

6. On Cats and Dogs

WORKSHEET

1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions below:

I have often been charged with not being fond of dogs; a charge which does not appear at first 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 under-stratum 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-headed snake, an asp, a rattlesnake....This reacts on my love for dogs. Then dogs strike me as a bit uncanny. They have such a searching, intense glance; they sit in front of you with so questioning a look that it is fairly embarrassing...

Luther was a big white 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 a point of coming to see me every morning. He started from Passy, no matter what the weather was, and reached my place about eight o'clock, just as I was waking. He used to scratch at the door, which was opened to 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 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 chair, for he entertained a 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 fledgling that that has so recently left it?

From: My Private Menagerie - by Theophile Gautier

A 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 _____, a _____.
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 _____.
6. He _____ a peculiar _____ for my mother.

C Write the meanings of the following words.

1. treacherous: _____
2. canine: _____
3. under-stratum: _____
4. uncanny: _____
5. unassuming: _____
6. fledgling: _____

GRAMMAR

A Select the correct words showing future action from the box to complete the sentences below:

about to play are going to hear will
will have moved stops shall tell is going to be

1. He _____ join the army after college.
2. The Principal _____ us if there _____ a visit by the Chief Minister tomorrow.
3. This evening we _____ a talk about comets.
4. Our neighbour _____ into his new house by the time we return.
5. The train _____ at Gwalior at 10 pm tonight.
6. Are they _____ the National Anthem now?

B Tick the correct tense from the brackets to complete the sentences:

1. The boys are playing cricket. [Present Perfect/Present Progressive or Continuous]
2. Prakash wrote a letter. [Past Perfect/Simple Past]
3. Rachna has been working since 2 am. [Present Perfect Continuous/Past Perfect Continuous]

C Change the underlined verbs in present tense into the past tense as directed:

1. He reads a book. [Past Progressive]
2. He has completed his work quickly. [Past Perfect]
3. He is writing a letter. [Simple Past]
4. He is a good boy. [Simple Past - negative]
5. Arvind has been working in that company since 2002. [Past Perfect Continuous]

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A Explain the stanza of poetry given below:

Gather ye rose-buds while ye may;
Old Time is still a-flying:
And this same flower that smiles today,
Tomorrow will be dying.

B Underline the odd sentences in the following passage.

It is the craze for speed that is responsible for many motor accidents. Last year I witnessed what could be a fatal accident on the Grand Trunk Road. I was driving down from Shimla. As I neared Chandigarh, I came upon the wreckage of a car on the road. Some people enjoy singing. I was told a truck had hit into the car. Fortunately, no one was killed. It is dangerous to drive so recklessly and so fast.

C The underlined words are used differently from their usual meanings in the following sentences. What do they mean here?

1. We must not harbour self-pity.
2. Some people keep feeling sorry for themselves.
3. Train the mind to be impartial.
4. Being sad and moody is a weak link in us,
5. You may be confronted with a difficult situation.