

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 2: THE ADVENTURES OF TOTO



THE ADVENTURES OF TOTO

~Summary~

-by Ruskin Bond

Toto is Bought by the Narrator's Grandfather

The narrator's grandfather was very fond of animals. He bought a monkey from a Tonga-driver for 5 and named it Toto. First, when the grandfather saw Toto tied up to a feeding-trough, he looked very ill and ugly. As the grandfather had his own private zoo with many other animals, he kept the little monkey in it. Toto used his tail as a third hand. He used it to hang from a branch and for scooping up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands. Toto's presence was kept a secret from grandmother as she didn't like animals. It was kept secretly in a little closet.

Toto Travels Secretly with Grandfather

One day, when grandfather was going to Saharanpur to collect his pension, he decided to take Toto along with him as he did not want to leave him at home. A big black canvas kit bag was provided for Toto so that he could not escape. However, he was caught at Saharanpur station by the ticket collector and classified as a dog, so that grandfather had to also pay his fare.

Toto is Finally Accepted in the Family

Gradually grandmother accepted Toto in the house and he was put in the stable with Nana, the donkey. But, Toto teased Nana (donkey) so much that Nana never became friends with Toto.

Toto Nearly Half Boiled Himself Alive

In winters, Toto had an elaborate bathing ritual and enjoyed bathing with warm water. Due to this, once Toto almost boiled himself alive. A kettle had been put on the stove for making tea for the family. When nobody was there, he felt the water warm enough for a bath, so he climbed in. As the water kept heating up, he kept hopping in it until grandmother took him out, barely alive. Toto continued his antics by tearing clothes to shreds, breaking plates and other utensils etc.

Toto is Sold Back to Tonga Driver

Toto caused too much loss in the family. Finally grandfather realised that Toto was not the type of pet to be kept in the house. They could not tolerate him any more. At last, grandfather found the Tonga-driver and sold Toto back to him for Rs. 3 and heaved a sigh of relief.

Conclusion of The Adventures of Toto

The chapter – The Adventures of Toto illustrates the lesson to students that one must behave responsibly in a congenial environment and should not create nuisance and become intolerable to others.

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NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 11)

(Think about it)

Question 1. How does Toto come to grandfather's private zoo?

Answer: Toto was owned by a tonga-driver who used to keep him tied to a feeding-trough. Grandfather felt that the monkey was out of place there. So, he decided to add the little monkey to his private zoo. He bought Toto from the tonga-driver for five rupees.

Question 2. "Toto was a pretty monkey." In what sense is Toto pretty?

Answer: Toto had bright eyes with mischief beneath deep-set eyebrows. His pearly white teeth were very often displayed in a smile that frightened the life out of elderly Anglo-Indian ladies. His hands looked dried-up. His fingers were quick and wicked. His tail added to his good looks and also served as a third hand. He could use his tail to hang from a branch and to scoop up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands.

Question 3. Why does grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how? Why does the ticket collector insist on calling Toto a dog?

Answer: Grandfather takes Toto to Saharanpur because he would not allow his companions to sleep at night. Grandfather had to leave Dehra Dun the next day to collect his pension in Saharanpur. So, he decided to take Toto along. He took him in a bag by train.

The ticket collector insisted on calling Toto a dog because he did not have any fixed fare for a monkey. The monkey could not be charged as a human being. So, he decided to categorize it as a dog and charge accordingly.

Question 4. How does Toto take a bath? Where has he learnt to do this? How does Toto almost boil himself alive?

Answer: Toto took a bath by first checking the temperature of the water with his hand. Then he would put one foot in the water, then the other until he was in the water up to his neck. He would take the soap in his hands or feet and rub himself all over.

One day when a large kitchen kettle had been left on the fire to boil for tea, Toto decided to remove the lid. He found that water was just warm enough for a bath and he got in with his head sticking out from the open kettle. The water began to boil. He continued hopping up and down for some time until grandmother arrived and hauled him out of the kettle. That's how he almost boiled himself alive.

Question 5. Why does the author say, "Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long"?

Answer: Toto was a very mischievous monkey. He would tear things into pieces. When one of author's aunts would come near him, he would try and tear a hole in her dress. One day, Toto was found stuffing himself with pullao. When author's grandmother screamed, Toto threw a plate at her. He then picked up the dish of pullao and made his exit through a window. In order to spite grandmother, who had screamed at him, he threw the dish down from the tree and chattered with delight when it broke into a hundred pieces.

The author's family was not a well-to-do one. They could not afford the frequent loss of dishes, clothes, curtains and wallpaper. That is why the author says, "Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long".