

Writer's Introduction – Jerome K. Jerome

Lesson -5 Uncle Podger Hangs a picture

Jerome K. Jerome (1859–1927) was a famous English writer and humorist. He was best known for his humorous writing and his popular book *Three Men in a Boat*. His stories often describe simple everyday situations in a funny and entertaining way.

In “Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture,” Jerome humorously describes Uncle Podger’s attempt to hang a picture on the wall. His confusion, mistakes and the involvement of the whole family make the situation very funny. The chapter shows Jerome’s excellent sense of humour and observation. Lesson -5 Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture

Summary – Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture

“Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture” is a humorous chapter written by Jerome K. Jerome. It describes Uncle Podger’s funny and troublesome attempt to hang a picture on the wall.

When Uncle Podger decides to hang a picture, he asks everyone in the family to help him. He sends different people to bring a hammer, nails, ladder, chair, and other things. He keeps forgetting where he has placed his tools and blames others for not finding them.

While hanging the picture, Uncle Podger drops the nail, loses the hammer and makes several mistakes. Everyone has to search for the missing things and follow his instructions. He also falls from the chair and creates a lot of confusion.

Finally, after much effort and disturbance, Uncle Podger manages to fix the picture. The family is exhausted, while Uncle Podger proudly admires his work.

The chapter is funny because a simple task becomes a big and complicated event. It also shows Uncle Podger’s careless, impatient and overconfident nature.

Word Meanings and Synonyms

1. Grunt : To make a short, low sound in your throat, like an animal.

Synonyms : 1. Groan (2) Growl (3) Snort (4) Murmur (5) Murmur

2. Great Heavens : An expression of shock or surprise.

Synonyms : 1. Good Heavens (2) Dear me (3) My Goodness (4) Heavens Above (5) Merciful Heavens

3. Sneer : To show that you do not respect someone by your expression.

Synonyms : 1. Smirk (2) scorn (3) Ridicule (4) Mock (5) Deride

4. Row : A noisy quarrel between two or more people.

Synonyms : 1. Quarrel (2) Dispute (3) Argument (4) Fight (5) Altercation

5. Notes : Musical sounds produced by a voice or an instrument.

Synonyms : 1. Tones (2) Sounds (3) Melodies (4) Pitches (5) Tunes

WHILE READING

1. The words 'me' and 'I'll' are in italics because they are meant to be spoken with emphasis. It is to show that Uncle Podger wanted to be given full responsibility of the task.

2. After sending the girl out to buy nails, and one of the boys to tell her what size to buy, Uncle Podger also calls Will, Tom, Jim and Maria to help him with various things.

3. Nobody could find Uncle Podger's coat because he was sitting on it.

4. Uncle Podger sounded upset when he dropped the nail, because he felt the nail, just like the others, was not cooperating with him or helping him properly to complete the task.

5. The narrator calls Uncle Podger a fool because he keeps doing illogical things, like trying to lean too far over the chair, and thus, falling down.

6. Aunt Marla is talking about bad language and curses/insults that Uncle Podger probably used when he fell from the chair because of leaning over too far.

7. It took Uncle Podger so long to hang a picture because he kept forgetting things and doing illogical and foolish things, like hitting his own thumb with the hammer, hitting the nail too hard, and so on.

POST READING

1. The following accidents did not happen when Uncle Podger was trying to hang the picture: cutting his finger and breaking the nail.

B. Answers may vary. Accept all logical responses. Sample answer: Uncle Podger was a man who thought he was very smart and capable, but was actually somewhat foolish and difficult to live with. He would always cause a mess and trouble the whole house, while trying to show his capability.

C. At the end of the whole episode, Uncle Podger felt pleased because he thought he had done a fantastic job on his own, without having to call any worker to hang the picture. But all the others felt wretched because in trying to hang the picture, Uncle Podger had made all of them run around for various things, damaged the wall and injured others and himself, and made them all stay up till midnight. After all this, the picture wasn't even put up very well; it was crooked and shaky.

Value-Based Questions and Answers

1. What can we learn from Uncle Podger's behaviour about the importance of patience?

Answer: Uncle Podger becomes confused and irritated while hanging the picture. He blames others and creates a lot of noise and trouble. We learn that patience is important while doing any task. Staying calm helps us think clearly, avoid mistakes and complete our work without troubling others.

2. What value do you learn from the way the family members help Uncle Podger?

Answer: The family members show the value of teamwork and cooperation. Everyone helps Uncle Podger by bringing tools, holding the chair, handing him the nail and supporting him. Although the work becomes difficult, they continue helping. This teaches us that cooperation makes difficult tasks easier.

Poem-8 A Songbird Dreams of Singing

Poet's Introduction – Kate Hosford

Kate Hosford is an American children's author, poet, and educator. She has written several picture books and poetry collections for young readers. Her writing is known for its simple, imaginative and engaging style. She studied English and Philosophy at Amherst College and later earned an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults. ♦

One of her well-known works is A Songbird Dreams of Singing: Poems About Sleeping Animals. The book contains playful poems about the sleeping habits of different animals. ♦

In the poem "A Songbird Dreams of Singing," Kate Hosford beautifully describes how a songbird dreams of creating and singing its own special song. The poem encourages children to dream, imagine and develop their unique talents.

Summary of the Poem – A Songbird Dreams of Singing

"A Songbird Dreams of Singing" by Kate Hosford is a playful poem about a songbird who dreams of singing. While other birds dream about worms, flowers and thunderstorms, this bird dreams about music. Every night, it imagines a beautiful concert and creates a special song in its mind. When morning comes, the bird opens its beak and sings its song. The poem shows the importance of dreams, imagination, creativity and practice. A Songbird Dreams of Singing

Word Meanings and Synonyms

1. Concert : A public performance of music.

Synonyms : 1. Performance (2) Show (3) Musical (4) Recital (5) Presentation

2. Unique : The only one of its kind.

Synonyms : 1. One of a kind (2) Rare (3) Special (4) Uncommon (5) Unusual

3. Part : Open or separate a piece.

Synonyms : 1. Open (2) Separate (3) Divide (4) Split (5)
Detach

4. Refined : Made better by improvement or polishing.

Synonyms : 1. Improved (2) Polished (3) Enhanced (4) Purified
(5) Perfected

5. Dream : A series of thoughts, images or events in sleep.

Synonyms : 1. Fantasy (2) Vision (3) Imagination (4) Daydream
(5) Reverie

Post Reading.

A. The songbird sings early in the morning. The songbird sings when it finds worms, and also because its purpose is singing.

B. 1. The songbird is looking for worms to eat.

2. Worms are easier to find after it has rained because the water forces them out of their holes in the ground.

C. From the poem, it seems the songbird dreams about singing. This may not be a fact, as we cannot really say what any creature dreams about.

C. 1. In the context of a song, 'to dip and peak' means to sing at a lower or higher pitch.

2. Yes, it is definitely possible that each songbird's song is different. It may change depending on what they are singing about.

E. Answer for the first part : From the poem, we see that the songbird's dream of singing makes it sing right from early morning.

Extra Questions.

Answer the following questions.

1. What does the bird dream about every night?

Answer: Every night, the bird dreams of a beautiful concert in his mind and plans a special song to sing.

2. What does the bird do when daylight comes?

Answer: When daylight comes, the bird opens his beak and sings the song that he carefully designed during his dreams.

3. How is this bird different from other birds?

Answer: Other birds dream about worms, flower beds and thunderstorms, but this bird dreams about creating and perfecting his own song.

4. Why does the bird want his song to be unique?

Answer: The bird wants his song to be unique because he wants to create something special and different from the songs of other birds.

5. What value do we learn from the bird?

Answer: We learn to follow our dreams, practise our skills and try to make our work better and special through continuous effort.

Value-Based Questions and Answers

1. What do we learn from the songbird about following our dreams?

Answer: We learn that we should follow our dreams with dedication. Like the songbird, we should practise our skills, work hard and try to make our work better and unique.

2. Why should we keep improving our skills?

Answer: We should keep improving our skills because practice makes us better. The songbird improves its song every night, teaching us to learn from our efforts and never stop improving.

poem, this does not seem to matter much to them.

Chapter -12 A Tiger in the Zoo

Writer's Introduction – Ruskin Bond

Ruskin Bond is one of India's most loved English writers. He was born on 19 May 1934 in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. He is famous for his simple, warm and humorous stories about nature, children, animals and everyday life.

He has written many popular books, including *The Room on the Roof*, *The Blue Umbrella* and *Rusty, the Boy from the Hills*. His writing is known for its simple language, vivid descriptions and love for nature. He has received several honours, including the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.

Summary – A Tiger in the Zoo

“A Tiger in the Zoo” by Ruskin Bond describes a tiger living sadly in a cage at the zoo. The tiger is strong and beautiful, but he cannot enjoy his natural freedom. He walks quietly inside his small cage and dreams of being in the jungle.

The poet describes how the tiger would live if he were free. He would move through the jungle, hide among the tall grass, hunt deer near the water hole and frighten the villagers living nearby. Instead, he is trapped behind bars and can only watch people passing by.

The tiger is angry and unhappy because he has lost his freedom. At night, he hears the sound of a patrolling car and looks at the bright stars. The poem highlights the importance of freedom and shows that wild animals should be allowed to live in their natural habitats.

Word Meanings and Synonyms

1. Expedition : A purposeful journey made to explore or achieve something important.

Synonyms : 1. Journey (2) Venture (3) Trek (4) Campaign (5) Mission

2. Shikari : A hunter, especially one who hunts animals for sport.

Synonyms : 1. Hunter (2) Sportsman (3) Trapper (4) Woodsman (5) Marksman

3. Sumptuous : Very good and expensive; rich and luxurious.

Synonyms : 1. Lavish (2) Luxurious (3) Rich (4) Elegant (5) Opulent

4. Howdah : A seat on the back of an elephant.

Synonyms : 1. Seat (2) Saddle (3) Bench (4) Platform (5) Chair

5. Intricate : Having many small parts or details that are complex or delicate.

Synonyms : 1. Complex (2) Complicated (3) Detailed (4) Elaborate (5) Sophisticated

WHILE READING

1. Even though Grandfather was not a shikari, he knew the forests of the Siwalik hills very well. Therefore, he was persuaded to accompany the expedition to advise on the terrain and the direction the beaters should take once a tiger had been spotted.
2. The facilities provided at the camp were luxurious, with many different types of food and cutlery.
3. The hunting expedition was not successful. We know this from the sentence, 'He had the distinction of being the only member of the party to have bagged any game, dead or alive, which shows that apart from the tiger cub that Grandfather found, no one else got anything.'
4. Yes, Timothy made friends with other animals and people around the house, including the puppy and the narrator.
5. The people on the road wanted to keep some distance between them and Timothy, as they were probably afraid of the tiger.
6. Grandmother predicted that one day they would find Timothy sitting on the cook's bed, with no sign of the cook except his clothes and shoes, implying that Timothy would have eaten the cook up.
7. Grandfather took Timothy to the Lucknow zoo when he grew up, because he had started attacking the chickens in the poultry house, and seemed to be stalking cats, dogs and even the cook in a threatening manner.
8. No, Grandfather's action was not very sensible, because even if he knew Timothy, he could not have been sure whether Timothy would recognise him or still be friendly with him.
9. The tiger mostly responded to Grandfather's actions in a friendly manner, by coming towards him and licking his hands.
10. The keeper was unable to touch the tiger because the tiger was always very bad-tempered.
11. Grandfather wished to meet the Superintendent about moving the tiger somewhere else, because the leopard in the next cage kept frightening him.
12. Grandfather was irritated because he thought the keeper was reminding him that Timothy was now the property of the zoo. He thought the keeper

should have been more polite towards him and at least listen to him, since Grandfather was the one who had given Timothy to the zoo.

13. No, Timothy had died due to illness. So, the tiger in the cage was not him.

14. It seems that Grandfather still felt in some part of his mind, even if it seemed irrational, that the tiger in the cage was Timothy, because of his friendly behaviour towards him. Maybe he could not accept that Timothy was dead. Hence, while going away, he said 'Goodnight Timothy' to the tiger.

POST READING

A. It seems Timothy was the size of a small cat/pillow when he was found.

B. Grandfather was a kind, caring, and loving man who loved animals. We can see this from the fact that he brought the tiger cub home, protecting it from the hunting party that he was accompanying. He also gave him milk and food, and provided him with companions. Even when he went to the zoo, he was concerned about the welfare of the tiger. These incidents show his qualities.

C. At the house, Timothy was given milk at first. When this proved too rich for him, he was put on a diet of raw mutton and cod liver oil, and later given a diet of pigeons and rabbits. Later, as Timothy grew bigger, he stalked cats and pet dogs, and took chickens from the poultry house. From the difference in the diets, we can see that Timothy was going after bigger animals. This could be because he was growing and needed more food. We can also see from his stalking that he was becoming more of a hunter, as he was becoming an adult tiger.

D. The first keeper was new and did not know the history of Timothy, and though he was surprised at Grandfather being so friendly with the tiger, he believed him when he said it was his tiger that he had given to the zoo. But the second keeper was an older one, who knew all about Timothy, and also knew that the tiger in the cage was not Timothy. He was scared and worried because he felt this tiger might harm Grandfather.

Value-Based Questions and Answers

1. What do we learn from Grandfather's love and care for Timothy?

Answer: Grandfather cared deeply for Timothy and treated him with love and affection. He visited him even after taking him to the zoo. This teaches us that true love and care remain strong even when circumstances change. We should always care for those we love.

2. What should we learn from Grandfather's decision to take Timothy to the zoo?

Answer: Grandfather understood that Timothy had become dangerous as he grew older. He responsibly took him to the zoo for everyone's safety. This teaches us that love also means making difficult and responsible decisions when they are necessary for the well-being of others.