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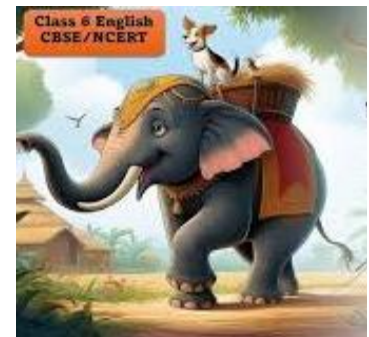
Class: VI	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: April 2026
WORKSHEET NO: 2	Topic: THE UNLIKELY BEST FRIENDS ANSWER KEY	ANSWER KEY



Friendship is one of the most profound bonds in life, often arising in the most unexpected places and between the most unlikely companions. The story of Gajaraj, the royal elephant, and Buntree, a stray dog, beautifully illustrates how genuine affection transcends differences of size, status, and circumstance.

Gajaraj, a cherished elephant in the royal stables, enjoyed every comfort under the king's care and the devotion of his mahout. Yet, despite the luxuries, he longed for companionship. One evening, a weary stray dog wandered into the stable, and Gajaraj gently offered him food and comfort. The dog, later identified as Buntree, quickly became the elephant's inseparable friend. They spent their days together—sharing meals, baths, and even playful rides.

Their bond was tested when Buntree's original owner reclaimed him, unaware of the deep friendship between the two animals. Separated, both Gajaraj and Buntree fell into sorrow, refusing food. Realizing the strength of their connection, the farmer returned Buntree to the stable. The joyful reunion touched everyone, and even the mahout discovered a new friendship with the farmer, showing how bonds of affection can unite both animals and people.



To be written in the Notebook:

WORD BANK:

1. booth: rectangular space
2. stables: living spaces for animals
3. interacted with: communicated with
4. strayed: came by mistake
5. munching: chewing
6. wagged: moved from side to side
7. convey: communicate
8. crumbs: small pieces of food
9. accompanied: went with someone
10. plunging: jumping in
11. trunk: long nose
12. splashed: threw
13. yelped: cried
14. delighted: happy
15. hugged: held closely
16. disappeared: was not seen

I Answer the following questions in brief:

1. Why did the farmer hug Buntree?

The farmer hugged Buntree as he was glad to see Buntree. The farmer has been looking for Buntree since he disappeared from his house.

2. Do you think Buntree will leave Gajaraj and go home with the farmer?

No, Buntree is unlikely to leave Gajaraj and go home with the farmer voluntarily. The story shows that Buntree and Gajaraj share a deep bond and have become inseparable friends.

3. Why did Gajaraj not eat his food?

Gajaraj did not eat his food because he was feeling sad and lonely after Buntree, the dog, was taken away from him. He missed his friend deeply, and this emotional distress affected his appetite.



II Answer the following question in detail:

1. What was ‘unlikely’ about the friendship of Gajaraj and Buntree?

The friendship between Gajaraj and Buntree was unlikely because they were different species – an elephant and a dog. Normally, elephants and dogs do not interact closely in natural settings. However, their friendship blossomed due to their shared circumstances and the emotional bond they developed through their interactions and mutual care.

2. **Discuss the importance of companionship as shown in the story "The Unlikely Best Friends."** Companionship is the central theme of *The Unlikely Best Friends*. Though Gajaraj lived in royal comfort, he felt lonely until he met Buntree, a stray dog. Their bond quickly grew, bringing joy and emotional support to both. When separated, each refused food, showing the depth of their attachment. Their reunion revealed that companionship is not just about being together but about mutual care and emotional connection. The farmer's decision to return Buntree highlights that friendship is essential for happiness—whether in humans or animals.

III. Assertion–Reasoning question

Assertion (A): The mahout was indifferent to Gajaraj's sorrow when Buntree was taken away.

Reason (R): The mahout himself discovered a new friendship with the farmer after Buntree's return.

- 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.

b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

III REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

"Are you missing your friend?" asked the farmer remembering the happy look on Buntree's face while sitting on the elephant's back. "I cannot see you go hungry," said the farmer, "If you miss your friend so much, go to him." The farmer removed the rope with which he had tied the dog.

(i) The farmer uses the word **friend** to refer to the elephant.

(ii) How did the farmer know that Buntree was hungry?

The farmer noticed that Buntree had not touched his food since coming home with him. Hence, he could see that Buntree was hungry.

(iii) Why did the farmer remove the rope with which he had tied Buntree?

The farmer removed the rope because he empathized with Buntree's longing for his friend, Gajaraj. Seeing Buntree unhappy and not eating, the farmer realized that Buntree's happiness lay with Gajaraj. Therefore, he allowed Buntree to go back to his friend by removing the rope.

(iv) Complete with one word:

Gajaraj: Buntree: **Mahout**: farmer

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR REFERENCE:

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. How did the mahout come to know that Gajaraj was sad?

The mahout noticed that Gajaraj was not eating his food, which was unusual behavior for the elephant. Despite checking Gajaraj's physical condition and finding nothing wrong, the mahout suspected that Gajaraj might be feeling sad due to the absence of Buntree, his only friend.

2. Why do you think Buntree licked the farmer's hand?

Buntree licked the farmer's hand as a gesture of gratitude and affection. The farmer had shown kindness and understanding by allowing Buntree to return to Gajaraj, which made Buntree happy. Licking the farmer's hand was Buntree's way of expressing thanks and acknowledging the farmer's compassion.

LONG ANSWER QUESTION:

1. What made Gajaraj feel sad despite having royal comforts?

Gajaraj, the elephant, lived in the best booth of the royal stables, but despite the royal comforts, he was sad because he had no friends. The mahout, who took care of him, was kind but not a friend. Gajaraj wished for a friend to play with, and his loneliness made him long for companionship. He realized that, despite his comfortable life, having a friend was more important for his happiness.

2. How did the mahout care for Gajaraj, and why was he not considered a friend?

The mahout took care of Gajaraj by serving him food and giving him daily baths in the elephant pond. He was a kind caretaker but not considered a friend because their relationship did not involve companionship beyond basic care. Gajaraj desired emotional connection and companionship that the mahout, despite his kindness, could not provide.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT:

Despite royal comforts, Gajaraj was sad because he had no friends. The mahout, or elephant trainer, was the only one he ever interacted with. The mahout was a kind man who served Gajaraj food and gave him a bath in the elephant pond daily. He was a good caretaker, but not a friend.

(i) Complete with one word:

mahout: kind: Gajaraj: sad

(ii) The mahout was a good caretaker because he gave food to Gajaraj and a bath in the pond.

(iii) What do you think is the difference between a friend and a caretaker?

While both friends and caretakers play important roles in the lives of others, the difference lies in their relationship, the roles they fulfill, and the emotional connection they share. Friends provide companionship, emotional support, and mutual understanding, whereas caretakers focus on meeting practical needs and ensuring the physical well-being of those under their care.

Theme and Message

Themes Friendship: The central theme is the importance of friendship. Even an animal like Gajaraj, who has every comfort, feels incomplete without a companion.

Unexpected bonds: Friendships can form between very different beings and in unexpected ways; a stray dog and a royal elephant become best friends.

Kindness: Simple acts of kindness-sharing food, showing care-can create strong, lasting bonds.

Empathy and care: The responses of the mahout and the farmer show that humans can understand and act on the emotional needs of animals.

Puzzle (Answer)

Ans: Across:

3. kind
7. laughed
8. asleep
9. worried
10. found

Down:

1. finished
2. disappeared
4. delighted
5. touched
6. love

