

Chapter 4: The Donkey

EXERCISE [PAGE 69]

Exercise | Q 1 | Page 69

Rewrite the poem in the form of a prose passage.

SOLUTION

The poet saw a donkey that was just one day old. The donkey's head was too big for his neck to hold, and his legs were long, loose, and shaky. They moved suddenly and unsteadily and didn't seem to be of much use. The donkey tried to run and leap playfully, but he did not seem quite sure how it was done. His peculiar little coat was soft and grey and curled at his neck in a pretty way. His face looked hopeful and he appeared to be thinking about life. Feeling adventurous, he moved around awkwardly, searching for something. Then he lay flat on the ground to rest. The poet says that the little donkey looked small and weak, and he prayed that the world would be kind to him.

Exercise | Q 2 | Page 69

List the pairs of rhyming words from the poem.

SOLUTION

- i. old - hold
- ii. loose - use
- iii. bit - it
- iv. grey - way
- v. doubt - about
- vi. round - ground
- vii. quest - rest
- viii. slim - him.

Exercise | Q 3 | Page 69

What does the poet pray for? Why?

SOLUTION

The little donkey looked so small and weak that the poet prays that the world would be kind to him.

Exercise | Q 4 | Page 69

Have you seen a newborn young one of an animal?

SOLUTION

Yes, I have seen a newborn baby kitten. It was tinier than the palm of my hand. Its eyes were closed and it looked weak and helpless. I wondered how such a tiny little thing could survive, but it did.

Exercise | Q 5 | Page 69

Talk to your parents and family members and write what you could do when -

- you were a day old
- you were one-month-old
- you were six months old
- you were one year old

SOLUTION

Students do it by yourself.

Exercise | Q 6. (a) | Page 69

Form groups and hold debates on the following topics.

Make bulleted lists of points in favour (pros) and those against (cons) the given statement. Let the whole class vote on who won the debate.

A man should use animals for his own needs.

SOLUTION

Pros	Cons
Species that were getting extinct are kept alive in sanctuaries by man. Research has helped man to preserve many species.	It is man who is a threat to animals; if there were no human beings, animals would never have any difficulty in surviving.
Certain jobs can be done neither by men nor machines. Hence we need animals	Man is playing havoc with the environment, and thus troubling animals, not helping them to survive

Exercise | Q 6. (b) | Page 69

Form groups and hold debates on the following topics.

Make bulleted lists of points in favour (pros) and those against (cons) the given statement. Let the whole class vote on who won the debate.

Contact with man has helped animals to survive.

SOLUTION

Pros	Cons
Species that were getting extinct are kept alive in sanctuaries by man. Research	It is a man who is a threat to animals; if there were no human beings, animals

has helped man to preserve many species	would never have any difficulty in surviving.
In many cases, a man helps wounded and fragile animals. helping them to survive.	Man is playing havoc with the environment, and thus troubling animals, not helping them to survive.

Exercise | Q 7 | Page 69

Find what the young ones of the following animals are called :

- donkey -
- sheep -
- owl -
- horse -
- lamb -
- swan -
- lion -
- cow -
- eagle -
- tiger -
- pig -
- duck -
- elephant -
- whale -
- peacock

SOLUTION

Animal	Young one
donkey	foal
sheep	lamb
owl	owlet
horse	colt, foal
goat	kid
swan	cygnet
lion	cub
cow	calf
eagle	eaglet
tiger	cub
pig	pigling, pigle
duck	duckling

elephant	calf
whale	calf
peacock	peachick

Exercise | Q 8 | Page 69

Complete the following using your own ideas:

- His head was **too big to** hold his neck.
- He was too shy to _____.
- She was too proud to _____.
- They were too tired to _____.
- We are too busy to _____.
- He was too lazy to _____.

SOLUTION

- His head was too big to **hold his neck.**
- He was too shy to **talk to the guests.**
- She was too proud to **say that she had made a mistake.**
- They were too tired to **cook food for the children.**
- We are too busy to **listen to your complaints.**
- He was too lazy to **clean up his room.**

Exercise | Q 9. (a) | Page 69

Write a conversation between:

A donkey and a dog

SOLUTION

Donkey:	Hi, dog! How lucky you are
Dog:	Lucky? Me? Why?
Donkey:	You just rest and play the whole day and you are given good food and loved by the master.
Dog:	Rest? Play? Do you think I don't do any work?
Donkey:	Of course, you don't! Look at me. I carry loads for miles daily.
Dog:	I may not carry loads, but I guard the house. I see that no thieves enter the house.
Donkey:	That's an easy job.
Dog:	That's not all. I play with my master and see that he's happy, too.

Exercise | Q 9. (b) | Page 69

Write a conversation between:

A donkey and a horse

SOLUTION

Donkey:	Hi horse! You are looking tired. Why? You have an easy job.
Horse:	What do you mean, easy?
Donkey:	You only have to carry the master's weight. That too, not every day. Look at me.
Horse:	
Donkey:	
Horse:	

Exercise | Q 9. (c) | Page 69

Write a conversation between:

A donkey and a school boy.

SOLUTION

Students can attempt this on their own.

Exercise | Q 10 | Page 69

If you saw someone abusing an animal, what would you do? Write about it in 5 lines.

SOLUTION

If I saw someone abusing an animal, I would first go up to him and tell him not to do it. I would try to make him understand that what he was doing is wrong. If he did not listen, I would call some passers-by or some adults who were around and ask them to check him. If it was someone whom I knew, I would complain to his parents.

Exercise | Q 11 | Page 69

Visit a library: Find poems about animals. Copy them and recite them to your friends.

SOLUTION

Students do it by yourself.