pension from Saharanpur.

TOTO TRAVELS WITH GRANDFATHER SECRETLY

Grandfather got a big black canvas kit-bag. He put Toto into it. Toto couldn't take his hands out of this bag. It was too strong for him to bite. Toto remained in the bag as far as Saharanpur. Grandfather was coming out of the railway

station. Toto grinned at the ticket- collector at the gate. The ticket-collector was taken aback. He told Grandfather that he had a dog with him. So he would have to pay Rs. three as fare for this 'dog'. In vain, argued the Grandfather that Toto was not a dog. He had his pet tortoise with him also. So he asked the ticket-collector how much he should pay for it: The ticket-collector said that it was not a dog. So there was no charge for that.

TOTO IS FINALLY ACCEPTED IN THE HOUSE

Finally, Toto was accepted in the house. Grandfather gave Toto a comfortable place in the stable. There Toto got Nana, the family female donkey, as a companion. But Toto continued teasing her. They could never become friends.

TOTO AT MISCHIEF AGAIN

In winter Grandfather gave Toto a large bowl of warm water. It was for him to bathe in. Toto would sit inside the bowl. Then he would apply soap on his body and rub all over. When the water became cold, he would come out of it. Then he would run to the kitchen fire. There he would warm himself. If anyone laughed at him, he would refuse to bathe.

TOTO NEARLY BOILED HIMSELF ALIVE

Once Toto nearly boiled himself alive. There was a large kitchen kettle left on the fire. It was to boil for tea. Toto decided to remove the lid. He found the water warm to bathe. He got in. Just then the water began to boil. Toto raised himself a little. But he sat down again. He continued jumping up. Grandmother came there. She took him out of the kettle.

TOTO'S MISCHIEFS CONTINUE

Toto always made mischiefs. He tore things to pieces. He tore up the dresses of the aunt of the narrator. One day, the narrator found Toto eating rice on the dining table. Grandmother screamed. Toto threw a plate at her. One of the narrator's aunts rushed forward. Toto threw a glass of water at her face. When Grandfather came, Toto ran out with the dish of pullao in his hand. He ran up to the branches of the jackfruit tree. He threw the dish at Grandmother when she screamed at him.

TOTO IS SOLD BACK TO HIS ORIGINAL OWNER

Toto caused much loss to the family. Dishes were broken. Clothes, curtains, wall papers were torn. The family couldn't bear this. So Grandfather sold Toto back to the tonga-driver for only three rupees.

NCERT QUESTIONS

Question 1.

How does Toto come to grand-father's private zoo?

Answer:

Grandfather loved animals. One day he saw this attractive monkey with a tonga- driver. The monkey was tied to a feeding- trough and seemed out of place there. Grandfather had great liking for animals. So he decided to buy Toto from the tonga- driver and bought it for five rupees.

Question 2.

"Toto was a pretty monkey." In what sense is Toto pretty?

Answer:

Toto had bright eyes sparkling with mischief, pearly white teeth, quick and wicked fingers and a gracious tail which served as a third hand. The smile of Toto was cute and frightened elderly Anglo- Indian ladies. Altogether all these qualities made him pretty.

Question 3.

Why does grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how? Why does the ticket collector insist on calling Toto a dog?

Answer:

Toto was a mischievous monkey. He kept disturbing all other animals in grandfather's private zoo. It seemed that only grandfather could manage him

properly. So, he took Toto to Saharanpur in a bag. The ticket collector called Toto a dog as the monkey did not qualify the category of human beings.

Question 4.

How does Toto take a bath? Where has he learnt to do this? How does Toto almost boil himself alive?

Answer:

Toto cunningly tested the temperature with his hand then gradually stepped into the bath. He stepped first one foot, then the other, until he was into the water up to his neck. He rubbed himself all over with the soap. He learned it all from the author. Some day Toto got in a large kitchen kettle which was on fire to boil. He enjoyed the warm water but when the water turned out to be hot he jumped up and down. Suddenly the grandmother arrived at and pulled him out in half-boiled condition.

Question 5.

Why does the author say, “Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long”?

Answer:

Author’s statement about Toto proves itself if we take Toto’s misdeeds into consideration. Nobody could afford the frequent losses. He disturbed all other animals too. Obviously Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long.

Talk about it

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Question 1.

Do you have a pet? Is your pet mischievous? Tell the class about it.

Answer:

Yes, I have a pet dog named Moti. My father had brought him from my maternal uncle’s house when he was very small. Moti is like a member of my family. I have special attachment to him. He is very active and vigilant. He is an

epitome of loyalty. He keeps sitting beside the main gate at night. Whenever there is any unknown sound inside my house, he starts barking. All the members of my family love Moti very much. Moti proves to be really a gem many a time. He keeps us safe all the time. Our Moti is not mischievous. He is very sensible and sensitive as well. We feel secure in his presence. I pray to God to keep him healthy.

EXTRA QUESTIONS

Question 1.

Where did Grandfather buy Toto from and why?

Answer:

He bought Toto from a tonga-driver. The tonga-driver used to keep it tied to a feeding trough where the monkey looked highly out of place, so he decided to buy him to add to his private zoo.

Question 2.

Describe Toto the monkey that Grandfather bought from the tonga-driver.

Answer:

Toto was a pretty monkey with bright eyes that sparkled with mischief under deep-set eyebrows. He had pearly white teeth which he bared in a smile that frightened old Anglo-Indian ladies. His skin was wrinkled, with his hands looking pickled in the sun. His finger was quick and wicked and his tail acted as a third hand for him.

Question 3.

Why did the narrator and his Grandfather hide Toto?

Answer:

The narrator's Grandmother was always upset whenever his Grandfather brought an animal home. So, they hid Toto in a closet till they could find Grandmother in a good mood before introducing her to Toto.

Question 4.

Do you think Grandmother was a keen lover like his Grandfather? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

No, Grandmother was not so fond of animals as it is mentioned she used to fuss a lot whenever Grandfather got a new animal home. Also the fact that Grandfather had to return the monkey to the tonga-driver because of its mischief was because of his fear of Grandmother's reactions to them.

Question 5.

Why was Grandfather pleased even though Toto had escaped from the closet? What does this tell us about his character?

Answer:

He was pleased at Toto's intelligence and how he had managed to get free from the peg he had been tied to. This reveals the fact that he was a true animal lover and enjoyed the antics of the monkey.

Question 6.

How did Toto manage to escape from the closet? What does this reveal about the monkey?

Answer:

He pulled out the peg he had been tied to from the wall inside the closet and escaped from it. This reveals how intelligent, resourceful and mischievous the monkey was.

Question 7.

Where did Grandfather hide Toto after his escape from the closet?

Answer:

He hid him in the servant's quarters and transferred him to a big cage where a number of other pets had been housed.

Question 8.**Why did Grandfather decide to take Toto to Saharanpur?****Answer:**

Grandfather had to go to Saharanpur to get his pension and he felt that if he left Toto behind he would not allow any of the animals in the servant's quarters to sleep all night. So, he decided to take him along.

Question 9.**How did Grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur?****Answer:**

He put the monkey in a big black canvas kit-bag with some straw at the bottom. When the bag was closed there was no place for the monkey to escape from as he could not get his hands out of the neck which was tied securely, and the canvas was too thick for him to bite his way out.

Question 10.**Why did Grandfather have to pay three rupees to the Ticket-Collector?****Answer:**

He had to pay the money as ticket money for the monkey. The Ticket-Collector insisted on calling the monkey a dog and charged the fare

Question 11.**Why did the Ticket-Collector not charge any fare for the tortoise?****Answer:**

According to the Ticket-Collector one had to pay only if carrying a dog in the train and since it was not a dog Grandfather did not have to pay for it.

Question 12.**Was Grandfather alone during his journey to Saharanpur? Give reasons for your answer.**

Answer:

No, he was not alone, as he was accompanied by his monkey Toto and his tortoise.

Question 13.

What were the changes that took place in the life of Toto after he was accepted by Grandmother?

Answer:

There was no longer any need to hide Toto and he was now given a comfortable room in the stable which he had to share with the family donkey, Nana.

Question 14.

Did Toto and Nana become friends? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

No, they never became friends because Toto troubled Nana on the very first night he was left to share the room with her. He bit the donkey, fastening on to her long ears with his sharp little teeth.

Question 15.

What did Toto consider a treat on winter evenings? Why?

Answer:

Toto loved sitting in warm water and when Grandfather would keep a large bowl of warm water for his bath, Toto considered it a treat.

Question 16.

Cite an example from Toto's behaviour during bath time that reveals his intelligence.

Answer: The fact that Toto would test the temperature of his bath water before stepping into it shows that he was very intelligent.

Question 17.

How did Toto almost boil himself one day?

Answer:

One day Toto found a large kitchen kettle left to boil on the fire. Finding the water just warm enough for a bath, he got in with his head sticking out from the open kettle. This was fine for a while until the water began to boil. Toto raised himself a little but finding it cold outside sat down again. He continued hopping up and down for some time until Grandmother pulled him out, half-boiled.

Question 18.

Cite one example to show that Toto was a mischievous monkey.

Answer:

Toto loved tearing things to pieces and whenever anyone came near him, he would make an effort to get hold of their dresses and tear a hole in it. He also threw down a large plate of pulao to spite Grandmother.

Question 19.

What do the various antics of Toto, like almost boiling himself or tearing people's dresses and throwing a large dish of pulao down reveal about him?

Answer:

These incidents show that Toto was extremely mischievous, had a sense of adventure and he was fearless.

Question 20.

Why did Grandfather have to return Toto to the tonga-driver?

Answer:

He had to do so because the monkey was causing a lot of disturbance and damage to the property at home which the family could ill-afford. He broke dishes, tore down curtains, clothes and wallpaper.

Question 21.

How does Toto come to Grandfather's private zoo?

Answer:

He was bought by Grandfather from the tonga-driver who owned him and kept him tied to the water trough. Grandfather took pity on him and decided to add him to his private zoo.

Question 22.

"Toto was a pretty monkey". In what way?

Answer:

Toto looked pretty due to his bright sparkling eyes under deep set eyebrows and pearly white teeth which were often displayed in a smile. Though his hands looked dried up, his tail added to his good looks.

Question 23.

Mention the animals that were kept in Grandfather's private zoo?

Answer:

They were Toto the monkey, Nana the donkey, a pair of rabbits, a tortoise, a tame squirrel and a goat.

Question 24.

How do we know that Grandmother was not as fond of collecting animals as Grandfather?

Answer:

The fact that Grandfather had to hide the monkey, Toto in the closet after buying him off from the tonga-driver tells us that he was afraid Grandmother would create a fuss if she saw that he had made yet another addition to his collection of animals. Thus we get to know that she was not as ardent a lover of animals as Grandfather.

THE ADVENTURES OF TOTO EXTRA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS LONG ANSWER TYPE

Question 1.

Why does Grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how? Why does the Ticket-Collector insist on calling it a dog?

Answer:

Grandfather was forced to take Toto to Saharanpur because he was so mischievous that he troubled every soul in the house whether humans or animals and also caused damage to property. No one could predict what he would be up to at the next moment. He took him tied in a canvas cloth bag which he could not chew his way out of. The Ticket-Collector could not find the fare to be charged for a monkey in his rule book, so he decided to categorise the monkey on the basis of its size and charge the fare he would for a dog.

Question 2.

Describe how Toto would take a bath. Where had he learnt to do this? How did Toto almost boil himself?

Answer:

Toto had learnt how to bathe by watching the narrator take a bath. He would first test the temperature of the bath water with his hand before stepping into it one foot at a time until he was up to his neck in water. Once comfortable he would then take the soap in his hands or feet and rub himself all over. Finally, when the water got cold he would step out and run as quickly as he could to the kitchen to dry himself before the fire burning there.

One day, he found a large kitchen kettle left to boil on the fire. Finding the water just warm enough for a bath he got in with his head sticking out from the open kettle. This was fine for a while until it began to boil. Then he raised himself a little but finding it cold outside sat down again. He continued hopping up and down for some time until Grandmother pulled him out, half-boiled.

Question 3.

Why does the author say that “Toto was not the sort of pet one could keep for long’?

Answer:

He says this because though the monkey was very pretty he was extremely naughty and caused a lot of damage and destruction to the property at home which the family could ill-afford. He broke dishes, tore down curtains, clothes and wallpaper. He tore the dresses of the author’s aunts, troubled the other animals in the house and one day he climbed a tree with a plateful of pulao which was meant for the family lunch.

He had intended to eat it but when he was scolded by Grandmother he threw it down causing the plate to fall and all the food to go to waste. Therefore, Grandfather realised the folly of trying to keep the monkey at home and returned him to the tonga-driver from whom he had bought him in the first place.

Question 4.

Discuss the incident that took place at the railway station?

Answer:

Once Grandfather had to go to Saharanpur by train and he decided to take his monkey Toto along with him in a canvas bag from which it could not escape. The monkey of course did not sit still in the bag but kept rolling on the ground, much to the surprise of the fellow passengers. The monkey remained in the bag till Saharanpur but while Grandfather was producing his ticket at the railway turnstile, Toto suddenly poked his head out of the bag and grinned widely at the Ticket Collector who then forced Grandfather to pay a fare for the monkey much against the latter’s wishes.

Question 5.

Grandfather was a great animal lover. Discuss.

Answer:

Yes, Grandfather was a great animal lover. This can be proved from the fact that he had a private zoo which housed a tortoise, a donkey, a tame squirrel, a pair of rabbits and a monkey all in a cage in the servants' quarters. In fact he paid a sum of five rupees for the monkey who he felt sorry for as he found him chained to the water trough by the tonga-driver. He also willingly travelled with not only the monkey but also a tortoise on his trip to Saharanpur.

He also put up with the mischief and destruction caused by the monkey as far as he could till he knew that the family would no longer support him in allowing the monkey to stay with them. He finally sold him back to the tonga-driver for just three rupees.

Question 6.

Based on your reading of the lesson "Adventures of Toto", do you think it is a great idea to keep animals as pets?

Answer:

The story discusses both the fascination of some people for animals and the problems that can arise when one decides to keep an animal as a pet. This can be disadvantageous not only to the family keeping an animal but also to the animal as we see in the case of Toto, who almost boils himself before he is rescued by the family. In fact it also raises questions about the necessity of taking animals away from their natural environment and domesticating them and exposing them to the dangers that arise from human living.