

The Duck and The Kangaroo - Edward Lear

Additional Questions

Extract Based Questions (4 Marks each)

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

1. Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,

“Good gracious! How you hop!

Over the fields and the water too,

As if you never would stop!

My life is a bore in this nasty pond,

And I long to go out in the world beyond!

I wish I could hop like you!

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

(a) Who is the speaker of the above lines?

(b) Why is the Kangaroo been appreciated?

(c) What is the desire of the speaker?

(d) Find the word from the above lines which means ‘unpleasant’.

Ans: (a) The Duck is the speaker of the above lines.

(b) The Kangaroo is been appreciated because he could hop over the fields and the water.

(c) The speaker wants to go out in the world beyond.

(d) Nasty

2. “Please give me a ride on your back!

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

“I would sit quite still, and say nothing but ‘Quack’,

The whole of the long day through!

And we’d go to the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee,

Over the land, and over the sea;

Please take me a ride! O do!

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

- (a) What is the Duck requesting for?
- (b) What will the Duck do for the whole day?
- (c) Where has the Duck planned to go with the Kangaroo?
- (d) "I would sit quite still, and say. Which poetic device is used here?"

Ans:

- (a) The Duck is requesting to give a ride on the Kangaroo's back.
- (b) The Duck will sit quiet and will say nothing but 'Quack' for the whole day.
- (c) The Duck has planned to go to the Dee and the Jelly Bo Lee.
- (d) The poetic device, 'Alliteration' has been used here because there is a repetition of consonant sound.

3. Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,

"This requires some little reflection;
Perhaps on the whole it might bring me luck,
And there seems but one objection,
Which is, if you'll let me speak so bold,
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,
And would probably give me the roo-
Matiz! Said the Kangaroo.

- (a) What is the objection of the Kangaroo?
- (b) What is the luck mentioned in the above lines?
- (c) Who speaks boldly in the above lines?
- (d) Find two adverbs from the above lines.

Ans:

- (a) The Kangaroo has one objection that the Kangaroo's feet are unpleasantly wet and cold which would make him fall sick.
- (b) The Kangaroo thinks that giving a ride to the Duck would bring him luck.
- (c) The Kangaroo speaks boldly in the above lines.

(d) Unpleasantly and probably

4. Said the Duck, “As I sat on the rocks,

I have thought over that completely,

And I bought four pairs of worsted socks

Which fit my web-feet neatly.

And to keep out the cold i’ve bought a cloak,

And every day a cigar I’ll smoke,

All to follow my own dear true

Love of a Kangaroo!

(a) What did the Duck buy for his feet?

(b) Why did the Duck buy a cloak?

(c) What will the Duck smoke every day?

(d) What is the meaning of ‘to keep out’?

Ans:

(a) The Duck bought four pairs of worsted socks to fit his web-feet neatly.

(b) The Duck bought a cloak to avoid the cold.

(c) The Duck will smoke a cigar every day.

(d) To avoid

5. Said the Kangaroo, “I’m ready!

All in the moonlight pale;

But to balance me well, dear Duck, sit steady!

And quite at the end of my tail!

So away they went with a hop and a bound,

And they hopped the whole world three times round;

And who so happy – O who,

As the Duck and the Kangaroo?

(a) Where was the Duck sitting?

(b) How did the Kangaroo ask the Duck to sit?

- (c) Where did the Duck and the Kangaroo go?
- (d) Find the word from the above lines which means 'to jump'.

Ans:

- (a) The Duck was sitting at the end of the Kangaroo's tail.
- (b) The Kangaroo asked the Duck to sit steady.
- (c) The Duck and the Kangaroo hopped the whole world three times.
- (d) Hop

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

1. What were the preparations done by the Duck for the ride?

Ans: Before accepting the proposal of the Duck's desire to ride, the Kangaroo had one objection that the Duck's wet feet would make him fall sick. So, the Duck prepared everything accordingly. He bought four pairs of worsted socks to cover his web feet, a cloak to avoid the cold and also bought a cigar to smoke every day on his journey.

2. Why was the Duck fascinated by the Kangaroo's hopping?

Ans: The Duck was fascinated by the Kangaroo's hopping because he himself could not hop and roam around. He has to stay in the unpleasant and boring pond for the whole day. That's why, he admired the hopping of the Kangaroo over the fields and the water bodies.

3. Why did the Duck want to ride on the Kangaroo's back?

Ans: The Duck wanted to ride on the Kangaroo's back because he was fed up of his life in the unpleasant pond. When he saw his friend Kangaroo, who could roam around whenever he wanted, the desire to roam around the world aroused in the Duck's mind. He wanted to go around and see the world, but this could not happen without the help of the Kangaroo.

4. How did the Duck convince Kangaroo for the ride?

Ans: The Duck praised the hopping of the Kangaroo and spoke to him in a very respectful manner. The Duck also found solution to the Kangaroo's objection and made arrangements accordingly like four pairs of worsted socks, a cloak and a cigar. He followed all the instructions given by the Kangaroo. Due to his politeness, the Kangaroo accepted the proposal and gave him a ride.

5. Does the Kangaroo give a ride? Why?

Ans: Yes, the Kangaroo gives a ride to the Duck on his back because he thinks that if he will give the Duck a ride, then it would bring him good luck. Moreover, the Duck also

praised the hopping of the Kangaroo and requested politely. So, he decided to give the Duck a ride.

6. What was the Kangaroo's reaction to the Duck's request?

Ans: The Kangaroo was a very sensible and wise creature. When he was requested for a ride, he was slightly apprehensive as he knew that the wet and cold feet of the Duck may afflict him with rheumatism and body pain. So before accepting the proposal, he wished to give a deep thought to the request, even though giving a ride could bring him good luck.

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

1. How the Duck left the 'nasty' pond and freed himself from the boredom?

Ans: The Duck could not hop like Kangaroo, yet he desired to leave the unpleasant pond and explore the world. After seeing the Kangaroo hopping all around and enjoying his life, the Duck requests the Kangaroo to take him along for a ride. As a solution to the Kangaroo's objection, the Duck buys four pairs of worsted socks for his wet feet, so that the Kangaroo feels comfortable during the ride. After resolving all the objections that the Kangaroo had, the Duck was able to leave the pond and free himself from the boredom. The Duck and the Kangaroo hopped around the world three times and enjoyed each other's company.

2. The poem, 'The Duck and the Kangaroo' is known as 'nonsense verse'. Bring out the humour in the poem.

Ans: The poem, 'The Duck and the Kangaroo' is a nonsense verse and full of humour. The structure of the poem is a conversation between a Duck and a Kangaroo, where the Duck requests the Kangaroo to give him a ride, which is showed in an amusing way. The manner in which the Duck pays compliments to the Kangaroo for his hopping skills is quite funny. Then the imaginary names of the places, 'Dee' and 'Jelly Bo Lee' which the Duck wishes to visit is funny. The other funny element in the poem is distorting rheumatism to 'roo-matiz'. The way in which the Kangaroo gives a deep thought about the proposal of the Duck is very comical. The humour is subtle and well-woven throughout the poem.

Self- Assessment Test

Extract Based Questions

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

1. Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,

"Good gracious! how you hop!

Over the fields and the water too,
As if you never would stop!
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,
And I long to go out in the world beyond!
I wish I could hop like you!
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

- (a) Who is speaking to whom?
- (b) “My life is a bore in this nasty pond. What does this line say about the speaker?
- (c) “Good gracious! How you hop! Who says this and what is implied?
- (d) Which is the world beyond?

2. “This requires some little reflection;

Perhaps on the whole it might bring me luck,
And there seems but one objection,
Which is, if you’ll let me speak so bold,
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,

- (a) Who is speaking these lines?
- (b) What is the objection being raised?
- (c) Whose feet are wet and cold?
- (d) What is the rhyme scheme?

Short Answer Questions

1. Write the summary of the poem, ‘The Duck and The Kangaroo’.
2. “And who so happy—O who,
As the Duck and the Kangaroo. Explain.
3. Why does the Duck praise the Kangaroo?
4. How did the Kangaroo respond to the Duck’s proposal?
5. What does the Duck do to keep its feet warm?

Long Answer Questions

1. What impact does the poem have on you with regard to the relationship referred to by the poet? What do you derive from the poem?
2. Write a paragraph on friendship and its relevance in your life.
3. What are the conditions that the Kangaroo put before the Duck, before allowing for a ride?