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THE BOND OF LOVE



ASSESSMENT

(Ans.Pdf)

Short Answer Type Questions:-

Q1. What request did the narrator's wife make to the curator? Did the curator grant the request?

Ans - The narrator's wife requested the curator of the zoo to allow her to take her pet sloth bear, Baba, back home. He refused initially, saying that Baba was a government property and he could not be given away. But afterwards, seeing how unhappy both she and Bruno were at being parted, he suggested that they should contact the Superintendent in Bangalore for permission to take Baba home.

Q2. How did Baba reach back home?

Ans - At the request of the narrator's wife, the Superintendent of the zoo agreed to permit her to have Baba back home. He wrote a letter to the curator and asked him to lend a cage so that the bear could be brought home safely. The cage was carefully put on the top of the car and Baba travelled back to his home in Bangalore.

Q3. What kind of a place was prepared for Baba at the narrator's home and why?

Ans - To prevent Baba from ever becoming a threat to the children of the tenants, an island measuring twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide was created in the compound by digging a six feet wide and seven feet deep moat around it. This island became Baba's home

Q4. Describe the house on the island in which Baba would sleep at night.

Ans - A wooden box that was once used to keep the fowls was put on the island for Baba to sleep at night. Straw was placed inside to keep it warm and Bruno's toys—his 'baby', the gnarled stump, and his 'gun', the piece of bamboo—were also placed there for him to play with.

Q5. How would the narrator's wife reach the island where Baba was kept?

Ans - The narrator had tied a rope to the overhanging branch of a mango tree with a loop at its end. To reach the island, his wife would put one foot in the loop and kick off with the other to cross the six-foot wide pit around the island. She would then spend hours sitting on a chair with Baba in her lap.

Q6. How does the story illustrate that animals love human beings just as humans love them?

Ans - Bruno's is a story of emotional bonding between a woman and a bear. The author's wife loved her pet bear, Bruno deeply. In turn, Bruno performed many playful tricks which amused the lady. They enjoyed each other's company. When Bruno was sent to a zoo, the parting was as painful for the author's wife as it was for Bruno. Seeing their plight, Bruno was brought home again. The entire episode shows the mutual love

Extra Questions and Answers Long Answer Type:-

Q1. How was Bruno brought to the author's home? How did he become it member of the family?

Ans - The baby bear was brought to the author's home by chance. Once, when the author and his companions, were going to Mysore, they were passing through the sugarcane fields when they saw people driving away the wild pigs from the fields by shooting at them. Some of the animals were shot and some escaped. When the author thought that everything was over, suddenly a black sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun, and one of the author's companions wantonly killed the bear.

The cub who was riding the back of his mother ran around its prostrate parent

making a pitiful noise. Filled with pity, the author chased him and captured him. He brought the baby bear home and gifted it to his wife as a pet. The author's wife accepted him with love and named him Bruno to mark that he was no longer a homeless, wild animal. Soon there developed a bond of love between Bruno and the author's wife and Bruno came to be called 'Baba' which means a 'small boy'. He had now become a true family member who enjoyed complete freedom and deep affection.

Q2. On two occasions Bruno ate/drank something that should not be eaten or drunk. What happened to him on these occasions?

Ans - Bruno, the bear cub, was an inquisitive and playful one. Moreover, he enjoyed a variety of dishes and drinks in the author's home. On the one hand, he was curious about things around him and on the other he had become very fond of eating and drinking. Once the narrator had kept some barium carbonate for killing rats in the library.

Bruno went there as he usually did and, seeing the poison that had been kept there, he consumed it. The poison had an immediate effect on him and, as paralysis set in, he could not stand on his feet. However, he managed to drag himself on his stumps to reach the author's wife who at once called him.

Bruno began weakening rapidly, he was vomiting and breathing heavily, as his flanks heaved and mouth gaped. The author rushed to the veterinary doctor who, after consulting his book, gave Bruno an injection of 10 cc of the antidote for barium chloride. Since the first injection did not improve his condition, another injection of the same potency was given. After ten minutes, Bruno's heavy breathing became normal. After thirty minutes, he stood on his feet and ate a good meal. On another occasion, Bruno drank engine oil. It so happened that the author had emptied the sump of his car and about one gallon of the engine oil had been collected. The author had kept it to kill the termites. Bruno drank the whole of it. However, the engine oil did not have any effect on him.

Q3. Why was Bruno sent to the Mysore zoo and why was he ultimately brought back home?

Ans - As months passed, Bruno, the cub bear, grew big in size. The author and his son felt it was not advisable to keep a fully grown wild animal at home, especially with the children of the tenants around. So, they felt Bruno should be sent to the zoo in Mysore. Their friends, too, offered the same advice. Although the author's wife opposed the proposal for some time, she ultimately gave her consent after three weeks. After her approval, they wrote a letter to the curator of the zoo asking if he wanted a tame bear for his collection. Once they received a positive response from the curator of the zoo, Baba was sent to the Mysore zoo. However, the separation was unbearable both for the author's wife and Baba.

Both were inconsolable and would not eat properly. Bruno, especially, grew very weak and fretted. After three months of separation, the narrator's wife put her foot down and had to be taken to the zoo in a car. On seeing each other after so long, both the narrator's wife and Baba expressed their joy and pleasure. He recognized her from a distance, howled with delight and stood on his head in happiness. She patted him through the bars of his cage and fed him a variety of food and drinks that she had brought. When it was closing time at the zoo both the narrator's wife and Baba cried so bitterly that even the curator was moved. She

requested the curator to send Baba back and he suggested to seek the Superintendent's permission. The Superintendent, who was a kind fellow, agreed and at his recommendation, the curator had the bear sent back home to Bangalore.

Q4. How was Bruno transported back to Bangalore from the Mysore zoo? What special arrangements were made to keep him at home?

Ans - Bruno, the pet bear, was transported back to Bangalore in a cage lent by the Mysore zoo authorities. The cage containing Bruno was hoisted on top of the car and tied securely. The vehicle was driven slowly and carefully, lest he was hurt. At the writer's home in Bangalore, special arrangements were made to keep Bruno at a safe distance from the tenants' children.

An island was made for Baba that was twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide, and was surrounded by a dry pit, or moat, six feet wide and seven feet deep. A wooden box that once housed fowls was brought and put on the island for Baba to sleep in at night. Straw was placed inside to keep him warm, his toys – the gnarled stump, his 'baby', and the piece of bamboo, which was his 'gun' – both of which had been sentimentally preserved by the author's wife were put back for him to play with. After that the coolies hoisted the cage on to the island and Baba was released.

Q5. The author ends the story "The Bond of Love" with the rhetorical question: "But who can say now that a sloth bear has no sense of affection, no memory and no individual characteristics?" Discuss this statement in the light of Bruno's character.

Ans - The Bond of Love revolves around the mutual, sincere and selfless love of the narrator's wife and her pet bear, Bruno. The young bear loved and brought up like a child by the author's wife, proves that he richly deserves this love because he himself is capable of showing equally deep and faithful love.

He is treated like a member of the family and he himself proves that he is as much bound by loyal love to the members of the family as they are to him. The deep emotions of Bruno come to the fore when he is sent to the Mysore zoo. He is so pained by the separation from his mistress that he frets terribly and refuses to eat anything. He grows very lean and thin.

Even three months is not long enough a period for him to reconcile himself to the separation from the author's wife. When she goes to see him, he recognizes her at once, even from a distance of some yards, and expresses his delight by howling and standing on his head. At the closing time of the zoo he cries bitterly at the thought of parting again from his mistress. His emotions move the hearts of the zoo curator and the keepers who agree to give Bruno back to the author's family. This proves that animals too feel love and affection.

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More questions related to the chapter.

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

Q1. I got him for her by accident.

- (a) Who says this?
- (b) Who do 'him' and 'her' refer to?
- (c) Why did the speaker take 'him' to 'her'?
- (d) What did 'she' name 'him'?

Q2. Some were shot and some escaped. We thought that everything was over when suddenly a black sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun

- (a) Who does 'we' refer to in the above extract? Where were they at the time?
- (b) Who were shot at and why?
- (c) What does the author mean by his remark, "Everything was over"?
- (d) What happened suddenly?
