
DAYAWATI MODI ACADEMY

MODIPURAM MEERUT

Class X

ASSIGNMENT AND NOTES - ENGLISH

TEACHER NAME – MS. MEENAKSHI

NOTES

(Footprints without Feet)

Chapter 1 – A Triumph of Surgery

By- James Herriot

Introduction to the lesson

Tricki, a small dog, is pampered and overfed by his rich mistress. He falls seriously ill and his mistress consults a veterinary surgeon. Does he perform an operation? Does the dog recover?

This story is about Tricki, a dog who is the pet of a rich lady named Mrs. Pumphrey. She loves her dog very much and is unable to refuse him anything he wants. Tricki, is fond of eating cream cakes and chocolates. So one day when Mrs. Pumphrey is out with Tricki for a walk the narrator sees them and stops to talk. While talking to Mrs. Pumphrey he realises that she has been overfeeding Tricki and also had been giving him things that he shouldn't eat due to which Tricki had started looking like a bloated sausage. Soon Tricki got unwell and Mrs. Pumphrey has to call Mr. Herriot (narrator) for help. She does not want to send him away but the only way suggested by Mr. Herriot is to get him hospitalised for 15 days. Then the story unfolds into how he gets well. Read the description to know more.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Mistress | • a woman in a position of authority or control. |
| 2. Bloated | • excessive in size or amount. |
| 3. Sausage | • an item of food in the form of a cylindrical length of minced pork or other meat encased in a skin, typically sold raw to be grilled or fried before eating. |
| 4. Bloodshot | • (of the eyes) inflamed or tinged with blood, typically as a result of tiredness. |
| 5. Rheumy | • watery. |
| 6. Lollid | • sit, lie, or stand in a lazy, relaxed way. |
| 7. Hastened | • be quick to do something. |
| 8. Listless | • lacking energy or enthusiasm. |
| 9. Malnutrition | • lack of proper nutrition |
| 10. Cod liver oil | • oil pressed from the liver of cod |
| 11. Relent | • become less severe or intense. |
| 12. Lumbago | • pain in the muscles and joints of the lower back. |
| 13. Regime | • a system or ordered way of doing things. |
| 14. Tottering | • move in a feeble or unsteady way. |
| 15. Tweed | • a rough surfaced woollen cloth |
| 16. Wardrobe | • a large, tall cupboard or recess in which clothes may be hung or stored. |

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 17. Harness | • a set of straps and fittings |
| 18. Distraught | • very worried and upset. |
| 19. Bouts | • a short period of intense activity of a specified kind. |
| 20. Panting | • breathing with short, quick breaths; out of breath. |
| 21. Fortnight | • a period of two weeks. |
| 22. Swooned | • a partial or total loss of consciousness |
| 23. Wailings | • crying with pain, grief, or anger. |
| 24. Roused | • cause to stop sleeping. |
| 25. Rushed | • done or completed too hurriedly; hasty. |
| 26. Supper | • an evening meal, typically a light or informal one. |
| 27. Despairing | • showing loss of all hope. |
| 28. Glanced | • take a brief or hurried look. |
| 29. Patted | • touch quickly and gently with the flat of the hand. |
| 30. Wag | • (especially with reference to an animal's tail) move or cause to move rapidly to and fro. |
| 31. Surged | • move suddenly and powerfully forward or upward. |
| 32. Motionless | • not moving; stationary. |
| 33. Sniffing | • the action of drawing in air audibly through the nose. |
| 34. Whimper | • make a series of low, feeble sounds expressive of fear, pain, or unhappiness. |
| 35. Trotted | • run at a moderate pace with short steps. |
| 36. Engulfed | • sweep over (something) so as to surround or cover it completely. |
| 37. Slopped | • spill or flow over the edge of a container, typically as a result of careless handling. |
| 38. Liable | • likely to do or to be something. |

KEY POINTS

- Tricky was a small dog and was excessively loved by his mistress, Mrs. Pumphery.
- He was greedy & loved food, but no exercise.
- As a result he became fat & Mrs. Pumphery believed that he became lazy because he suffered from malnutrition.
- Mrs Pumphery was a wealthy woman. She loved her dog too much.
- She gave him some little extras between meals to build him up, malt, cod-liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks at night.
- She gave him lot to eat but no exercise.
- Once he became ill & she was worried & made a frantic call to Harriot who was a vet.
- James already had given suggestions regarding Tricky's balanced diet. But she never followed it.
- He was a vet. He was shocked to see Tricky hugely fat, like a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner.
- He advised her to cut down on the sweet things.
- He expected call came within a few days & it happened. He was called by Mrs. Pumphery as Tricky refused to eat.
- He told her that Tricky needed immediate hospitalization for keeping under observation at his surgery for a fortnight.
- There he gave him no food no medicine but plenty of water.
- Gradually he mixed with other dogs & started playing with them.
- He had a lot of exercises & fun at the surgery.
- He was completely recovered & transformed into a hard muscled dog.
- James Harriot treated the dog without medicine or surgery.
- She was happy & filled with gratitude.
- She thanked Harriot & said it was a triumph of surgery.

Assignment – A Triumph of Surgery

Q1 Read the extract and answer the following questions:

- A. And did you cut down on the sweet things as I told you?
- What sweet things are being referred to in the extract?
 - Why does the speaker enquire if the sweet things have been cut down?
 - What is the meaning of the phrase 'cut down'?
 - What is the opposite of 'sweet'?

Answer:

- The sweet things mentioned in the extract are cream cakes and chocolates.
- The speaker enquires if the sweet things have been cut down because these were spoiling Tricki's health and he needed to be put on a strict diet.
- The phrase 'cut down' means 'to reduce the quantity of something'.
- 'Sour' is its opposite.

- B. I tried to sound severe: "Now! Really mean this. If you don't cut his food right down and give him more exercise he is going to be really ill. You must harden your heart and keep him on a very strict diet".
- Why did the speaker try to sound severe?
 - For whom was the advice given and why?
 - Find the word in the extract which is a synonym of the word 'serious'.
 - What is the antonym of 'hardened'?

Answer:

- The speaker tried to sound severe to make Mrs Pumphrey take his advice seriously and act on it.
- The advice was given for Tricki because he had become obese and listless. He was unwell and the speaker wanted him to be on a strict diet.
- The word is 'severe'.
- Its antonym is 'softened'.

Q2 Answer the following in 30-40 words:

- a) What made James Herriot expect a call from Mrs Pumphrey?

Answer:

James Herriot's encounter with Mrs Pumphrey and Tricki made him expect a call for help. He was sure that the extra diet and no physical activity would soon put Tricki's health in danger. And just as anticipated, Mrs Pumphrey called the vet a few days afterwards.

- b) What 'extra' did Mrs Pumphrey start to give Tricki and why?

Answer:

Mrs Pumphrey thought that Tricki was suffering from malnutrition, as he was weak and listless. So, she started to give him extra snacks like cod-liver oil and malt between the main meals and Horlicks after dinner to make him stronger. She also continued his cream cakes and chocolates.

- c) What made Mrs Pumphrey call the vet?

Answer:

Tricki's condition made Mrs Pumphrey call the vet for help. Tricki had become fat and lazy. He just used to lie on his rug and pant. He also refused to eat food, even his favourite dishes. His bouts of vomiting added to Mrs Pumphrey's worry. That is why, she called James Herriot.

d) How can you say that it was hard for Mrs Pumphrey to part with her doting pet?

Answer:

Mrs Pumphrey treated Tricki as her own child. She loved him very much. It was very difficult for her to see Tricki in such a situation. She was distraught when she had to make the decision to hospitalise Tricki, for her love for him knew no bounds. It was a terrible and tearful moment for her but she agreed to Herriot's suggestion for the betterment of her pet.

e) What kind of treatment was given to Tricki? Did it help in his recovery?

Answer:

Tricki was given a non-medicinal treatment. His diet regimen was altered depending upon his body's response to it. He was kept on liquid diet for the first two days and then his diet was gradually increased. Yes, this treatment did help Tricki as it built up energy in him. He had transformed to an energetic, hard-muscled dog in just a fortnight.

f) Was Tricki suffering from any ailment in reality? If not, then what made him inactive and lethargic?

Answer:

No, Tricki was not suffering from any ailment. It was his greed for food and the love of his mistress that spoilt his health to such an extent. He was being overfed everyday and that made him obese and lethargic. That is why his health showed rapid improvement when his diet was controlled.

g) Briefly describe Herriot's days of content.

Answer:

The time of Tricki's stay at the hospital was a period of content for Herriot. He used to enjoy the treat that arrived in the name of Tricki, as he could not afford all this for himself. Herriot used to relish the fresh eggs in breakfast, wine before and during lunch and brandy in the night.

h) Do you think Tricki was enjoying his stay at the hospital?

Answer:

Yes, Tricki was definitely enjoying his stay at the hospital. He had befriended the gang of shabby household dogs. He had found a new joy in being bowled over, trampled on and squashed. He had also become very energetic. He used to play and run all day long with the dogs. He was having a great time.

Q3 Answer the following in 80 – 100 words:

a) Excess of everything is bad. Comment in the wake of Mrs Pumphrey's love for Tricki.

Answer:

Mrs Pumphrey was a rich woman who loved her dog very much. She loved to live a comfortable and lavish life and also wanted her dog to spend a similar one. She had maintained a wardrobe full of fancy fur coats, dresses, beds etc for Tricki. Apart from this, she used to overfeed Tricki out of her love and concern. She used to serve him cod-liver oil and malt between the main meals and Horlicks after dinner to give him strength. She never realised that Tricki was a greedy dog and this would spoil his health. She could not even refuse to answer Tricki drooling for cream cakes and chocolates. Her overfeeding worsened Tricki's condition. This made the dog lazy, inactive and obese. He used to lie on his rug and pant all day long. Mrs Pumphrey fed him excessively, spoiling Tricki's health to such an extent that he had to be hospitalised. Even in the hospital she continued to convey Tricki her

love through eggs, wine and brandy. Her fondness and care for Tricki proved that excess of everything made him fall sick.

- b) Pen down incidences in support of values one should inculcate from Mr James Herriot.

Answer:

Mr Herriot was a capable veterinary surgeon who treated Tricki. He was a very compassionate doctor and a wise and sympathetic human being. He showed his capabilities almost immediately when he advised Mrs Pumphrey to put Tricki on a strict diet after understanding his symptoms. He can also be said to be an understanding and tactful person as he knew exactly how to free Tricki from the spoiling love of Mrs Pumphrey for his betterment. He does not operate upon the poor dog unnecessarily and adopts a practical approach to treat him. Mr James was a caring and polite individual as he successfully allays Mrs Pumphrey's anxiety about Tricki's recovery patiently. He was in all a good human being and a successful professional.

- c) Do you think parents like Mrs Pumphrey exist? If yes, is it a good thing to pamper children? Why or why not?

Answer:

Yes, parents like Mrs Pumphrey definitely exist. These people spoil their children by taking sure all their demands are met. They spoil their children in the name of love and care. They not only feed them junk but also spoil their social habits. This kind of a behaviour is very harmful for children. Such overprotective parental behaviour hinders their growth as adults. In fact it sows the seeds of greed and dependency in them. They become stubborn and do not learn to value anything. For them, hard work is a myth as they get everything easily. Over pampered children often fail to face the hardships of life later, as for them life has been a cakewalk. Pampering children in moderation is healthy, but excess of it is harmful. It is not just bad for humans but also for animals, as we see in the story 'A triumph of Surgery'.

DAYAWATI M