



QUESTION BANK – THE ADVENTURES OF TOTO

Class: IX

Sub: ENGLISH

Reference to Context questions

1. ***“His bright eyes sparkled with mischief beneath deep – set eyebrows....”***

- a) Who is the “He” mentioned in the above line?
- b) To where did the Grandfather decided to add the little fellow? Why?
- c) From where did the Grandfather buy him from?
- d) Why were the elderly Anglo-Indian ladies frightened?

**Ans:** - a) The “He” is the little red monkey, Toto.

- b) The Grandfather decided to add the little fellow to his private zoo because he was a pretty monkey.
- c) Grandfather bought Toto from a tonga-driver for the sum of five rupees.
- d) The elderly Anglo-Indian ladies got frightened because of Toto’s pearly white teeth which were very often displayed in a smile.

2. ***“Given time, I’m sure he could have tied the torn pieces of your blazer into a rope and made his escape from the window!”***

- a) Who said this to whom?
- b) Why was Toto put away?
- c) Where was he kept in hiding?
- d) What mischief did he do?

**Ans:** - a) Grandfather said this to the author (Grandson)

- b) Toto was put away because the Grandmother always fussed when Grandfather brought home some new bird or animal. So, until she was in a good mood, he was kept a secret.
- c) He was kept in a little closet, where he was tied securely to a peg fastened into the wall.
- d) Toto destroyed the walls which had been covered with some ornamental paper chosen by Grandfather and the author’s school blazer was torn into shreds.

3. ***Toto suddenly poked his head out of the bag and gave the ticket-collector a wide grin.... he said, “Sir, you have a dog with you. You’ll have to pay for it accordingly.”***

- a) Who said this to whom?
- b) Why did the Grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur?
- c) Where was Toto kept?

d) How did Toto attract the crowd?

Ans: a) The ticket -collector said this to the Grandfather.

b) Toto disturbed the other pets of the Grandfather. He wouldn't allow them to sleep at night. So, Grandfather decided to take Toto to Saharanpur.

c) Toto was kept in a big black canvas kit-bag.

d) He tried hard to escape but was in vain. It only had the effect of making the bag roll about on the floor or occasionally jump into the air which attracted the crowd.

**4. *He continued hopping up and down for some time, until Grandmother arrived and hauled him, half-boiled, out of the kettle.***

a) Who is the 'He' in this line?

b) What can you assume about him from the above line?

c) What mischief did he do?

d) Why did he get inside the kettle?

Ans: a) The 'He' in this line is the Toto the little monkey.

b) Toto was really a mischievous monkey who gave troubles to others.

c) A large kitchen kettle had been left on the fire to boil for tea and Toto finding himself with nothing better to do, immersed himself in it. He thought that the water was for him to take a bath. But after some time, the water began to boil. As it was cold outside, he sat inside the kettle. He hopped up and down until the Grandmother saved him half-boiled from the kettle.

d) A great treat for Toto during cold winter evenings was the large bowl of warm water given by Grandmother for his bath. When he saw the kettle on the fire, he checked the temperature and found the water just warm enough for a bath. So he thought that the water was for him to take a bath and he got inside it.

**1. Describe in brief, the adventures of Toto, the monkey.**

Ans. The author's grandfather was a great lover of animals. He had made a zoo at home in which he would keep animals and gave them a lot of care. In his zoo, one could see a tortoise, a pair of rabbits, a tame squirrel and pet goats. One day he saw a pretty monkey. The monkey was a pet animal of a tonga driver. The tonga driver used to keep the red monkey tied with the feeding trough but it looked extremely tragic there. When the grandfather saw the monkey, he was so fascinated that he purchased the monkey from the tonga driver for five rupees. However, Toto's presence was not revealed at home because the grandmother disliked the new arrival of animals at home. Toto was extremely insidious and destructive. When the writer and his grandfather concealed Toto in a closet and fixing him to a peg, he broke the peg, tore wallpapers and author's blazer and caused ruin in the room. The following day, when he was kept in the servant's room with different other animals, he didn't give them a chance to rest throughout the night. In this way, he never let other animals live in harmony with the other pets. He proved to be an expensive deal. One day the grandfather had to go to Saharanpur for work, he chose to take the monkey along with him. He took Toto in a solid bag made of canvas and shut the zip pleasantly so that Toto couldn't get away. Toto made unsuccessful attempts to escape from the bag, which made the bag bounce and roll. This excited the interest of individual travellers at the railway

station. At the Saharanpur railway station when grandfather was getting his ticket checked, Toto looked out of the bag and grinned at the ticket collector. As the ticket collector proclaimed that it was a dog, grandfather needed to purchase a fare ticket for 3 rupees for him. When at last grandmother came to know about Toto, he acknowledged him, it was given a place in the stable along with the donkey Nana. Toto did not coexist with Nana. The night Toto passed with Nana was full of disturbance. When Grandfather visited the stable, he found Toto fastened on to Nana's long ears with his sharp little teeth. They could never become friends. Toto would take delight in washing up in warm water in the winter season. One day, he nearly bubbled himself when he hopped into a kettle of boiling water. One evening, Toto ate the family feast of pulao. He tossed the unfilled dish from the tree and it broke it into a few pieces. Toto's mischief developed constantly, and grandfather realized that they couldn't afford him at home. At last, he found the same tonga driver and sold Toto back to him for an aggregate of three rupees.

**Q.2. Describe the situation in which grandfather found himself at the Saharanpur railway station.**

**Ans.** Toto's presence had still not been disclosed to the grandmother. The next day, grandfather had to go to Saharanpur to get his pension. He decided to take Toto along with him. He got a big black canvas bag and put Toto into it. The bag was too strong for Toto to bite or tear. Toto remained in the bag as far as Saharanpur. At the gate, as the ticket-collector was checking grandfather's ticket, Toto put his head out of the bag and grinned at the ticket-collector. He told the grandfather that there was a dog with him. Grandfather told him that it was not a dog but a monkey. But the ticket-collector was adamant and charged three rupees extra. Then grandfather showed him his pet tortoise. The ticket-collector said that it was not a dog and hence there would be no ticket for it.

**Q.3. Describe Toto's mischief at lunchtime. How did the author's family get rid of Toto in the end?**

**Ans.** Toto's mind was full of mischiefs. One day at lunchtime, he found a large dish of rice on the dining table. He started eating the rice. When grandmother found Toto eating rice, she screamed. Toto threw a plate at her. An aunt of the narrator came forward. Toto threw a glass of water at her. Then Toto picked the dishes pullao and ran out. He sat on the jackfruit tree. He remained there all afternoon, eating the rice. After that, he threw the plate and broke it into pieces.

At last, grandfather realised that Toto could not be kept for long in the house. The family could not bear the frequent loss of dishes, clothes, curtains and wallpapers. At last, grandfather found the same tonga driver. He sold Toto back for only three rupees.

**4. How did Toto create problems for Grandfather on way to Saharanpur?**

**Ans:** Grandfather had to zip up Toto in a big black canvas kit-bag for carrying him to Saharanpur from Dehra Dun. It was ensured that he could not escape or get his hands out or bite through the strong canvas once the bag was closed. However, Toto was so restless that he tried to come out of the bag by jumping inside it. This made the bag roll about on the floor and jump into the air. It drew the attention of onlookers at the Dehra Dun platform and it became quite difficult for Grandfather to keep his presence a secret. On reaching Saharanpur, Toto suddenly poked his head out of the bag and grinned widely at the ticket-collector. The secret of his presence got revealed and cost Grandfather Three rupees that had to be paid as fare.

**5. How did Toto get on Grandmother's nerves at lunch-time one day?**

**Ans:** One day, at lunch-time, a large dish of *pullao* had been placed at the centre of dining-table in the narrator's house. When his family entered the room, they found Toto stuffing himself with rice. This startled Grandmother and she screamed. Toto at once threw a plate at her in his defence. Then one of the narrator's aunts rushed forward and Toto threw a glass of water in her face. When Grandfather arrived, Toto escaped through the window with the dish of *pullao*. The family found him in the branches of a jackfruit tree with the dish in his arms. He stayed there all afternoon and slowly finished every grain of rice in the dish. In the end, he threw the dish and chattered with delight when it broke just to spite Grandmother who had screamed at him.

**6. 'If there is a part of the brain especially devoted to mischief, that part was largely developed in Toto.' Justify the statement. Why did even grandfather realise that Toto was not the sort of pet they could keep for long?**

**Ans.** It is true that Toto had a very fertile and mischievous brain. He was always up to one mischief or the other. His fingers were quick and wicked. His presence was kept a secret to grandmother. He bit the ornamental wall-paper to pieces. The peg had been pulled out of the socket. The school blazer of the narrator was in shreds. But grandfather was pleased with Toto's performance. On Dehradun railway platform, he suddenly poked his head out of the bag and gave the ticket-collector a wide-grin. He was classified as a dog and grandfather had to pay three rupees extra as his fare. One day Toto nearly succeeded in boiling himself alive. He was always tearing things to pieces. The family couldn't afford the frequent loss of dishes, clothes, curtains and wallpaper. Even grandfather realised that Toto was not the sort of pet they could keep for long. So, grandfather found the tonga-driver and sold Toto back to him for three rupees.

**7. Animals should be treated with love and respect. Comment on this statement with the lesson 'The Adventures of Toto' as the background.**

**Ans.** It is right that animals should be treated with love and respect. It is not right to show cruelty towards them. Even wild animals should be treated with care. In the story *The Adventures of Toto*, we find grandfather showing love and kindness towards animals. He had set up a mini-zoo in his house where he had kept a number of animals. He also tried to give Toto a comfortable life. Since pet animals give us company, we should look after them with love and concern.

**8. Grandmother had an aversion to pets. Was it right for a grandfather to keep a mini-zoo in his house and also to bring in Toto, the monkey? Discuss.**

**Ans.** Grandfather had immense love for animals. He had created a private zoo in the house. In his zoo, one could see a tortoise, a pair of rabbits, a tame squirrel and pet goats. He took the special care when grandmother had an aversion to pets. When Toto was brought home, his arrival was kept a secret. Toto was a naughty monkey. All the time he kept creating problems in the family. Since the very day Toto entered the house, he started damaging the household things. He pulled out the peg, tore wallpapers and the author's blazer. Moreover, he never let other animals live in harmony with the other pets. He proved to be an expensive deal. So, grandfather was not right in keeping Toto in his private zoo. Grandfather should also have kept in mind the likes and dislikes of the grandmother.

**9. Toto was a sharp and active monkey. Discuss.**

**Ans:** Toto was keenly observant and swift in his actions. He noted closely the way the narrator took bath. He copied every action including testing the temperature of the water with his hand. His physical appearance added to his sharp and active image. Deep-set eyebrows framing his sparkling eyes, pearly white teeth frequently breaking into a grin, quick and wickedly used

fingers, and a long tail made Toto look every inch a clever monkey. However, he used his intelligence for doing all kinds of mischievous things. He destroyed the wallpaper of the narrator's bedroom, shredded his school blazer, did not let the other animals sleep peacefully, a bit on the family donkey's ears, made holes in the narrator's aunt's dresses, and ate the *pullao* and broke the dish afterwards. Thus, Toto certainly was a sharp and active monkey, but he was difficult to train and could not be kept as a pet for long and without peril.

**10. What human values do you see in Grandmother after reading this story?**

**Ans:** Grandmother appeared to be a tough woman. She always fussed when Grandfather brought home some new bird or animal, but this fuss would disappear as soon as she would get into a good mood. That is why she accepted Toto as the new pet after a few days. When Toto tore the narrator's school-blazer to shreds, the narrator's first worry was what Grandmother would say. He thought so because she gave the impression of being a strict disciplinarian. However, her soft heart had compassion for all. Toto was mischievous and destructive since day one; still, Grandmother would overlook everything and give him a bowl of warm water to bathe. Again, it was the Grandmother who rescued Toto from getting boiled in the kettle. Thus, it can be clearly seen that Grandmother had a kind heart, although she appeared to be tough outwardly.

**11. Grandfather possessed the values of childlike simplicity. Do you agree/disagree? Give reasons.**

**Ans:** Grandfather had a private zoo with different kinds of animals – a tortoise, a pair of rabbits, and a tame squirrel. But his childlike love for animals made him buy another animal, a monkey, as a pet. Grandmother did not like this habit of her husband, so he kept his new pet a secret from his wife. The manner in which he tried to hide Toto or admire him was clever. When the former shredded the narrator's school blazer, shows that Grandfather was as simple as a child. Again, when he hides Toto in a bag on the way to Saharanpur and produces a tortoise from his pocket before the ticket-collector, confirms his childlike simplicity.

**12. How did Toto like to have a bath in winters? How did he once get into serious trouble while trying to have a hot-water bath?**

**Ans:** Bathing in a large bowl of warm water in cold winter evenings was a treat for Toto. He would cunningly test the temperature of the water brought by the grandmother with his hand and gradually step into the bath, first one foot, and then the other until he was into the water up to his neck.

Once comfortable, he would take the soap in his hands or feet and rub himself all over. When the water became cold, he would get out and quickly run to the kitchen fire to dry himself. If someone tried to laugh at him, he would refuse to go on with the bath. His fondness for a hot water bath one day got him into serious trouble. He noticed a kitchen kettle on the fire and having nothing better to do decided to remove the lid. Finding the water just warm enough for a bath, he got in. For a while it was fine, but soon he began hopping in and out of the kettle because the water had got really hot while outside the kettle it was too cold for him. That day Toto would have boiled himself to death, had Grandmother not arrived in time to rescue him.

**13. How did Toto get along with other animals?**

**Ans.** Toto was kept in a big cage along with other animals. He did not allow any of his companions to sleep at night. He also did not get along well with the family donkey, Nana.

**14. What did Toto do with the dish of pullao?**

**Ans.** One day a large dish of pullao was kept in the centre of the dining table. Toto started stuffing himself with rice. He ran away with the dish when Grandfather arrived there. Grandmother screamed at him. He threw the plate at her. It broke into many pieces.

**15. Why was Toto sold back to the tonga-driver?**

**Ans.** The writer's family was not well-to-do. They could not afford the loss of dishes, clothes, curtains and wallpaper. So, Toto was sold back to the tonga-driver.

**16. Why did Grandfather decide to include the monkey in his private zoo?**

**Ans.** The tonga-driver kept the monkey tied to a feeding trough. The monkey looked out of place there. So, Grandfather decided to include him in his private zoo.

**17. How did Toto behave when he was put in a closet?**

**Ans.** Toto tore off the wallpaper. He pulled off the peg in the wall from its socket. The writer's school blazer had been hanging there. He tore it to pieces.

**18. Why did the onlookers get attracted to Toto on the Dehradun railway platform?**

**Or**

**“An exhibition attracted a curious crowd of onlookers at the Dehra Dun railway platform”. What was the cause of this exhibition?**

**Ans.** Toto was kept in a canvas kit-bag. The canvas was too strong for him to bite. Toto wanted to get free. While making efforts to get out, he occasionally rolled about or jumped into the air. As he was inside the bag, the onlookers could not see him. In this way, the onlookers on the Dehradun platform got attracted.

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

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

**20. “The brain part devoted to mischief was far more developed in Toto”. Do you agree with this observation of the narrator? Support your answer with instances from the text.**

**Ans:** Toto, although an intelligent monkey, used all his energy in playing mischief and that too of a destructive nature. He would tear and break things or trouble and irritate others. To make matters worse, he would enjoy his mischievous acts. That is why the narrator has made this remark about Toto. For e.g. scratching off the wall papers, tearing the narrator's blazer, troubling other pets and making a hole in the dress when any visitors came.

**21. How did Toto use his body parts to his advantage?**

**Ans:** Toto used his bright eyes to display a mischievous glint. He used his pearly white teeth to smile in a way that would scare Anglo-Indian ladies. He used his fingers quickly and wickedly to pick up things. He used his tail, his third hand, to hang from branches or to pull something that was at a distance.

**22. Why did Grandfather hide Toto for some time when he brought him home?**

**Or**

**Why was Toto's entry into Grandfather's zoo kept a secret?**



**Ans:** Grandfather, who was fond of pets, would face resistance from Grandmother whenever he brought a new pet into the house. So, he hid Toto for some time and kept his entry a secret until Grandmother was in a good mood.

### **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

1. The tonga driver used to keep the monkey
  - i. **tied to a feeding -trough**
  - ii. tied to a tub
  - iii. tied to a tree
  - iv. tied to a bush
  
2. Grandfather decided to add the little monkey
  - i. his library
  - ii. his museum
  - iii. **his private zoo**
  - iv. his theatre company
  
3. Toto's \_\_\_\_\_ added to his good looks.
  - i. face
  - ii. eyes
  - iii. teeth
  - iv. **tail**
  
4. What would grandmother do when grandfather brought home some new birds or animals?
  - i. **She always fussed**
  - ii. She felt very happy
  - iii. She would start crying
  - iv. She started playing with it
  
5. How did grandfather react when Toto tore the writer's school blazer into shreds?
  - i. He was terribly angry
  - ii. He beat the monkey with a stick
  - iii. **He seemed pleased with the monkey's performance**
  - iv. He decided to give the monkey back to the tonga driver
  
6. Where did the writer's grandfather live?
  - i. **Dehradun**
  - ii. Saharanpur
  - iii. Delhi
  - iv. Mumbai
  
7. What did the ticket collector classify Toto as
  - i. A monkey

- ii. **A dog**
  - iii. A cat
  - iv. A squirrel
8. Who was Nana?
- i. The writer's maternal grandfather
  - ii. **The family donkey in grandfather's house**
  - iii. Grandfather's pet tortoise
  - iv. Grandfather's pet lizard