

The Bond of Love

Additional Questions

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: (4 Marks each)

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

- (a) Who or what was being shot at or driven away and where?
- (b) Who is ‘we’ in the above lines?
- (c) What is meant by ‘everything was over’?
- (d) Who came out?

Ans: (a) The people were driving away the pigs or shooting at them from the sugarcane fields near Mysore.

(b) ‘We’ refers to the narrator and his companions.

(c) ‘Everything was over’ means that they thought that all the pigs around there had been driven away and the area had been cleared.

(d) A sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun.

2. “The little creature ran around its prostrate parent making a pitiful noise.

- (a) Name the lesson and the author of the lesson from which this line has been taken.
- (b) Which was the little creature?
- (c) Why was it making a pitiful noise?
- (d) Explain ‘prostrate parent’.

Ans: (a) This line is taken from the lesson, “The Bond of Love and the author is Kenneth Anderson.

(b) The little creature was the baby sloth bear.

(c) It was making a pitiful noise because its mother had been shot dead.

(d) “Prostate parent refers to the mother bear that had fallen prey to the bullet of one of the author’s friends.

3. “off I rushed in the car to the vet’s residence. A case of poisoning!

- (a) Who is 'I'?
- (b) Who is a 'vet' ?
- (c) Who had been poisoned?
- (d) What had happened?

Ans: (a) 'I' refers to the narrator.

(b) 'Vet' refers to veterinary surgeon, a specialist who is involved in taking care of animals.

(c) Bruno, the bear had been poisoned.

(d) Bruno had gone into the library and consumed the barium carbonate that was meant to kill the rats and mice.

4. " Give him a stick and say 'Baba, hold gun', and he pointed the stick at you. Ask him, 'Baba, where's baby? "

- (a) Who is Baba?
- (b) What is being referred to here?
- (c) Who was the baby?
- (d) What is the narrator trying to convey to the readers?

Ans: (a) Baba, was Bruno's new name given to him by the narrator's wife.

(b) The narrator is enumerating the activities of the bear.

(c) The 'baby' was a stump of wood that Baba had carefully concealed in his straw bed.

(d) The narrator is trying to convey to the readers the responsiveness of the bear to the training that was being given to him.

5. "Baba was hoisted on top of the car; the cage was tied securely, and a slow and careful return journey to Bangalore was accomplished"

- (a) Why was Baba hoisted on top of the car?
- (b) Who was making a journey?
- (c) Where was Baba prior to the journey?
- (d) Why was he there?

Ans: (a) Baba was hoisted on top of the car because he was kept in a cage that would not fit into the car.

(b) The narrator and his wife along with Baba were making the journey.

(c) Baba was in the Mysore Zoo.

(d) He had to be sent to the zoo because he could not be managed inside the house.

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words: 2 Marks each)

1. How did the narrator's wife handle the baby sloth bear, when she got him?

Ans: The Bond of Love is a story of a very fascinating and emotional bonding between a woman and a bear. The author once picked up an orphaned sloth bear and presented it to his wife. Extremely delighted with the cub, she christened him Bruno and put a coloured ribbon around his neck. He would drink milk from bottle. Within a few days, she cooked a variety of dishes for him. They loved each other excessively.

2. What were the circumstances that led to the narrator getting 'Bruno' home?

Ans: The narrator had gone on a hunting expedition with his friends. When they reached the sugarcane fields at Mysore, they encountered some pigs that were being chased or shot at by the people. All of a sudden, a sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun. Unfortunately, one of his friends shot at the animal and it fell dead. The baby that was along with its mother, was rescued while attempting to run off into the sugarcane fields, by the narrator. He put the baby sloth bear in a gunny bag and took him home.

3. Why was Bruno sent to the zoo?

Ans: As time went by, little Bruno had grown up into a big bear. The children of the narrator's tenants were scared of him, so the family had to keep him chained most of the time. He was getting too big to be kept indoors. The narrator and his son managed to convince the lady of the house to give Baba to the Mysore Zoo.

4. How did the narrator's wife react after Bruno left?

Ans: His wife was inconsolable. She would not stop weeping and was always unhappy and worried about little Bruno. She could not eat food. She began writing letters to the curator to enquire about her 'Baba Bruno'. She was extremely upset when she got to know that he was fretting and not eating food too. Mother and child missed each other.

5. What was the procedure to be followed to get Bruno back home?

Ans: When the narrator's wife visited Bruno in the zoo, she was shocked to see the pathetic condition of her baby bear. She was determined to take him home. The procedure for getting the bear, which was now government property, was a letter of sanction to be given by the Superintendent who was at Bangalore.

6. Describe the scene at the zoo when Bruno met his mom.

Ans: Contrary to the beliefs of friends that Bruno would not recognise his mistress, he began howling with happiness as soon as he saw her. The narrator's wife ran up to him and began petting him by putting her hands through the bars that separated them. Bruno stood on his head in delight. She was beside Bruno for the next three hours, feeding him his favourite food.

7. Where did Bruno go after he came back from the zoo?

Ans: A special island was created in the narrator's compound to house the bear. It was twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide, and was surrounded by a dry pit (moat) which was six feet wide and seven feet deep. He was provided with a wooden box in which straw was placed for him to sleep, and his gun and baby that were preserved during his stay at the zoo was also given to him to play with.

8. How did the narrator's wife reach the island everyday?

Ans: The narrator had tied a rope to the overhanging branch of a mango tree with a loop at its end. Putting one foot in the loop, she would kick off with the other, to bridge the six foot gap that constituted the width of the surrounding pit. She would come back the same way.

Long Answer Questions (100-150 words: 8 Marks each)

1. "Love binds life. Explain with reference to 'The Bond of Love'.

Ans: 'The Bond of Love' is a story of emotional bonding between a woman and a bear. The narrator's wife had a pet bear called Bruno. She loved him deeply. She put a coloured ribbon around his neck. She cooked a variety of dishes for him. He also performed many playful tricks which give her a lot of pleasure. They enjoyed each other's company. When Bruno grew big, he was a threat for the children of their tenants. Therefore, the author decided to send him to the zoo. His departure was very painful for the author's wife. Finally, she asked her husband to visit Baba in the zoo. It took a lot of efforts to convince the wife to let go off her Baba Bruno. Both mother and the bear were in a state of severe stress without each other's company. After a few months, when the narrator's wife finally goes to the zoo on hearing that the bear was not too good, and meets her pet, the people around were shocked to see the love that bound the two of them. They both felt relieved on meeting. They spend many hours together, and made a very important revelation that it is "love that binds life."

2. "Animals respond to love, experience pleasure and pain. Write an article for the Students' edition of the local daily. Use inputs from the story "The Bond of Love."

Ans: Animals respond to love, experience pleasure and pain

by ABS

It is unfortunate that human beings are the only creation of God that does not respect His other creations, despite having the power of reasoning. From the beginning of life, man has been a hunter, who killed to eat. He continues to do so. It is pity that we harm the animals and eat into their territories. I would like to cite the example of Mr Kenneth Anderson's wife, who turned mother to an orphaned bear.

The bond that developed between this wild animal and a human being was commendable. This was despite the fact that it was the narrator and his friends who were responsible for shooting down the cub's mother. The pitiful cry that emanated from the baby when she noticed that his mother had died was heart-wrenching. But the little cub responded wonderfully to the unconditional love that he received from his human mother. At the same time, the pain that an animal faces when he is separated from his mistress has been wonderfully depicted by the narrator when he describes the scene at the zoo. Friends, I would like to pose a question to all those who read this article, why do we not treat animals with respect and give them their due? Are we all not aware of our loyal four legged friend—the dog?

Self- Assessment Test

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. "the return journey is the same"
 - (a) Name the lesson and the author.
 - (b) What is being referred to here?
 - (c) Who is making the journey and to meet whom?
 - (d) How is it that the return journey is the 'same'?
2. "straw was kept inside to keep him warm"
 - (a) Who is 'him' in the above line?
 - (b) Where was the straw kept?
 - (c) Who was to be kept warm?
 - (d) Why was such an arrangement being made?

Long Answer Questions

1. As the narrator's wife, make a diary entry of the day you met Bruno in the zoo.

2. How can you say that love is mutual. Justify this statement with reference to the story, 'The Bond of Love'.

3. Justify the title, "The Bond of Love.