

The Adventures of Toto

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Chapter Overview

"The Adventures of Toto" is an interesting story of a mischievous baby monkey named Toto. The narrator's grandfather bought Toto from a Tonga driver for ₹ 5. He decided to add him to his private zoo. Grandfather tried to tame Toto but could not do so as he was a naughty monkey. He made many mischiefs and frequently got into trouble with his adventures. Finally, grandfather realised that he could not keep Toto at home any longer. So, Toto was sold to the same Tonga driver for ₹ 3.

Summary

Grandfather Bought a Monkey

The narrator's grandfather was very fond of animals. Once he bought a little red baby monkey from a tonga driver for ₹ 5. Grandfather named him Toto. He decided to add Toto in his private zoo.

The unique feature of Toto was his tail which served as his third hand. Toto used his tail to hang from branches and to pick up any dish that he was unable to reach by his hands.

Toto's First Mischief

The narrator's grandmother did not like animals. So, the narrator and his grandfather decided that the Toto's presence should be kept as secret. They put Toto in a little closet opening in the narrator's bedroom.

When they returned, they saw that Toto had removed the decorative paper from the walls. He had also pulled out the peg attached to the wall through which he was tied. He had also torn the narrator's school blazer into shreds (pieces). Toto's mischief delighted the grandfather. He found Toto to be a clever monkey.

Toto Transferred in Servant's Quarters

Toto was transferred into a big cage after this incident. The cage was kept in the servant quarters where all other animals lived together.

The animals included a tortoise, a pair of rabbits, a domesticated squirrel and a pet goat. Even here, Toto proved to be a naughty monkey. He would not let any other animal sleep at night.

So, the grandfather, who had to go to Saharanpur to get his pension next morning decided to take Toto along with him.

Toto's Journey to Saharanpur

A black canvas kit bag was arranged for Toto. He was put in this bag. As the bag was closed, Toto could neither escape nor cause any mischief.

Toto was in the bag throughout his journey, but when grandfather was showing his ticket to the ticket collector, Toto bought his head out of the bag. This sudden appearance of an animal scared the ticket collector. He cleverly classified Toto to be a dog and charged ₹ 3 for carrying Toto with him.

Toto's Accepted by Grandmother

Toto was accepted by the narrator's grandmother and was transferred into the stable with Nana, the family's female donkey. From his first night, Toto started teasing Nana. When grandfather came to see if Toto was comfortable, he found that Toto had bitten Nana's long ears. As a result, Toto and Nana could never become friends.

Toto's Bathing Routine

On winter evenings, grandmother gave Toto a large bowl of warm water for his bath. First, Toto would check the temperature of the water. Then he would enter the bath until the water reached his neck. After this, he would take the soap and rub it all over his body.

When Toto would come out of his bath he would run to the Kitchen fire to dry himself.

Accident while Bathing

One day Toto almost boiled himself alive while bathing. When he saw a large kitchen kettle with warm water, he got into the kettle. He started jumping up and down when the water came to boil. It was grandmother who found him and took him out of the kettle.

Toto's Mischief Continues

Toto's mischief still continued. He was always damaging things. One day, as the narrator's family entered the dining room, they saw Toto eating the pullao made for lunch.

When his grandmother screamed at Toto, he threw a plate at her. Further, when one of the narrator's aunts came forward, Toto threw water on her face.

Later, when the narrator's grandfather came, Toto took the dish, ran outside and sat on the branches of the jack fruit tree. He sat there for the whole day.

As soon as the pullao was finished, Toto threw the dish down and broke it into pieces.

Toto is Sold

Toto's mischief caused much loss to the family. The narrator's family could not afford the loss of dishes, clothes, curtains and wallpapers. So, grandfather sold Toto to the same Tonga driver for ₹ 3.

WORD MEANINGS

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
feeding-trough	a container containing food for the animal
pickled	dried
wicked	could create mischief
scooping	picking
fussed	feeling concern or annoyance.
fastened	close or fix/hold in place.
wrenched	pull out with force
shreds	pieces torn apart

Word	Meaning
servants' quarters	living place given to servants
very sociably	in a friendly manner
tame	not dangerous
abode	a house or home
turnstile	exit gate
poked	stand out and be visible
taken aback	shocked
in vain	without success
quadruped	any four footed animal
prodded	push with a finger

Word	Meaning
triumphant	victorious/successful
halter	rope/strap placed around her head for tying the animal
haunches	one of the back legs of a four legged animal
fastened on to	bit into
cunningly test	cleverly feel
hauled	pull out with effort or force.
spite grandmother	make grandmother miserable

NCERT FOLDER

Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Think About It (Page 11)

1 How does Toto come to grandfather's private zoo?

Or Why did the narrator's grandfather decide to buy Toto?

Or Why did grandfather decide to add Toto to his private zoo?

Ans. Grandfather was fond of animals. He had seen a little red monkey tied to a feeding trough with a tonga driver. He felt that the monkey looked out of place there. So, he decided to buy him to add him to his private zoo.

2 "Toto was a pretty monkey." In what sense is Toto pretty?

Or Why does the narrator call Toto 'a pretty monkey'?

Ans. According to the narrator, Toto was a pretty monkey. He had bright eyes that sparkled with mischief. He had white pearly teeth which could scare elderly Anglo-Indian ladies. His hands were dried up but his fingers were quick.

The unique feature possessed by Toto was his tail that served as his third hand. He would use it to hang from branches and to pick up any dish that he was unable to reach by his hands.

3 Why does grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how? Why does the ticket collector insist on calling Toto a dog?

Ans. After Toto was shifted to the servant quarters with all other pets, he proved to be a problem for all. He would not let any animal sleep at night. So, when grandfather was going to Saharanpur to get his pension, he decided to take Toto along with him. He thought that Toto's absence would provide some relief to all other animals.

To take Toto along with him, a black canvas kit bag was filled with straw. Toto was put in it and the bag was closed so that Toto could neither escape nor cause any mischief.

When the Ticket collector saw Toto, he was shocked and unable to find any rule that fixed a monkey's fare. So, the ticket collector cleverly equated Toto with a dog and charged ₹ 3 as his fare.

4 How does Toto take a bath? Where has he learnt to do this? How does Toto almost boil himself alive?

Or How did Toto take a bath during winter evenings?

Ans. On the winter evenings, Toto would take a bath in a bowl of warm water given to him by narrator's grandmother. First, he would check the temperature and then he would put his feet one by one in the water. When the water reached his neck, he would take the soap and rub it all over his body. As soon as the water became cold, Toto would run to the kitchen fire to dry himself.

Toto had learnt bathing in this way by watching the narrator do the same.

Toto was fond of bathing in warm water due to which he once almost boiled himself. One day, the water was boiling in the kettle for tea. Finding the water warm enough, he got into the kettle. When the water came to boil, Toto would lift himself from the heat but would sit down again since it was cold outside. He continued jumping up and down till grandmother found him and took him out of the kettle.

5 Why does the author say, "Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long"?

Ans. Toto was not the sort of pet anyone could keep for long because Toto was a very naughty animal. He damaged a lot of things in the house. He tore wallpapers, curtains and dresses. He broke utensils and also scared the guests. He also did not get along with other animals in the house.

Therefore, grandfather decided to sell Toto back to the tonga driver.