

Mijbil the Otter

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. Mijbil, as I called the otter, was, in fact, of a race previously unknown to science, and was at length christened by zoologists *Lutrogale Perspicillata Maxwelli*, or Maxwell's otter. For the first twenty-four hours Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly; he was simply aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep on the floor as far from my bed as possible.

- (A) Who was Mijbil?
- (B) How did the otter behave for the first twenty-four hours?
- (C) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'having no particular interest'.
- (D) Why is the otter called 'Maxwell's otter'?

Ans. (A) Mijbil was the name of the otter brought by the narrator.

- (B) The otter was indifferent and stayed as far as possible from the narrator for the first 24 hours.
- (C) 'Indifferent' from the extract means 'having no particular interest'.
- (D) The otter was christened by zoologist Maxwell. So, in his honour, it was called Maxwell's otter.

2. Mij and I remained in London for nearly a month. He would play for hours with a selection of toys, ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit, and a terrapin shell that I had brought back from his native marshes. With the ping-pong ball he invented a game of his own which could keep him engrossed for up to half an hour at a time. A suitcase that I had taken to Iraq had become damaged on the journey home, so that the lid, when closed, remained at a slope from one end to the other.

- (A) How did Mij spend his time in London?
- (B) What game was invented by Mij?
- (C) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'absorb all the attention'.
- (D) What sort of a creature was Mij?

Ans. (A) Mij spent his time by playing with his own selection of toys— ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit and a terrapin shell.

- (B) Mij put the ball on one end of the suitcase and ran to catch it when it slid to the other end. This game was invented by him.
- (C) 'Engrossed' from the extract means 'absorb all the attention'.
- (D) Mij was a playful sort of creature who loved sport.

3. Why did Maxwell get his mail after five days and what did he do to get it?

Ans. Maxwell got his mail after 5 days due to some delay. He cabled and tried to telephone in order to get his mail.

4. What, according to the writer, is the 'real play' of the otter?

Ans. The real play of an otter is lying on his back and juggling with small objects between his paws. Mijbil would roll two or more marbles up and down on his wide, fat belly. He never dropped one to the floor.

5. What was the first characteristic of the otter discovered by the narrator?

Ans. The first thing that the narrator observed about the otter was that he liked to play with water. When he was taken to the bathroom, for half an hour he went wild in the water with joy. He was plunging, jumping and rolling in the water.

6. Why do you think the otter was not friendly at first with the narrator? Can you relate this to human nature as well?

Ans. At first, the otter was not very friendly with the narrator as he had seen him for the first time. He was brought to a new place and new surroundings. He neither knew the narrator nor the place which made him stay away from the narrator. But, as soon as he started becoming comfortable with the surroundings, he became friendly and came close to the narrator.

This is very similar to human nature. Even, the human beings first take time to understand others and then only become friendly with them. Unless they are comfortable being with somebody, they try to stay away from that person.