INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2025-26)
CLASS – X
QUESTION BANK- MRS. PACKLETIDE'S TIGER - Saki

Theme

Mrs. Packletide's Tiger written by HH Munro has various themes of pride, insecurity, jealousy, appearance, selfishness, control, and blackmail.
At the very beginning of the short story, we can see the theme of jealousy being discussed by portraying the character of Mrs. Packletide, who is extremely jealous of Loona Bimberton who has become very famous after she was conveyed in a plane by an Algerian pilot. She wants to prove herself better by shooting a tiger However, instead of hunting it herself, she arranges everything with the help of villagers and a paid shooter. This shows how people sometimes pretend and spend money just to get praise and attention. Overcome by jealousy she loses a huge amount of money when she is blackmailed by Miss Mebbin in the end.
The theme of Pride is also represented by Mrs. Packletide as her pride took a downfall when the news of Loona's adventures were talked about in the social circles. The story reveals that both Mrs. Packletide and Loona are insecure about themselves. Both women feel a general animosity toward each other. The end of the story represents irony as HH Munro might be suggesting that Mrs. Packletide and all the other villagers cannot kill a tiger as they are capable of only killing a goat.
The story also shows how human pride can lead to foolish actions. In a humorous way, the writer reminds us that true respect cannot be earned through lies or show-off.

Justification of the title

The title *Mrs. Packletide's Tiger* is significant because it places the central character at the heart of the story, much like the titles of Shakespearean plays. The entire narrative revolves around Mrs. Packletide—a wealthy woman in British colonial India—who is determined to hunt a tiger, not for the thrill of the chase, but simply to elevate her social status. To achieve this, she hires a skilled hunter and instructs him to arrange everything for her grand moment.
However, things do not go exactly as planned. The tiger, rather than being a mere trophy, becomes a powerful symbol of the dangers of envy and the steep cost of chasing social prestige. The title also hints at the story's satirical and ironic tone. Mrs. Packletide is so desperate to outshine her social rival, Loona Bimberton, that she completely misses the absurdity of her own actions.
Another reason the title is befitting is its focus on the word *tiger*. The animal is at the center of Mrs. Packletide's obsession, representing both her ambition and the futile nature of her pursuit. At the same time, the tiger takes on a deeper meaning, symbolizing the darker side of British colonialism in India—where native wildlife and people were often exploited for personal gain.
Therefore, the title perfectly captures the essence of the story: a biting critique of vanity, the perils of envy, and the ethical cost of seeking social status at any expense.

Author

The writer of "Mrs. Packletide's Tiger" is Hector Hugh Munro, who is popularly known by his pen name, Saki. He was actually a British writer known for his witty and satirical short stories, many of which were set in the Edwardian era of British society. He was born in Burma in 1870 and spent much of his childhood in England with his aunts, who were known for their abnormality.

Saki began his writing career as a journalist before writing short stories. His stories usually contained dark humor, irony, and satire. He was known for his sharp wit and wisdom.

He wrote several collections of short stories, including "Reginald" and "The Chronicles of Clovis," which are considered classics of British humour.

He had witnessed the strict social conventions and hypocrisy of British society. His stories often mocked and satirized the upper classes, their social customs, and their beliefs.

Unfortunately, his writing career was cut short when he was killed in action during World War I at the age of 45. Despite his short career, Saki remains an important figure in British literature and his stories continue to be enjoyed by readers today.

Character Sketch

Mrs. Packletide

Mrs. Packletide is a wealthy, vain, and self-centered woman obsessed with social status. Consumed by jealousy over Loona Bimberton's newfound fame, she resolves to outshine her by staging a tiger hunt—despite lacking any hunting skills. Her ambition blinds her to ethics, as she spares no expense in orchestrating the event, caring little for the tiger's fate or the means by which she gains recognition.

Her vanity is evident in her obsession with appearances, particularly in ensuring she looks her best when photographed with the tiger. She is frivolous and superficial, valuing prestige over genuine achievement. Through her character, Saki satirizes the British upper class, exposing their shallow pursuit of status and disregard for morality.

Loona Bimberton

Loona Bimberton is a confident and adventurous woman, admired for her daring exploits. She gains popularity after being flown by an Algerian aviator and is respected for procuring a tiger skin—a challenging feat at the time. Her high sense of self-respect is evident when she feels unsettled by Mrs. Packletide's invitation, recognizing it as a mere attempt to overshadow her.

Although admired for her charisma, Loona enjoys boasting about her accomplishments, making her a bit of a show-off. Her adventurous spirit reflects the fascination with exploration and thrill-seeking that was fashionable among the British upper-class during Saki's time.

Miss Mebbin

Miss Mebbin is a crafty, cunning, and highly opportunistic woman who knows how to manipulate situations for her own benefit. She presents herself as a harmless companion to Mrs. Packletide, adopting a sisterly attitude, but beneath this face, she is calculative and self-serving.

She quickly recognizes the flaws in Mrs. Packletide's tiger hunt and seizes the opportunity to exploit them. Clever and sharp-witted, she discreetly threatens to expose the truth about the tiger's death, ensuring she gains a financial advantage. Her opportunism reflects her ability to turn any situation to her benefit, even at the expense of others.

Additionally, Miss Mebbin enjoys gossip and has a keen awareness of people's weaknesses, using this knowledge to her advantage. Through her character, Saki highlights how even those from lower social classes can outsmart the wealthy, using wit and cunningness rather than status or wealth.

The Tiger

The tiger in *Mrs. Packletide's Tiger* is simply living its life in the jungle when it becomes an unfortunate victim of human greed and ambition. Though it appears threatening, the story reveals that it is old, weak, and no longer capable of hunting or defending itself. Far from being a fearsome predator, it is a vulnerable creature caught in the schemes of those seeking personal gain.

Mrs. Packletide's hunt is not about bravery or survival but about social status, making the tiger's death a tragic and senseless act of violence. Its fate underscores the reckless exploitation of animals for vanity and personal ambition. Through this, the story critiques the selfishness of human nature and the ethical cost of using living beings as mere symbols of prestige.

Villagers

They are money minded, shrewd however, loyal to Mrs. Packletide. They are helpful and organized the entire hunting expedition effectively.

They are eager to help Mrs. Packletide in her tiger hunt because of the financial reward she offers. They arrange for an old and feeble tiger to be available, ensuring an easy "hunt." Their willingness to manipulate the situation for money highlights human greed and opportunism.

SUMMARY

Mrs. Packletide, a wealthy and arrogant woman, is envious of her social rival, Loona Bimberton, who has recently gained public attention for hunting a tiger. Determined to outshine her, Mrs. Packletide devises a plan to stage her own tiger hunt, hoping to display the animal's skin in her home as a symbol of status and prestige.

Lacking any hunting skills herself, she hires a professional hunter and bribes the villagers to help orchestrate the event. However, despite her lack of expertise, she is fixated on surpassing even a seasoned hunter in glory. This ambition exposes the perils of envy and the relentless pursuit of social validation.

But prestige comes at a price. As events unfold, Mrs. Packletide realizes that the cost of her vanity far outweighs the fleeting thrill of public admiration. The story also casts a sharp light on British colonial attitudes, where both people and nature were often treated as mere tools for personal gain.

In the end, Mrs. Packletide's Tiger is more than just a humorous tale—it's a reminder of how envy can lead to foolishness, how the pursuit of status can strip away one's integrity, and how exploiting others, whether humans or animals, comes with consequences.

Ultimately, *Mrs. Packletide's Tiger* serves as a cautionary tale, warning against the dangers of envy and the blind pursuit of social recognition.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Q1. What is the central theme of "Mrs. Packletide's Tiger"?
a) The dangers of vanity and pride.
b) The conflict between British and Indian cultures.
c) The importance of conservation and preservation of endangered species.
d) The irony and absurdity of the human desire for status and recognition.
Answer: d) The irony and absurdity of the human desire for status and recognition.

Q2. Who is the main protagonist of the story?
a) Miss Mebbin
b) Mrs. Packletide
c) Loona Bimberton
d) The Maharajah
Answer: b) Mrs. Packletide

Q3. What is the relationship between Mrs. Packletide and Loona Bimberton?
a) They are close friends.
b) They are bitter rivals.
c) They are indifferent acquaintances.
d) They are relatives by marriage.
Answer: b) They are bitter rivals.

Q4. What is the significance of the tiger's death in the story?
a) It symbolizes the triumph of British colonialism over Indian culture.
b) It represents the destructive impact of human greed and arrogance.
c) It demonstrates the power of British military tactics over wild animals.
d) It is a minor event with no significant meaning.
Answer- b) It represents the destructive impact of human greed and arrogance.

Q5. Why does Mrs. Packletide want to shoot a tiger?
a. To protect the villagers
b. To prove her hunting skills
c. To outshine Loona Bimberton
d. To study its behaviour
Answer: c. To outshine Loona Bimberton

Q6. How does Mrs Packletide feel about the villagers who helped her shoot the tiger?
a. Grateful and appreciative
b. Indifferent and dismissive
c. Envious and jealous
d. Suspicious and distrustful
Answer: b. Indifferent and dismissive

Q7. What is the significance of the title "Mrs Packletide's Tiger"?
a. It refers to a specific tiger that Mrs. Packletide shot.
b. It symbolizes Mrs. Packletide's desire for power and control.
c. It represents the rivalry between Mrs. Packletide and Loona Bimberton.
d. It suggests that the tiger is more important to Mrs. Packletide than it actually is.
Answer: d. It suggests that the tiger is more important to Mrs. Packletide than it actually is.

Q8. How does the author use humour in the story?
a. By making fun of the villagers' superstitions
b. By exaggerating Mrs. Packletide's vanity and arrogance
c. By describing the tiger as a comical and harmless creature
d. By mocking the British upper class's social rituals and traditions
Answer: b. By exaggerating Mrs. Packletide's vanity and arrogance

Q9. Which of the following best describes Mrs Packletide?
A. Introvert
B. Generous
C. Proud
D. Shy
Ans-C. Proud

Q10. Nimrod was a _____
A. Biblical character
B. Mighty hunter
C. Both A and B
D. None of these
ANS C. Both A and B

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following Extracts and answer the given questions.

1. 'The prospect of earning thousand rupees had stimulated the sporting and commercial instinct of the villagers.'
(a) What had stimulated the sporting and commercial instincts of the villagers?
Ans.– The thought of getting thousand rupees if they helped Mrs. Packletide in hunting a tiger, had stimulated the sporting and commercial instinct of the villagers.
(b) What were the two fears that the villagers had regarding the hunt?
Ans.– Firstly, the villagers were afraid that the tiger may wander off to another village and secondly, that he may die before the hunt.
(c) Why did Mrs. Packletide want to hunt a tiger?
Ans.– Mrs. Packletide wanted to outshine the achievements of her rival, Loona Bimberton.

2. 'As for Loona Bimberton she refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks.'
(a) Why did Loona refuse to look at a paper?

Ans. – Loona refused to do so because it carried the news of Mrs. Packletide's tiger hunt.
(b) How did the news in the paper affect her?
Ans. – Loona Bimberton was consumed with jealousy and did not attend the luncheon party thrown by Mrs. Packletide.
(c) Why did it affect her in this way?
Ans. – It affected Loona Bimberton badly because Mrs. Packletide had managed to outshine her achievement.

3. "It was Mrs. Packletide's pleasure and intention that she should shoot a tiger. Not that the lust to kill had suddenly descended on her, or that she felt that she would leave India safer and more than she had found it."
(a) What was the real intention of Mrs. Packletide when she expressed her desire to shoot a tiger?
Ans. The real intention of Mrs. Packletide behind shooting the tiger was to outshine Loona Bimberton.
(b) How does she want to leave India?
Ans. She wants to leave India with a fame.
(c) What do you mean by the phrase 'descended on'?
Ans. It means to make a sudden visit. Here it refers to the idea of hunting a tiger.

4. "Mothers carrying their babies through the jungle after the day's work in the fields hushed their singing lest they might curtail the restful sleep of the venerable herd-robber."
(a) Why did the mother hush singing to their babies?
Ans. Mothers hushed singing to their babies so that the tiger does not wake up from its sleep.
(b) What does the expression 'venerable herd-robber' mean and for whom is this expression used?
Ans. The expression is used for the tiger. The animal is respectable and is to be dreaded because it kills herd of animals.
(c) Which figure of speech is used in this expression?
Ans. The figure of speech used here is oxymoron.

5. "Circumstances proved propitious"
(a) What circumstances is referred to here?
Ans. The circumstance is Mrs. Packletide finding an opportunity to shoot a tiger.
(b) How did the circumstances prove propitious?
Ans. Circumstances proved propitious as Mrs. Packletide got in touch with the natives of a village who assured her that they would find her a tiger that could be shot at without much risk or exertion.
(c) What does the word 'propitious' mean?
Ans. It means favourable.

6. "In a moment a crowd of excited natives had swarmed on the scene, and their shouting speedily carried the glad news to the village… ."
(a) What scene is referred to here?
Ans. The venue which was decided for the shoot was where a platform had been erected for the

ladies to shoot at and a goat tethered at a considerable distance.

(b) What is the glad news?

Ans. The glad news is that Mrs. Packletide has shot the tiger to death.

(c) What do you mean by the phrase 'swarm on' here?

Ans. It means crowded or infested.

7. "The incidental expenses are heavy."

(a) Who is the speaker and who is he/she speaking to?

Ans. Mrs. Packletide is the speaker and she is talking to some inquiring friends.

(b) What makes the speaker give this remark?

Ans. The speaker has been blackmailed by her 'paid companion'. The expenses incurred on achieving fame did not appear to have made any difference to Mrs Packletide. But the secondary expenses which she had to pay to maintain her fame intact have compelled her to give this remark.

(c) What do you mean by 'incidental expenses'?

Ans. It means 'the secondary uninvited expenditures.'

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. What did Mrs. Packletide intend to give Loona on her birthday? Why?

Mrs. Packletide planned to give her a brooch made out of the tiger claw. She wanted to make her feel small and rub in the fact that she had outdone her by killing the tiger.

Q2. What kind of tiger was chosen for the hunt? Why?

An old and harmless tiger on the verge of death was chosen because it presented very little risk to Mrs. Packletide while hunting. The motive of Mrs. Packletide was not to face the actual danger of hunting. But it was outshining Loona Bimberton

Q3. How did the villagers help Mrs. Packletide with the hunt?

The villagers helped in the following 3 ways-

1. First of all, the villagers left their pet animals around so that the tiger did not stray from the village in search of food.
2. Secondly, they took care not to disturb the tiger when It was resting. Thirdly, they helped set up a hunting platform for Mrs. Packletide.
3. Finally, they tied up a goat with a loud bleat to attract the tiger.

Q4. Who was Miss Mebbin? Do you think she was devoted to Mrs. Packletide? Give reasons for your answer.

Miss Mebbin was Mrs. Packletide's paid companion. No, she was not sincere towards Mrs. Packletide because she threatened to disclose the true facts of the hunt if she were not paid the money that would enable her to buy a cottage for herself.

Q5. How did Mrs. Packletide react to Miss Mebbin's comment just after the shoot?

Mrs. Packletide got annoyed at Miss Mebbin's comment for pointing out the true happening, but

she was not too concerned because she never imagined that she would use this piece of information against her.

Q6. How did Miss Mebbin manage to get her cottage?
Miss Mebbin threatened to reveal the facts about the hunt to Loona Bimberton unless Mrs. Packletide paid her the required amount to buy herself a cottage. Mrs. Packletide had no choice but to give in to her threat. Therefore, she was able to buy her weekend cottage.

Q7. What put Mrs. Packletide off from going on further hunts?
Mrs. Packletide was shocked at how she was threatened by Miss Mebbin into paying her a large sum of money. She finally decided that such adventures wet too expensive to indulge in.

Q8. "It was Mrs. Packletide's pleasure and intention that she should shoot a tiger." What was Mrs. Packletide's intent on shooting a tiger?
Mrs. Packletide did not have any desire or craze for shooting a tiger. She only wanted to outshine Loona Bimberton. She disliked Loona Bimberton who had captured the limelight by flying eleven miles in an aeroplane by an Algerian elevator. Her motive was to somehow shift the limelight from Loona to herself.

Q9. Who was Loona Bimberton? what daring feat had she achieved that led to Mrs. Packletide disliking her?
Loona Bimberton was Mrs. Packletide's rival. She had performed a daring feat by flying eleven miles in an aeroplane by an Algerian elevator. Mrs. Packletide became so jealous of her since then that she started planning to outdo her in one or the other way.

Q10. What plans does Mrs. Packletide make before shooting the tiger?
Mrs. Packletide had planned that she would arrange a party in honour of Loona Bimberton at her house in Curzon Street after shooting the tiger. She had also planned to send a tiger-claw brooch as a gift to her on her next birthday.

Q11. Why did the mothers hush the singing of their little babies?
The mothers hushed the singing of their little babies thinking that the tiger might not be disturbed in his sleep, while they were passing through the jungles to their homes in the evening.

Q12. Who accompanied Mrs. Packletide for the shooting? Was she helpful?
Louisa Mebbin, a 'paid companion' accompanied her. She was of no use to Mrs. Packletide. She distracted her mistress with her weird and manipulative remarks. She was a miser kind of a woman. Firstly, she talked about money being wasted on shooting an old tiger and then about her protective elder sister's attitude toward money.

Q13. What happened after Mrs. Packletide had fired the shot?
As soon as Mrs. Packletide shot, the rifle banged with a loud noise. The tiger that had been approaching towards the goat could be springing to one side, and then rolling over to death. In no time the excited natives of the village crowded around the scene and a few gladly ran through the village to spread the news that Memsahib had killed the tiger.

Q14. Though Mrs. Packletide knew that she did not shoot the tiger, she was still sure that no one would reveal the secret. Why?
Mrs. Packletide was Sure of the fact that no one would reveal the secret of the shooting of the tiger because the villagers would keep their mouths shut for thousand rupees and that Miss. Mebbin was also paid in advance.

Q15. What was Loona Bimberton's reaction to Mrs. Packletide's instant fame?
Loona Bimberton instantly became so spiteful that she refused to see any illustrated paper for many weeks as she did not want to read anything about Mrs. Packletide. Repressing her emotions to some extent she sends a letter of thanks to Mrs. Packletide for sending her a tiger-claw brooch on her birthday. She declined to attend the party hosted in her favour.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. ***'In a world that is supposed to be chiefly swayed by hunger and by love Mrs. Packletide was an exception; her movements and motives were largely governed by dislike of Loona Bimberton.'*** **On the basis of the above extract describe the kind of relationship that Mrs. Packletide shares with Mrs. Loona Bimberton. What values govern it? How do these values harm both the ladies? What values do you think would have saved both of them from such an ugly situation?**

Mrs. Packletide and Loona Bimberton hated each other. They were in competition with each other. The prime aim of Mrs. Packletide's life was to outshine Loona and show her down. She was willing to go to any extent and spent as much money in order to humiliate Loona. Mrs. Packletide is jealous of Loona's achievement and in order to be more successful than her, she makes a wasteful expenditure of money. Loona is also jealous when she comes to know that Mrs. Packletide has achieved more than her. She refuses the invitation to the luncheon – party hosted in her honour.

I think, if they would have been introspective and realized the outcome of their acts, they could have prevented fooling themselves in future. They were being fleeced by others just to guard their secrets which would help them outshine each other.

Q2. Who gains the most out of the vanity match between the two rival ladies in "Mrs. Packletide's Tiger" and how?

In the story "Mrs. Packletide's Tiger" it is Louisa Mebbin who gains the most. Firstly, as she is a paid companion of Mrs. Packletide, she earns by accompanying her on her trips. Secondly, as she knows Mrs. Packletide's secret of the tiger's death, she extorts money for guarding it. This shows that Louisa is not driven by jealousy and rivalry. As she has no weakness and secrets, she is able to blackmail and extort money from Mrs. Packletide. In this way, Louisa Mebbin makes the most of the rivalry between the two women.

Q3. What important message is given out by the author in the story?

The author talks about the negative aspects of human behaviour like greed and jealousy. The people are driven by jealousy, rivalry, greed and fear and waste time and money in meaning less

pursuits. He displays human greed and lust for money through the character of Louisa Mebbin. He highlights the fact of human exploitation of beasts. People like Mrs. Packletide and Loona Bimberton indulge in trophy hunting. They do not realize the harshness of their acts which they merely commit in order to outshine each other.

The story conveys the message that we should not involve ourselves in jealousy or hatred. We must resist greed and money should be spent wisely.

VALUE BASED QUESTIONS

Q1. What does the story suggest about the consequences of vanity?

The story shows how vanity can lead people to act foolishly and wastefully. Mrs. Packletide's desire to outshine her rival leads to unnecessary expense and eventual embarrassment.

Q2. How is the value of honesty undermined in the story?

Honesty is undermined as every character is deceitful. Mrs. Packletide lies about her hunting success, and Miss Mebbin pretends to be concerned for money, only to blackmail her.

Q3. What does Miss Mebbin's behavior say about her character?

Miss Mebbin is clever, opportunistic, and manipulative. She pretends to care about morality but uses the situation for personal gain by blackmailing Mrs. Packletide.

Q4. What does the story teach us about manipulation and moral integrity?

Manipulation plays a central role in the story, especially through the character of Miss Mebbin. Initially portrayed as frugal and fussy, she ultimately emerges as the most cunning character. She uses her knowledge of the tiger's death to blackmail Mrs. Packletide into buying her a cottage. Though she pretends to be concerned about the tiger and money spent on goat bait, her real aim is personal gain. Meanwhile, Mrs. Packletide's manipulation lies in staging a fake hunting victory for fame. The story cleverly exposes how people compromise moral values for selfish desires. Integrity is lacking in all characters, making the tale a sharp commentary on the superficiality and opportunism of high society.

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