

LESSON 2: MOMENTS: THE ADVENTURES OF TOTO

BY Ruskin Bond

Long answer questions:

.Toto was a sharp and active monkey. Discuss.

Ans: Toto was keenly observant and swift in his actions. He noted closely the manner in which the narrator took bath. He copied every action including testing the temperature of the water with his hand. His physical appearance added to his sharp and active image. Deep-set eyebrows framing his sparkling eyes, pearly white teeth frequently breaking into a grin, quick and wickedly used fingers, and a long tail made Toto look every inch a clever monkey. However, he used his intelligence for doing all kinds of mischievous things. He destroyed the wallpaper of the narrator's bedroom, shredded his school blazer, did not let the other animals sleep peacefully, a bit on the family donkey's ears, made holes in the narrator's aunt's dresses, and ate the *pullao* and broke the dish afterwards. Thus, Toto certainly was a sharp and active monkey but he was difficult to train and could not be kept as a pet for long and without peril.

How did Toto like to have a bath in winters? How did he once get into serious trouble while trying to have a hot-water bath?

Ans: Bathing in a large bowl of warm water in cold winter evenings was a treat for Toto. He would cunningly test the temperature of the water brought by the grandmother with his hand and gradually step into the bath, first one foot, then the other until he was into the water up to his neck.

Once comfortable, he would take the soap in his hands or feet and rub himself all over. When the water became cold, he would get out and quickly run to the kitchen fire to dry himself. If ever someone tried to laugh at him, he would refuse to go on with the bath. His fondness for a hot water bath one day got him into serious trouble. He noticed a

kitchen kettle on the fire and having nothing better to do decided to remove the lid. Finding the water just warm enough for a bath, he got in. For a while it was fine, but soon he began hopping in and out of the kettle because the water had got really hot while outside the kettle it was too cold for him. That day Toto would have boiled himself to death, had Grandmother not arrived in time to rescue him.

Q.3. Describe Toto's mischief at lunchtime. How did the author's family get rid of Toto in the end? Ans.

Toto's mind was full of mischiefs. One day at lunchtime, he found a large dish of rice on the dining table. He started eating the rice. When grandmother found Toto eating rice, she screamed. Toto threw a plate at her. An aunt of the narrator came forward. Toto threw a glass of water at her. The Toto picked the dishes pullao and ran out. He sat on the jackfruit tree. He remained there all afternoon, eating the rice. After that, he threw the plate and broke it into pieces.

At last, grandfather realised that Toto could not be kept for long in the house. The family could not bear the frequent loss of dishes, clothes, curtains and wallpapers. At last, grandfather found the same tonga driver. He sold Toto back for only three rupees.

How did Toto behave with Nana, the donkey?

Ans. No doubt, Toto was mischievous. He kept creating problems not only for animals but for the members of the family also. The night Toto passed with Nana was full of disturbance. When Grandfather visited the stable he found Toto fastened on to Nana's long ears with his sharp little teeth. They could never become friends.