

Class 10th English First Flight Chapter 8 Mijbil the Otter

Questions and Answers Gujarat Board

Mijbil the Otter Class 10 Question Answer GSEB

Oral Comprehension Check (Textbook Page No. 106)

Question 1.

What 'experiment' did Maxwell think Camusfearna would be suitable for?

Answer:

Maxwell thought that he would keep an otter instead of a dog. Camusfearna, ringed by water a very short distance from its door, would be an eminently suitable spot for the experiment.

Question 2.

Why does he go to Basra ? How long does he wait there, and why ?

Answer:

He went to Basra, to the Consulate- General, to collect and answer his mail from Europe. He had to wait there for five days. To start with, his mail didn't reach on time. Then he tried to make a telephone call. This incident is of those days when one had to book an international call 24 hrs in advance. The telephone line was not working properly on the first day. Next day it was some religious holiday so it was not working. Finally after a tortuous wait of five days his mail arrived.

Question 3.

How does he get the otter ? Does he like it ? Pick out the words that tell you this.

Answer:

When he received his mail, he carried it to his bedroom to read. There, he saw two Arabs and beside them was a sack that twisted from time to time. They handed him a note from his friend saying that he had sent him an otter. Yes, he liked it. We know this because he uses the term 'otter fixation' to refer to his feeling towards the otter. He felt that this otter fixation or this strong attachment towards otters was something that was shared by most other people who had ever owned one.

Question 4.

Why was the otter named 'Maxwell's otter' ?

Answer:

The otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length named by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli* or Maxwell's otter.

Question 5.

Give the right answer. In the beginning, the otter was

(a) aloof and indifferent

(b) friendly

(c) hostile

Answer:

In the beginning, the otter was aloof and indifferent.

Question 6.

What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom ? What did it do two days after that ?

Answer:

When Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom, it went wild with joy in the water for half an hour. It was plunging and rolling in it, shooting up and down the length of the bathtub underwater, and making enough slosh and splash for a hippo. Two days after that, it escaped from his bedroom to the bathroom. By the time he got there, Mijbil was up on the end of the bathtub .and fumbling at the chromium taps with its paws. In less than a minute, it had turned the tap far enough to produce some water and after a moment, achieved the full flow.

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Question 7.

How Was Mij to be transported to England ?

Answer:

Maxwell booked a flight to Paris and from there he would go on to London. The airline insisted that Mij should be packed in a box (not more than eighteen inches square) that was to be placed on the floor, near his feet.

Question 8.

What did Mij do to the box?

Answer:

The box was lined with metal sheet. Mij didn't find it comfortable to be there so tried to escape. In its attempt to escape Mij tore into the metal lining of the box. As a result it hurt itself and started bleeding.

Question 9.

Why did Maxwell put the otter back in the box? How do you think he felt when he did this ?

Answer:

As there was no other way to carry Mij to London so the author had put it back into the box. He must have felt pity in the way the otter had hurt itself. Moreover, he must be worried as well.

Question 10.

Why does Maxwell say the airhostess was "the very queen of her kind"? (March 20)

Answer:



Maxwell said that the airhostess was “the very queen of her kind” because she was extremely friendly and helpful. He took her into his confidence about the incident with the box. She suggested that he might prefer to have his pet on his knee. Hearing this, he developed a profound admiration for her, for she understood the pain of both the otter and its owner.

Question 11.

What happened when the box was opened ?

Answer:

When the box was opened, Mij went out of the box. He disappeared at a high speed down the aircraft. There were cries all around. A woman stood up on her seat screaming that there was a rat. He saw Mij’s tail disappearing beneath the legs of an Indian passenger. He dived for it, but missed. The airhostess suggested him to be seated and that she would find the otter. After a while, Mij had returned to him. It climbed on his knee and began to rub its nose on his face and neck.

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Question 12.

What game had Mij invented?

Answer:

Mij had invented a game with ping- pong ball. He would put the ball at one end of a sloping lid and then grab it as it ran to the other end.

Question 13.

What are ‘compulsive habits’ ? What does Maxwell say are the compulsive habits of

(i) school children

(ii) Mij ?

Answer:

Compulsive habits are usually strange acts or behaviour which a person does without clear reason.

On their way to and from school, children make it a habit to place their feet exactly on the centre of each paving block. Similarly, Mij had made it a habit to jump on to the school wall and go galloping all along its length of thirty yards.

Question 14.

What group of animals do otters belong to ?

Answer:

Otters belong to a comparatively small group of animals called Mustellines, shared by the badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink and others.

Question 15.

What guesses did the Londoners make about what Mij was ?

Answer:

According to Maxwell, the average Londoner does not recognize an otter. The Londoners who saw Mij made different guesses about who Mij was. They guessed, among other things, that it was a baby seal, a squirrel, a walrus, a hippo, a beaver, a bear cub, a leopard and a brontosaurus.

Thinking about the Text

Question 1.

What things does Mij do which tell you that he is an intelligent, friendly and fun-loving animal who needs love ?

Answer:

Mij was an intelligent animal. It invented its own game out of the ping-pong balls. It screwed the tap till water began to flow and then it would play and splash in the water. Though it was aloof and indifferent in the beginning, it soon became very friendly. It formed a special attachment with Maxwell. It responded when Maxwell called out his name.

It grew desperate when Maxwell left it in a box and it got hurt while trying to come out of it. After Maxwell took it out, it clung to his feet. It was a fun-loving animal. It enjoyed playing all kinds of games. It would play with a selection of toys, ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit and a terrapin shell. It required love and affection from Maxwell and it got that readily.

Question 2.

What are some of the things we come to know about otters from this text ?

Answer:

Otters belong to a comparatively small group of animals called Mustellines, shared by the badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink and others. Maxwell's otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length named by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli* or Maxwell's otter. They are found in large numbers in marshes.

They are often tamed by the Arabs. It is characteristic of otters that every drop of water must be extended and spread about the place; a bowl must at once be overturned, or, if it would not be overturned, be sat in and splashed in until it overflowed. For them, water must be kept on the move. Otters love playing various games, especially with a ball.

Question 3.

Why is Mij's species now known to the world as Maxwell's otter?

Answer:

Maxwell's otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length named by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli* or Maxwell's otter.

Question 4.

Maxwell in the story speaks for the otter, Mij. He tells us what the otter feels and thinks on



different occasions. Given below are some things the otter does. Complete the column on the right to say what Maxwell says about what Mij feels and thinks.

What Mij does	How Mij feels or thinks
Plunges, rolls in the water and makes the water splosh and splash
Screws the tap in the wrong way
Nuzzles Maxwell's face and neck in the aeroplane

Answer:

What Mij does	How Mij feels or thinks
Plunges, rolls in the water and makes the water splosh and splash	went wild with joy
Screws the tap in the wrong way	irritated and disappointed
Nuzzles Maxwell's face and neck in the aeroplane	distressed chitter of recognition and welcome

Question 5.

Read the story and find the sentences where Maxwell describes his pet otter. Then choose and arrange your sentences to illustrate those statements below that you think are true.

Maxwell's description

- (1) makes Mij seem almost human, like a small boy.
- (2) shows that he is often irritated with what Mij does.
- (3) shows that he is often surprised by what Mij does.
- (4) of Mij's antics is comical.
- (5) shows that he observes the antics of Mij very carefully.
- (6) shows that he thinks Mij is a very ordinary otter.
- (7) shows that he thinks the otter is very unusual.

Answer:

- (1) He spent most of his time in play.

(3) I watched, amazed; in less than a minute he had turned the tap far enough to produce a trickle of water, and after a moment or two achieved the full flow.

(5) A suitcase that I had taken to Iraq had become damaged on the journey home, so that the lid, when closed, remained at a slope from one end to the other. Mij discovered that if he placed the ball on the high end it would run down the length of the suitcase. He would dash around to the other end to ambush its arrival, hide from it, crouching, to spring up and take it by surprise, grab it and trot off with it to the high end once more.

(6) It is not, I suppose, in any way strange that the average Londoner should not recognize an otter, but the variety of guesses as to what kind of animal this might be came as a surprise to me. Mij was anything but an otter.

(7) He gave me some flowers on my birthday. He gave me a bunch of flowers on my birthday.

Thinking about Language

1. From the table below, make as many correct sentences as you can using *would* and */ or used to*, as appropriate. (Hint: First decide whether the words in italics show an action, or a state or situation, in the past.) Then add two or three sentences of your own to it.

Answer:

- (1) Emperor Akbar *used to* be fond of musical evenings.
- (2) Every evening we *used to* take long walks on the beach.
- (3) Fifty years ago, very few people *used to* own cars.
- (4) Till the 1980s, Shanghai *used to* have very dirty streets.
- (5) My uncle *would* spend his holidays by the sea.
- (6) My uncle *used to* take long walks on the beach.
- (7) My uncle *used to* be fond of musical evenings.

Question 2.

Noun Modifiers

(1) Look at these examples from the text, and say whether the modifiers (in italics) are nouns, proper nouns, or adjective plus noun.

- (1) An otter fixation
- (2) The iron railings
- (3) The Tigris marshes
- (4) The London streets
- (5) soft velvet fur
- (6) A four-footed soccer player

Answer:

- (1) Noun
- (2) Noun
- (3) Proper noun



- (4) Proper noun
- (5) Adjective plus noun
- (6) Adjective plus noun

(II) Given below are some nouns, and a set of modifiers (in the box). Combine the nouns and modifiers to make as many appropriate phrases as you can. (Hint: The nouns and modifiers are all from the texts in this book.)

Nouns:

temple – girls – triangle – dresses
person – thoughts – boys – roar
gifts – scream – farewell – expression
time – subject – landscape – handkerchief
crossing – flight- chatterbox – profession
physique – coffee – view – celebration

Modifiers:

college – rough – hundred – stone – ordinary
love – uncomfortable – white – slang – slack
rare – railroad – tremendous – family – marriage
Plump – invigorating – panoramic – heartbreaking – birthday
incorrigible – ridiculous loud – first – three

Answer:

Temple – white temple, stone temple, first temple
Person – incorrigible person, ridiculous person
Gifts – hundred gifts, ordinary gifts, birthday gifts
Time-college time, rough time, first time, family time .
Crossing – railroad crossing, first crossing
Physique – plump physique, ordinary physique
Girls-first three girls, incorrigible three girls, plump girls, college girls
Thoughts – incorrigible thoughts, uncomfortable thoughts, ridiculous thoughts, heartbreaking thoughts, first thoughts, ordinary thoughts
Scream – tremendous scream, loud scream
Subject – college subject, ordinary subject
Flight-rough flight, first flight
Coffee – invigorating coffee, ordinary coffee
Triangle – love triangle
Boys-college boys, incorrigible boys, rough boys, hundred boys
Farewell – college farewell, heartbreaking farewell
Landscape – bare landscape, rough landscape, white landscape
Chatterbox – incorrigible chatterbox
View – tremendous view, panoramic view, ordinary view
Dresses – hundred dresses, ordinary dresses, birthday dresses, marriage dresses
Roar – tremendous roar, loud roar
Expression – bare expression, slang expression, slack expression



Handkerchief – white handkerchief, ordinary handkerchief

Profession – family profession, first profession, ordinary profession

Celebration – tremendous celebration, family celebration, birthday celebration

3.

Question 1.

Match the words on the left with a word on the right. Some words on the left can go with more than one word on the right.

(1) a portion of – blood

(2) a pool of – cotton

(3) flakes of – stones

(4) a huge heap of – gold

(5) a gust of – fried fish

(6) little drops of – snow

(7) a piece of – water

(8) a pot of – wind

Answer:

(1) a portion of – fried fish

(2) a pool of – blood

(3) flakes of – snow

(4) a huge heap of – stones

(5) a gust of – wind

(6) little drops of – water

(7) a piece of – cotton

(8) a pot of – gold

(II) Use a bit of/ a piece of/a bunch of/a cloud of/a lump of with the italicised nouns in the following sentences. The first has been done for you as an example.

(1) My teacher gave me some advice. – My teacher gave me a bit of advice.

(2) Can you give me some clay, please ? –

(3) The information you gave was very useful. –

(4) Because of these factories, smoke hangs over the city. –

(5) Two stones rubbed together can produce sparks of fire. –

(6) He gave me some flowers on my birthday. –

Answer:

(1) My teacher gave me some advice. – My teacher gave me a bit of advice.

(2) Can you give me some clay, please ? – Can you give me a lump of clay, please ?

(3) The information you gave was very useful. The piece of information you gave was very useful.

(4) Because of these factories, smoke hangs over the city. Because of these factories, a cloud of smoke hangs over the city.

(5) Two stones rubbed together can produce sparks of fire. Two pieces of stones rubbed together can produce sparks of fire.

(6) He gave me some flowers on my birthday. He gave me a bunch of flowers on my birthday.



Class 10th English First Flight Poem Chapter 9 Fog Questions and Answers Gujarat Board

Fog Class 10 Questions and Answers GSEB

Thinking about the Poem

Question 1.

- (1) What does Sandburg think the fog is like ?
- (2) How does the fog come ?
- (3) What does 'it' in the third line refer to?
- (4) Does the poet actually say that the fog is like a cat ? Find three things that tell us that the fog is like a cat.

Answer:

(1) According to Sandburg, the fog is like a cat.

(2) The fog comes on little cat feet.

(3) In the third line 'it' refers to the fog that has covered the city and it seems as if it is looking over the city like a cat.

(4) No, the poet does not actually say that the fog is like a cat. However, he has used cat as a metaphor for describing the fog. He says that the fog comes on its little cat feet, which implies that the fog is like a cat as it comes slowly. He also says that the fog looks over the harbour and the city and then moves on, implying that the fog has covered the city and is sitting and looking at it, thereby again comparing it to a cat.

This is reiterated when he says that the fog looks over the city sitting on silent haunches. This also shows the reference to a cat as a cat always sits with its knees bent. Hence, he has compared the fog to a cat without actually saying so.

Question 2.

You know that a metaphor compares two things by transferring a feature of one thing to the other (See Unit 1).

- (1) Find metaphors for the following words and complete the table below. Also try to say how they are alike. The first is done for you.

Storm	Tiger	Pounces over the fields, growls
Train		
Fire		



School		
Home		

Answer:

Storm – Tiger – Pounces over the fields, growls

Train-Gush of wind-Very fast movement

Fire – Anger – Danger that surrounds both on the basis of their intensities

School – Gateway – Leads to adulthood and a life of responsibility

Home – Nest – Provides hospitable, loving environment

Question 3.

Does this poem have a rhyme scheme ? Poetry that does not have an obvious rhythm or rhyme is called 'free verse'.

Answer:

No, this poem does not have a rhyme scheme. It is written in free verse.

