

2. A Tiger in the House

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Mrs Packletide was a middle-aged woman who lived with her maid, Miss Mebbin, in Curzon Street, London. She was rich and she travelled a lot. She enjoyed visiting new places and meeting different people. She liked excitement and adventure. Most importantly, she liked to tell her friends in London about her experiences in other countries. Once, Mrs Packletide decided to go to India for a tiger hunt. She wanted to do this because her friend, Loona Bimberton, had a tiger skin and showed it off to all her friends. So Mrs Packletide made up her mind to go to India, shoot a tiger and bring back the skin to England.

Mrs Packletide made arrangements for the travel and the tiger hunt very carefully. The hunt was going to cost her a thousand rupees. This was a lot of money in those days. She had to pay this amount because the villagers had to find a tiger in the forest first and then drive it into the open by scaring it with fire. This would help Mrs Packletide sitting up in a tree to take aim from a vantage point. All the arrangements had been made before Mrs Packletide came to India. A platform had been built in the tree so that Mrs Packletide and her maid could sit comfortably while waiting for the tiger.

A goat had been tied to a small tree in the middle of the field for the tiger. The villagers told Mrs Packletide that she could shoot the tiger when it was devouring the goat. They assured her that it would be quite safe. The tiger they had chosen was a very old one. The momentous night arrived. Mrs Packletide and Miss Mebbin were up in the tree on the platform. Mrs Packletide armed herself and Miss Mebbin sat beside her nervously.

They waited for a long time. When it was nearly midnight, they could hear shouts and see fire in the distance. The shouts grew louder but stopped abruptly. A few minutes later, a large tiger walked slowly out of the forest. It spotted the goat in the middle of the field and moved towards it. Sensing its impending doom, the goat began to bleat. When the tiger was very close to it, Mrs Packletide fired a shot. The crack of the gun reverberated across the field. The next minute, the tiger jumped into the air and fell to the ground, dead. Both creatures lay motionless.

To be sure, they waited in the tree in the darkness until the next morning. When they got down and went near the tiger, Miss Mebbin pointed out that the goat had been shot and not the tiger. In all probability, the tiger had died of fright! Mrs Packletide returned to England with the tiger skin. She had to buy a small house for Miss Mebbin to keep her quiet about the tiger hunt. This cost more money than

what the tiger hunt did. Mrs Packletide gave a big party to her friends to show off her tiger skin. When she was asked if she was going for another hunt, she said, "No, darling, it's too expensive."

A. Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the passage to complete the following sentences.

1. Mrs Packletide used to _____ a lot. She liked _____ and _____.
2. The _____ was going to cost her _____.
3. Sitting up in a tree helped Mrs Packletide to take aim from a _____.
4. A _____ had been tied to a small _____ for the tiger.
5. In all probability, the tiger had died of _____.

B. Answer the following questions.

1. What was the main reason why Mrs Packletide liked to travel?
2. Why did Mrs Packletide want to go on a tiger hunt after visiting her friend, Loona Bimberton?
3. How did the villagers intend to get the tiger to go to the field?
4. Explain why a goat was tied to the tree in the middle of the field.
5. What did Mrs Packletide and Miss Mebbin find out when they came down the tree?

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Write the following highlighted expressions using possessives, where necessary.

1. **The uniform of our school** is blue and white.

2. **The property of our ancestors** was donated to a famous charitable trust working in the field of education.

3. **The private secretary to my father** is from Goa.

4. **The children of my uncle** are highly religious and conservative.

5. **The brother-in-law of our new school Principal** is the president of our apartments.

6. **The home of my uncle** is located near a forest.

7. **The car of the policeman** skidded off the road.

B. Form nouns from the following adjectives and verbs by using appropriate suffixes.

absent; present; advise; long; sad; adult; refresh; entertain; lunatic; primary

C. Identify the nouns in the following sentences and write them in the space provided. Also, write what function they perform in the sentence.

1. Oxygen is essential for life.

2. Greater Noida has been beautifully developed.

3. My mother writes children's books.

4. The teacher gave us a test in spoken English.

5. The sports teacher congratulated us on winning the cricket match.

6. Her popularity depends on her good PR.

7. Good children always meditate for a while before they sleep.

8. The price of gold in India depends on its import policy.

9. Small children love to listen to stories before going to bed.

10. Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all others.

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING SKILLS

A. Distinguish between the following pairs of words by using them in sentences of your own.

1. among

between

2. altogether

all together

3. alternate

alternative

4. business(n)

business (in an exclamatory sentence)

5. for

since

B. Distinguish between the following pairs of words by using them in sentences of your own.

1. for

because

2. ability

capacity

3. above

over

4. below

beneath

5. atheist

agnostic

6. horror

terror

7. summon

sermon

C. Write a speech in about 150 words about what you would like to do for your school if you become the Head Girl/Head Boy.
