

Chapter – 9

A Tiger in the House

Comprehension Check I

1. “He had the distinction of being the only member of the party to have bagged any game...”

The phrase in italics means

- (i) Grandfather was the most distinguished member of the party.
- (ii) Grandfather was the only sportsperson in the party.
- (iii) Grandfather was the only successful member of the hunting party.

Mark the right answer.

Answer:

(iii) Grandfather was the only successful member of the hunting party.

2. Complete the following sentences.

- (i) Toto climbed up the curtains when
- (ii) I became one of the tiger's favourites.
- (iii) Timothy had clean habits,

Answer:

(i) Toto climbed up the curtains when he pulled the young tiger by the tail and timothy lost his temper.

(ii) One of Timothy's favourite amusements was to stalk anyone who would play with him, and so, when I came to live with Grandfather, I became one of the tiger's favourites.

(iii) Timothy had clean habits, and would scrub his face with his paws exactly like a cat.

Comprehension Check II

1. Grandmother's prophecy was that the tiger
- (i) would prefer Mahmoud's bed to sleep in.
 - (ii) and the cook would disappear together from the house.
 - (iii) would one day make a meal of Mahmoud.
- Mark the right answer.

Answer:

(iii) would one day make a meal of Mahmoud

2. When Timothy was about six months old, a change came over him. The phrase in italics means that
- (i) Timothy had grown to his full size.
 - (ii) Timothy grew more friendly.
 - (iii) Timothy grew less friendly, in fact more dangerous.

Answer:

(iii) Timothy grew less friendly, in fact more dangerous.

3. Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following statements.
- (i) Timothy and Grandfather went to Lucknow in a special compartment.
 - (ii) The compartment in which Grandfather and Timothy travelled had no other passenger.
 - (iii) Timothy and Grandfather travelled in a first-class compartment.
 - (iv) All passengers in the compartment thought that Timothy was a well-fed and civilised tiger.

Answer:

(i) False

(ii) True

(iii) True

(iv) False

4. Grandfather suggested that Timothy should be put in another cage.

The reason was that

(i) the tiger had become very bad tempered.

(ii) a leopard in the next cage would constantly rush at Timothy.

(iii) the cage was too small for a full-grown tiger.

Answer:

(ii) a leopard in the next cage would constantly rush at Timothy.

5. The tiger was still licking his arm, with increasing relish.

The phrase in italics suggests that Timothy

(i) was good natured.

(ii) recognised an old friend.

(iii) smelt fresh food.

Answer:

(iii) smelt fresh food.

Exercises

1. Where was the little tiger cub hiding when Grandfather found him?

Answer:

The tiger cub was hiding among the intricate roots of a banyan tree when the grandfather found it.

2.

(A) What did Toto do to entertain Timothy?

Answer:

Toto, a monkey was Timothy's companion who would tease Timothy and pull his tail.

(B) Toto, a monkey was Timothy's companion who would tease Timothy and pull his tail.

Answer:

When Timothy lost his temper, Toto would climb up curtains and get beyond his reach.

3. "I became one of the tiger's favourites."

Who is 'I' in the statement? Why did he think so?

Answer:

'I' refers to the narrator of the story. The narrator became Timothy's favourite real soon. He loved to play with the narrator and would move noiselessly towards the narrator and appear face to face with him. Timothy would roll over the narrator's back and pretend to bite his ankles.

4. Where was Timothy most comfortable during the day? Where was he during the night?

Answer:

During the day, Timothy felt the most comfortable on a long sofa in the drawing room. However, at night he slept in Mahmoud, the cook's quarters.

5. What was Grandmother's prophecy about the cook? Did it come true.

Answer:

The grandmother feared that one day Timothy might get violent and kill Mahmoud and have a feast on him. Her prophecy, however, didn't come true.

6. What made Grandfather decide to transfer Timothy to the zoo?

Answer:

As Timothy grew up, he became less friendly. This change came over him when he became about six months old. He started killing and eating hens at night. His looks became dangerous. He started following Mahmoud, the cook with evil intentions. This made the grandmother think that he might kill the cook one day. Sensing the trouble, grandfather decided to transfer Timothy to the zoo.

7. Why did Grandfather want Timothy to be put in another enclosure?

Answer:

When Grandfather went to Lucknow to visit his relatives, he also visited the zoo to meet Timothy. He wanted to get Timothy to another enclosure because the leopard in the next cage troubled and frightened him.

8. What shocked Grandfather in the end?

Answer:

The grandfather was shocked when he was informed that Timothy had died two months back due to pneumonia and the tiger licking his hands was a very dangerous one, and was caught only a month back.

1. Shoot animals with a camera, not with a gun.

Answer:

All animals are beautiful creatures. They have an equal right to live. We must not kill them as we are interdependent for survival. They must be photographed for their beauty should be preserved. They must be cared for and not hunted down.

2. Keeping pets helps us become more loving and tolerant. It also helps us respect life in any form. Do you agree?

Answer:

Yes, keeping pets does help us become more loving and tolerant. They show back love when they are loved. Their playful activities relieve our stress. Having a pet at home changes our perception towards the other animals on street as well. They make us realise that it is equally important to respect all forms of life.

3. Have heard of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)? What do they do?

Answer:

Yes, I have heard about the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). This group aims to protect the helpless animals and looks after the sick ones and provides medication. It provides food to street animals specially dogs. It creates awareness among people and takes a stand for the rights and protection of animals.