

4. On Cats and Dogs

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

I have often been charged with not being fond of dogs; a charge which does not at first appear to be very serious, but which I nevertheless desire to clear myself of, for it implies a certain amount of dislike. People who prefer cats are thought by many to be cruel, sensuous and treacherous, while dog-lovers are credited with being frank, loyal and open-hearted, in a word, possessed of all the qualities of the canine race... I have been the owner of several and still own some... But my affection for dogs has an understratum of fear. These excellent creatures, so good, so faithful, so devoted, so loving, may go mad at any moment, and then they become more dangerous than a lance-head snake, an asp, a rattlesnake... This reacts on my love for dogs. Then, dogs strike me as bit uncanny. They have such a searching, intense glance; they sit down in front of you with so questioning a look that it is fairly embarrassing...

...Luther was a big while spaniel, with liver spots, and handsome brown ears. He had lost his owner, and after looking for him for a long time in vain, had taken to living in my father's house at Passy. Not having partridges to go after, he had taken to rat-hunting, and was as clever at it as a Scotch terrier. At that time, I was living at that blind alley of the Doyenne, now destroyed... Luther, with whom I was on a most friendly footing, seeing that I had finally abandoned the paternal nest, made point of coming to see me every morning. He started from Passy, no matter what the weather was, and reached my place at about eight o'clock, just as I was waking. He used to scratch at the door, which was opened for him, and he dashed joyously at me with yelps of joy, put his paws on my knees, received with a modest and unassuming air the caresses his noble conduct merited, took a look round the room, and started back to Passy. On arriving there, he went to my mother, wagged his tail, barked a little, and said as plainly as if he had spoken, "I have seen young master, don't worry, he is all right (alright)." Having thus reported to the proper person, the result of his self-imposed mission, he would drink up half a bowlful of water; eat his food, lie down on the carpet by my mother's chain, for he entertained peculiar affection for her and sleep for an hour or two after his long run. Now, how do people who maintain that animals do not think and are incapable of putting two and two together explain this morning visit, which kept up family relations and brought to the home-nest news of the fledgeling that has so recently left it?

[From: My Private Menagerie-by Theophile Gautier]

A. Read the given passage and answer the following questions.

1. According to the author, what do people think about cats?
2. The author uses seven adjectives to describe dogs. What are they?
3. Describe Luther's appearance.
4. What did Luther do when he came to meet the author?

5. What did Luther do when he went back to Passy?
6. Do you believe on the basis of this story that animals can think? Why?

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the passage.

1. These _____ creatures may go mad at any moment, and then they become more dangerous than a _____, an _____.
2. They have such a _____, intense _____.
3. Not having _____ to go after, he had taken to _____.
4. He started from Passy, no _____ what the _____ was.
5. He _____ to the proper person the _____ of his _____ mission.
6. He _____ peculiar _____ for my mother.

C. Write the meanings of the following words.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1. treacherous | _____ | 2. canine | _____ |
| 3. understratum | _____ | 4. uncanny | _____ |
| 5. unassuming | _____ | 6. fledgeling | _____ |

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Fill in the blanks with appropriate pronouns given in the box.

mine who which yourself everybody myself

1. _____ is your favourite cricketer?
2. This book is _____.
3. Introduce _____.
4. The food _____ you like most is curry.
5. I _____ take care of him.
6. _____ should love his/her country.

B. Identify the antecedents of the pronouns used in the following sentences.

1. Sardar Bhagat Singh sacrificed his life for our country.
2. The person who treats patients well is called a doctor.
3. The thing which I got there is valuable.
4. The object through which we are unable to see is called an opaque object.

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A. There are idiomatic phrases in the following sentences that have been underlined. Explain what they mean.

1. He is ready to dispose of his car for ₹ 1 lakh.
2. I have hit upon a good plan for our trip.
3. That matter has been cleared up.
4. The Aam Aadmi Party cried out against corruption.
5. Can you make out the meaning of this poem?

B. The following groups of words are in the context of a field given in the Help Box. State their context.

democracy school movies sports aircraft medicine

1. Actor : theatre :: director : _____
2. Elections : vote :: party symbols : _____
3. Tracks : field :: practice : _____
4. Blackboard : assembly :: notebook : _____
5. Stethoscope : prescription :: surgeon : _____
6. Jet engine : hangar :: pilot : _____

C. Describe your parents briefly, their appearance, interests and what they do, in not more than six sentences.
