



REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

Question 1.

‘And did you cut down on the sweet things as I told you?’

- (a) What sweet things are being referred to in the extract?
- (b) Why does the speaker enquire if the sweet things have been cut down?
- (c) What is the meaning of the phrase ‘cut down’?
- (d) What is the opposite of ‘sweet’?

Answer:

- (a) The sweet things mentioned in the extract are cream cakes and chocolates.
- (b) The speaker enquires if the sweet things have been cut down because these were spoiling Tricky’s health and he needed to be put on a strict diet.
- (c) The phrase ‘cut down’ means ‘to reduce the quantity of something’.
- (d) ‘Sour’ is its opposite.

Question 2.

I tried to sound severe: “Now I really mean this. If you don’t cut his food right down and give him more exercise he is going to be really ill. You must harden your heart and keep him on a very strict diet”.

- (a) Why did the speaker try to sound severe?
- (b) For whom was the advice given and why?
- (c) Find the word in the extract which is a synonym of the word ‘serious’.
- (d) What is the antonym of ‘hardened’?

Answer:

- (a) The speaker tried to sound severe to make Mrs Pumphrey take his advice seriously and act on it.
- (b) The advice was given for Tricky because he had become obese and listless. He was unwell and the speaker wanted him to be on a strict diet.
- (c) The word is ‘severe’.
- (d) Its antonym is ‘softened’.

Question 3.

As I moved off, Mrs Pumphrey, with a despairing cry, threw an armful of the little coats through the window. I looked in the mirror before I turned the corner of the drive; everybody was in tears.

- (a) Where was the speaker going and with whom?
- (b) Why was everybody in tears? ‘
- (c) Find the word in the extract which is an antonym of the word ‘cheerful’.
- (d) What is the opposite of ‘before’?

Answer:

- (a) The speaker was going to the hospital with Tricki.
- (b) Everybody was in tears because Tricki was being hospitalized as he was ill. Everyone was worried about his health.
- (c) The word is 'despairing'.
- (d) 'After' is its opposite.

Question 4.

It was a temptation to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest, but I knew Mrs. Pumphrey was suffering and after a fortnight, felt compelled to phone and tell her that the little dog had recovered and was awaiting collection.

- (a) Why was it a temptation to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?
- (b) What was informed to Mrs. Pumphrey on phone?
- (c) Which word in the above extract means 'a period of fifteen days'?
- (d) Was Dr. Harriot a greedy Doctor?

Answer:

- (a) It was a temptation to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest in the hospital because Dr. Harriot and his partners didn't want to lose the treat, i.e., two dozen fresh eggs and bottles of wine sent by Mrs. Pumphrey.
- (b) Mrs. Pumphrey was informed that the doctor saved the life of her dog.
- (c) 'Fortnight'.
- (d) Yes, as he kept Tricki in temptation

SHORT AND LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. What was the problem with Tricki? How did Mr. Herriot cure it?

Mrs. Pumphrey had a small pet dog named Tricki. She pampered him by giving chocolates, cakes, juice, eggs, wine etc. She thought that he was suffering from mal-nutrition and needed more energy. But she didn't give him any exercise. So Tricki became extremely fat like a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner. He stopped eating. His eyes became red and rheumy. He was brought to the hospital for treatment. Everyone in the family was in tears. Mrs. Pumphrey started wailing. It was really a sad, pathetic and tearful party. Mr. Herriot gave no medicine. He simply cut his diet and gave more exercises. Within a fortnight Tricki became normal and healthy. He became a muscled, flexible and normal dog. It leapt in the lap of his mistress. Mr. Pumphrey was very happy to see him and thanked gratefully to Mr Herriot. She called it a 'Triumph of Surgery'.

2. Excess of everything is bad. Comment in the wake of Mrs Pumphrey's love for Tricki.

Mrs Pumphrey was a rich woman who loved her dog very much. She loved to live a comfortable and lavish life and wanted her dog to spend a similar one. She had maintained a wardrobe full of fancy fur coats, dresses, beds etc for Tricki. Apart from this, she used to overfeed Tricki out of her love and concern. She used to serve him cod-liver oil and malt between the main meals and Horlicks after dinner to give him strength. She never realised that Tricki was a greedy dog and this would spoil his health. She could not even refuse to answer Tricki drooling for cream cakes and chocolates. Her overfeeding worsened Tricki's condition. This made the dog lazy, inactive and obese. He used to lie on his rug and pant all day long. Mrs Pumphrey fed him excessively, spoiling

Tricki's health to such an extent that he had to be hospitalized. Even in the hospital she continued to convey Tricki her love through eggs, wine and brandy. Her fondness and care for Tricki proved that excess of everything made him fall sick.

3. Pen down incidences in support of values one should inculcate from Mr James Herriot.

Mr Herriot was a capable veterinary surgeon who treated Tricki. He was a very compassionate doctor, a wise and sympathetic human being. He showed his capabilities almost immediately when he advised Mrs Pumphrey to put Tricki on a strict diet after understanding his symptoms. He can also be said to be an understanding and tactful person as he knew exactly how to free Tricki from the spoiling love of Mrs Pumphrey for his betterment. He does not operate upon the poor dog unnecessarily and adopts a practical approach to treat him. Mr James was a caring and polite individual as he successfully allays Mrs Pumphrey's anxiety about Tricki's recovery patiently. He was in all a good human being and a successful professional.

4. Give a brief character sketch of Mrs Pumphrey. What values are reflected through her character?

Mrs Pumphrey was a rich lady with a lot of love for pet dog, Tricki. She loved to live comfortably in a luxurious way. She took an extra care of Tricki by overfeeding him. She was not very intelligent as she was not able to make out that the excess of weight and the fur coats do not allow the dog to move and play. She thought that her loving pet was serious. She was so fond of her dog that she had got a wardrobe separate for daytime and night-time beds, and a number of lovely fur coats. She pampered Tricki by giving him the food, that should not be given to a dog. She was really a loving lady as the news about the surgery of her pet dog shocked her and her eyes brimmed with tears. She could not refuse delicious and favourite food to Tricki which made him overweight and inactive. Even in the hospital, she sent him eggs and brandy. Her fondness for the dog and extra care showed that she had motherly attitude towards Tricki.

5. Write a brief character sketch of Mr Herriot, the veterinary surgeon. What value in his character impresses you the most? Do you think he is a good judge of human nature?

Mr Herriot was a genius veterinary surgeon and above that he was a good human being. Mr Herriot had a deep understanding of veterinary medical science and psychology. Mr Herriot was quick to analyse the factors responsible for lack of fitness and ill health of Pumphrey. Apart from being an expert veterinary surgeon, he also had a lighter side which is evident from what he did with the eggs and brandy sent for Tricky. Hence, we can say that Mr Herriot was a successful veterinary surgeon with a caring heart for animals as well as for human beings.

6. Animals also understand the language of love. They have loving attitude towards their masters. Elaborate with reference to the story 'A Triumph of Surgery'.

Tricki was a very lucky dog to be looked after by a very sensitive lady Mrs Pumphrey, who looked after him like a pampered child. Tricki was fed on such delicacies and delicious food as might be

a matter of jealousy for other dogs. Tricki also loved the heart that cared for him. After he had stayed with Mr Herriot for about a fortnight, he was eager to meet his mistress. The moment he saw her come to pick him up, he rushed to her with a tremendous leap. He expressed his love for her by licking her face and barking. He was excited when he met her after some time. He wanted to thank Mrs Pumphrey for giving him a lot of love. He was so loving and excited on meeting her that she could not hold back her tears. This behaviour of Tricki makes us realise that the animals are also grateful to their loving masters.

7. How was Tricki greeted at the surgery by other dogs in the beginning?

When the household dogs at the surgery came closer to Tricki and sniffed round him for a few seconds, they found him an uninteresting object. They got bored and left him alone thinking that he could not move. After a few days of strict diet, he recovered and enjoyed playing with them, being bowled over, tramped on and squashed every few minutes. Thus, he became an accepted member of the game.

8. Describe the ‘parting scene’ between Tricki and Mrs Pumphrey’s entire household staff.

Mrs Pumphrey treated Tricki like a young pampered child, naturally it was not easy for her to part with him. She made all the possible arrangements to see that Tricki had all the comforts in the hospital. All his belongings like day bed, night bed, favourite cushions, toys and rubber rings, breakfast bowl, lunch bowl, supper bowl were sent with him. She cried pitifully at his departure and threw an armful of the little coats through window. Everyone bade him a tearful farewell.

9. How do you know that Tricki had an affluent life?

Tricki was a pampered pet of an affluent mistress. He had a wardrobe of tweed coats with separate coats for the cold and rainy weather. He had separate beds for day and night with lovely cushions, toys, rubber rings, breakfast bowl, supper bowl and lunch bowl. All these luxury items show that he had an affluent living.

10. Why did Mrs Pumphrey make a frantic call to Mr Herriot? What immediate step did he take to save Tricki?

Mrs Pumphrey made a frantic call to Mr Herriot because her loving pet dog had stopped eating anything. He even refused to eat his favourite dishes and sweets. He became inactive and lay motionless all the time. He began panting and had bouts of vomiting. He took no interest in anything. Mr Herriot hospitalized Tricki for a fortnight and kept him on strict diet. By giving him a lot of water, he was able to make Tricki active and energetic once again. Thus, he was able to save him from any kind of surgery or medicinal treatment.

11. "I think I know a cure for you." What was the cure?

The overeating and lack of exercise had made Tricki a very fat dog. The only cure for Tricki was to keep him on a very strict diet, that could never be done by Mrs Pumphrey. Therefore, he was to be removed from Mrs Pumphrey's house.

12. Why did Mrs Pumphrey keep Tricki on that extra diet? Did it help him?

Mrs Pumphrey kept Tricki on extra diet because she felt he was suffering from malnutrition and needed malt, cod-liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks. No, it didn't help him. On the other hand, he had put on a lot of weight which made him lethargic.

13. Why was Mrs Pumphrey not able to control Tricki's diet?

She was not able to control his diet because according to her, he was very weak. Secondly, he loved ice cream and chocolate. Being a very loving mistress, she could not refuse him all this.

14. Why did Mr Herriot expect a call from Mrs Pumphrey?

On seeing the condition of Tricki, Mr Herriot was able to understand that he would be in trouble soon due to overeating and extra care in the form of his dresses and because he was not doing any exercise. From his experience he could guess that Tricki would fall ill and he would get a call from Mrs Pumphrey.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What was the name of Mrs Pumphrey's dog?

- (A) Ben (B) Tommy
(C) Tricki (D) Jonny

Ans. (C) Tricki

2. Who was Mrs Pumphrey worried about?

- (A) herself (B) her maid-servant
(C) her dog Tricki (D) her son

Ans. (C) her dog Tricki

3. Tricki falls ill because

- (A) he met an accident (B) of bad weather
(C) he did not get proper food to eat (D) his mistress overfed him

Ans. (D) his mistress overfed him

4. How did Tricki look?

- (A) very thin (B) like a bloated sausage
(C) very smart (D) always ready to run

Ans. (B) like a bloated sausage

5. Where did Mr Herriot take Tricki?

- (A) to his clinic (B) to Mrs Pumphrey's house
(C) to a public hospital for vets (D) nowhere

Ans. (A) to his clinic

6. When Mr Herriot took Tricki to his clinic, Mrs Pumphrey was :

- (A) happy (B) excited
(C) wailing (D) thanking the doctor

Ans. (C) wailing

7. What did the doctor give Tricki at his clinic?

- (A) many injections (B) medicines
(C) no food for two days (D) only milk and chocolate

Ans. (C) no food for two days

8. The dogs at the clinic took no interest in Tricki because he was :

- (A) dull and boring (B) not of their race
(C) of small size (D) more powerful than them

Ans. (A) dull and boring

9. "I think I know a cure for you." Who is 'I'?

- (A) Mrs Pumphrey (B) Mrs Pumphrey's husband
(C) Mr Herriot (D) Mrs Pumphrey's servant

Ans. (C) Mr Herriot

10. "I think I know a cure for you." What is the 'cure'?

- (A) controlling Tricki's diet (B) giving him a surgery
(C) giving injections (D) keeping under observation

Ans. (A) controlling Tricki's diet

11. What did Mrs Pumphrey think her dog is suffering from?

- (A) fever (B) malnutrition
(C) stomach pain (D) footsore

Ans. (B) malnutrition

12. What was Tricki's real disease?

- (A) stomach pain (B) vomiting due to over-feeding
(C) cholera (D) fever

Ans. (B) vomiting due to over-feeding

A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY SUMMARY

The story starts when Mrs. Pumphrey, a rich lady takes her dog out for a walk. A nearby veterinary doctor who knows the lady sees the dog and is shocked as he sees that the dog looks like a bloated sausage with a leg at each end. He advises her to stop giving him unhealthy things to eat but Mrs. Pumphrey is not able to refuse him. Soon he falls sick and the doctor is called. The narrator, Mr. Herriot then somehow takes Tricki, the dog to the hospital even though he knows that Mrs. Pumphrey is not ready to leave her dog and nearly fainted just by hearing these words. Then he takes the dog along and puts a bed for him in his surgery. The dog doesn't move much nor eats anything for the first two days. On the second day he looks around and whimpers a bit. He wanted to go out on the third day and started playing with the bigger dogs when he was taken out. He also licked the bowls of other dogs clean on the third day.

Then his condition started improving very fast. He started fighting for his meals with other dogs. Then when this news reached Mrs. Pumphrey, she started sending him eggs as she thought that Tricki was recovering from an illness and needed energy foods. Mr. Herriot and his partners started eating those eggs for morning breakfast. Then for improving Tricki's blood, Mrs. Pumphrey started sending in bottles of wine which was again consumed by Mr. Herriot. He used to take two glasses before lunch and some more glasses while having his lunch. Then when she started sending in bottles of brandy for Tricki that was the time when Mr. Herriot thought that he would really like to keep Tricki as a permanent guest in the surgery. Mr. Herriot used to be really happy someday by having two extra eggs every morning. Then having few glasses of wine in the afternoon and closing the day by having brandy at night. But then he took a wise decision and called up Mrs. Pumphrey as she was really worried and on this side Tricki was ready to be taken back home. Tricki was really happy to see his mistress and jumped into the car. Mrs. Pumphrey said that she won't be able to ever thank him for what he had done and also, that his surgery had been successful as Tricki was now cured.

EXTRA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS-

- 1. What kind of a person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as full of commonsense?**

Ans. The narrator, a veterinary doctor is a very compassionate and an honest man as he does not unnecessarily operate upon Tricki. He goes out of the way to guide Mrs. Pumphrey that she should start keeping a strict check on Tricki's diet and his exercise schedule. He is tactful because he knows how to get Tricki to the hospital and his common sense can be seen by the simple fact that he just changed the eating and exercise schedule of Tricki which helped him recover from his problems. He did not unnecessarily put him on medicines.

- 2. Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?**

Ans. Yes, Tricki was as happy to go home as much as he was staying in the surgery. He was happy staying in the surgery because he got many friends which he did not have at home and was happy to go back home because he did not have his lavish lifestyle at the surgery. His excitement to go back home can be seen from the fact that as soon as he saw his mistress, he jumped back into the car and started licking her face and roaming around in excitement. I think now he will be fine at home as well because earlier Mrs. Pumphrey did not take Mr. Herriot's advice seriously which led to Tricki's hospitalization.

- 3. Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's mistress?**

Ans. According to the story, the narrator is not as rich as Mrs. Pumphrey because Mr. Herriot is able to provide Tricki with a box bed whereas in Mrs. Pumphrey's house he has his own bed, different bowls to eat and servants at his disposal. Then Tricki's mistress used to send two dozen eggs, wine and brandy every day for Tricki's recovery. Towards the end of chapter, Tricki's mistress comes in 30 feet of gleaming black metal which is obviously a luxury car. So, it can be seen that Tricki's mistress used to live a very luxurious life in comparison to the narrator.

- 4. Do you think this is a real-life episode, or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?**

Ans. I feel that this story is a mixture of both because it is not a new thing that rich people overfeed their dog or maintain excessive wardrobes for their pets but for a doctor to go out of his way to help another person who doesn't want his advice is unusual. A doctor being so honest that he doesn't wrongly treat the dog and instead, just works on him by keeping him in his surgery and tracks his health by feeding him less and maintains a regular exercise schedule seems to be more of a fiction.

THEME OF THE STORY-

The story revolves around an ill dog named Tricky and his mistress, Mrs Pumphrey. The dog was hugely fat. His eyes were blood red and rheumy. Mrs Pumphrey gave her malt, cod liver oil and bowl of Horlicks. Still, Tricky had no energy. The doctor advised her to cut down on sweet things. Tricky left eating and kept vomiting. He was to be hospitalised. The doctor gave Tricky nothing to eat for the first two days except water. On the third day there were signs of improvement. He started taking food properly. The doctor didn't give him any medical treatment. Tricky used to run around and play with the other dogs cheerfully. Soon, he recovered completely. Mrs Pumphrey continued enquiring about Tricky on phone. When she came to collect the dog, tears were shining in her eyes. She called this magical recovery – “A Triumph of Surgery”.

CHARACTER SKETCH

Mrs Pumphrey- She is a fabulously rich and resourceful lady with large number of servants and maids. She is passionately attached to her little pet dog, Tricky. She is much worried about Tricky's miserable condition. Tricky had become hugely fat and listless. She thinks Tricky to be suffering from malnutrition. So, she starts giving Tricky malt, cod liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks every night. The doctor knew that Tricky's only fault was his greed for food. He advises Mrs Pumphrey to cut down food and sweets for Tricky. For Mrs Pumphrey, it was very difficult because she pampers Tricky like a spoiled child. She is impractical but very compassionate and caring. She and her staff arrange all comforts, beds, cushions and toys for Tricky. She constantly enquires about his health from Dr Herriot. She gratefully thanks Dr Herriot for saving Tricky's life and calls it “A Triumph of Surgery”.

Tricky- It is a small dog. The only fault of Tricky is his greed for food. Overfeeding of sweets, cakes and chocolates make Tricky hugely fat. He becomes rheumy and listless. His tongue lolls from his jaws. The doctor advises Mrs Pumphrey to keep Tricky on a very serious diet and give him plenty of exercises. Tricky becomes a victim of overindulgence and over feeding. Dr Herriot's instructions are ignored. Tricky loses appetite and starts vomiting. Dr Herriot suggests Mrs Pumphrey that Tricky be hospitalised under his observation for a fortnight. Tricky's recovery is amazingly rapid. He is not given food but plenty of water. After a few days, Tricky starts taking an interest in his surroundings. He is transformed into a flexible and hard muscled dog. Tricky shows his love for his mistress by jumping onto her lap when she comes to collect him.

Dr James Herriot- Dr Herriot, no doubt, is a competent veterinary surgeon. He is really worried about Tricky. He understands that the real fault of the dog is his greed for food. Dr Herriot instructs Mrs Pumphrey to keep Tricky on a very strict diet. He is practical and pragmatic. He doesn't give any medical treatment to the dog. He feeds the dog with only water. His method works. The grateful mistress thanks Dr Herriot. Dr Herriot is clever enough to enjoy the best of both the worlds. He is tempted to keep Tricky as a permanent guest. It was a happy period for Dr Herriot and his friends as they enjoyed eggs for breakfast and wine and brandy for lunch.