



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: August 2026
WORKSHEET NO: 14	Topic: THE TUNNEL	ANSWER KEY



The Tunnel

By Ruskin Bond

A. ABOUT THE AUTHOR: RUSKIN BOND



Ruskin Bond is one of India's most beloved writers, known for his simple, warm, and engaging stories about people, nature, and everyday life. He was born on **19 May 1934** in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. His writing often reflects his deep love for the hills, forests, and wildlife of India. Ruskin Bond has written numerous novels, short stories, essays, and children's books. His famous works include *The Room on the Roof*, *The Blue Umbrella*, and collections of short stories about life in the mountains. His stories are admired for their simplicity, vivid descriptions, and memorable characters. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award and the Padma Bhushan for his contribution to

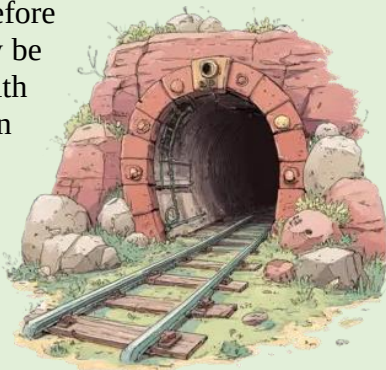
Indian literature. Through his writing, Ruskin Bond continues to inspire readers with messages of kindness, friendship, courage, and harmony with nature.

B. SUMMARY:

The Tunnel is a story about a young boy named **Suraj** who is fascinated by trains and the mystery of a railway tunnel in the jungle. One day, he visits the tunnel to watch a steam engine pass through it and later walks through the dark tunnel out of curiosity. On the other side, he meets **Sunder Singh**, the railway watchman, who shares his life in the jungle and tells him about a leopard that visits the area.

Suraj returns the next evening to watch the night train with Sunder Singh. Before the train arrives, they discover that the leopard is inside the tunnel and may be in danger. Showing courage and kindness, Sunder Singh enters the tunnel with Suraj to guide the leopard away from the tracks. They succeed, and the train passes safely.

The story ends with Suraj travelling on the same train a week later and seeing Sunder Singh's lamp glowing in the darkness. The lamp becomes a symbol of the watchman's quiet dedication, friendship, and connection with the jungle. The story highlights **curiosity, courage, compassion, and harmony between humans and nature**.





TO BE WRITTEN IN THE NOTEBOOK:

C. WORD BANK:



Shimmered	shone with a light that appears to move
Railway embankment	a stone wall made to carry the railway over low ground
cutting	a narrow valley cut through a hill to make space for a railway line
scrub-covered	covered with short trees and bushes
instinctively	without thought or plan
flinch	make a quick movement
plume of smoke	long, thin cloud of smoke
shisham	a tree found in northern parts of India
contemplation	deep thought
reassure	comfort, calm
scuttled	ran hurriedly
dazzled	blinded by bright light
swishing	moving with a brushing sound
obstacles	things that block the way
range	area
night mail	a train that runs at night
swooped	moved quickly through the air downwards
quaint	unusual
nightjar	a nocturnal bird with a short bill
flexing	bending
trimming:	(here) adjusting the wick of the lamp
lithe	thin, graceful
sinewy	lean and muscular
snarling	growling
twitching	a short, sudden movement
defying	opposing
flickering	burning unsteadily
fringe	edge
shrill	sharp sound



D. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN BRIEF:

Q1. What made the leopard disappear into the darkness?

Answer: The leopard ran into the darkness because Suraj and Sunder Singh's loud shouts echoed through the tunnel. The echoes frightened the animal, making it think that many people were chasing it.

Q2. How did Suraj know Sunder Singh was at the tunnel?

Answer: Suraj realised that Sunder Singh was at the tunnel because he saw a lamp shining inside it while travelling with his father to Delhi. Although he couldn't see Sunder Singh's face, he was certain it was his friend.

Q3. Why did Suraj's father take him along to Delhi?

Answer: Suraj's father took him to Delhi because he believed it was time for Suraj to understand the work he was involved in.

Q4. Suraj was curious and adventurous. How can curiosity help us learn, and when can it become risky?

Answer: Curiosity encourages exploration and learning, but it should be balanced with caution and awareness of danger.

Q5. Complete the analogy:

Suraj : Curiosity :: Sunder Singh : _____

- a) Anger
- b) Responsibility
- c) Carelessness
- d) Fear

Answer: Responsibility

E. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION IN DETAIL:

Q1. Sunder Singh and Suraj form an unlikely friendship. What draws them together?

Answer: Suraj and Sunder Singh develop an unexpected friendship, united by their shared love for nature. Suraj, who is curious and adventurous, arrives from the city to visit the tunnel and explore the jungle. Sunder Singh, however, values the peace and simplicity of the forest more than the noise and busyness of the town. Their mutual respect for the jungle and its animals brings them closer, despite their very different backgrounds.

F. READ THE FOLLOWING LINES AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS GIVEN BELOW.

Q1. Suraj had to turn and look back at the opening to reassure himself that there was still daylight outside. Ahead of him, the tunnel's other opening was just a small round circle of light. The tunnel was still full of smoke from the train, but it would be several hours before another train came through. Till then, the cutting belonged to the jungle again. Suraj didn't stop, because there was nothing to do in the tunnel and nothing to see. He had simply wanted to walk through, so that he would know what the inside of a tunnel was really like.

(i) Write whether the following statement is true or false.

Suraj looked back at the opening of the tunnel to check if the train was coming.

Answer: False

(ii) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence given below.

Suraj did not stop anywhere in the tunnel because -----.

- a) there was nothing to see in the tunnel
- b) the tunnel was damp and sticky
- c) he was in a hurry to get out of the tunnel
- d) It was time for another train to come

Answer: A. there was nothing to see in the tunnel

(iii) What does the sentence 'Till then, the cutting belonged to the jungle again' mean?

Answer: It means that once the train passed, the cleared track would go back to its natural state, blending into the jungle again.

(iv) Suraj wanted to know the inside of the tunnel. What character trait of Suraj is highlighted here?

Answer: This highlights Suraj's boldness and curiosity.

G. ASSERTION-REASONING QUESTION

Assertion (A): Sunder Singh considered the tunnel his own.

Reason (R): He had built the tunnel himself.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

Answer: C



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR REFERENCE: (Not to be written in the notebook)

A. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

Q1. Sunder Singh risked his safety to save the leopard. What values does this action show?

Answer: It shows compassion, responsibility, courage, and respect for wildlife. He understood that every living creature has value and deserved protection.

Q2. What can we learn from Sunder Singh's relationship with the leopard?

Answer: We learn that humans and animals can coexist peacefully when we respect nature and understand animal behaviour.

Q3. What does Sunder Singh convey by saying that he has lent his tunnel to the Government?

Answer: What he wants to express is that since the tunnel lies in the middle of the forest and no one bothers to visit or inspect it, he is the only person who looks after it. He feels it is his in a personal sense, though he understands it is government property.

Q4. According to Sunder Singh, “It is safer in the forest than in the town”. What example does Sunder Singh give to support his opinion? What does this tell us about him?

Answer: Sunder Singh backed his statement, “It is safer in the forest than in the town,” by explaining that he was nearly hit by a bus during a visit to the town last month. This reveals that he is satisfied with his simple life in the forest and values its peace, far from the noise and rush of the city.

B. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

Q1. Do you think Suraj is an adventure-loving boy? Give reasons.

Answer: Yes, Suraj clearly loves adventure. He cycled from the city to a village, left his bicycle behind, and then walked through the jungle to explore the tunnel. He witnessed the train rushing past, leaving behind smoke and flying cinders, heard the rustling of leaves, saw bats fluttering, and noticed a lizard crawling between the tracks. He observed the tunnel’s dark, damp walls, came across a leopard in the forest, drank tea with the watchman, and even helped drive the leopard out of the tunnel to save it from the approaching train. All these experiences show just how adventurous he is.

Q2. Sunder Singh has become part of the jungle life. Support the view with a suitable reason.

Answer: Sunder Singh has become closely connected to the jungle, shown by his deep knowledge of its creatures. He knows how each animal behaves; for example, he understands that the leopard rarely harms humans and hunts goats and stray dogs instead. He went into the tunnel to chase the leopard away and took an axe only after Suraj suggested it might hurt them.

Q3. Why is Sunder Singh referred to as a ‘firefly’?

Answer: He is called a firefly because, like a firefly that glows in the dark, Sunder Singh serves as a beacon for the train driver in the lonely jungle. With his lamp, he stands as a dependable watchman, giving travellers a sense of reassurance as they journey through the night. His presence brings light, safety, and familiarity to the otherwise dark and unknown surroundings.

C. READ THE FOLLOWING LINES FROM THE POEM AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS GIVEN BELOW.

Q1. “The train will soon be here,” said Suraj.

“Yes, my friend. And if we don’t drive the leopard out of the tunnel it will be run over and killed. I can’t let that happen.” “But won’t it attack us if we try to drive it out?” asked Suraj, beginning to share the watchman’s concern.

“Not this leopard. It knows me well. We have seen each other many times. It has a weakness for goats and stray dogs, but it will not harm us. Even so, I’ll take my axe with me. You stay here; Suraj.”

i. What was the watchman’s concern?

Answer: The watchman heard the leopard making noise inside the tunnel. He was worried that if he didn’t chase it out, the train might run over it.

ii. Complete the sentence with a suitable reason.

Sunder Singh was sure that the leopard in the tunnel would not attack him and Suraj because _____.

Answer: Sunder Singh knew that the leopard had a liking for goats and stray dogs.

iii. Select the sentences that are true from those given below.

- a) Suraj wants to see leopards in the jungle.
- b) Suraj is concerned about Sunder Singh's safety.
- c) The leopard in the tunnel attacks goats and stray dogs.
- d) Sunder Singh wants to protect Suraj.
- e) Sunder Singh knows all about the animals in the jungle.

Answer: Sentences B, C, D and E are true.

iv. Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

Sunder Singh decides to take his axe with him. This tells us that he was _____.

- a) Violent
- b) Cautious
- c) Bold
- d) afraid

Answer: B. cautious
