



LESSON-3

THE BANYAN TREE

SOLUTIONS:

Answer the following questions:

Q.1. Why does the writer say that the banyan tree belonged to him ?

Ans :The writer says that the banyan tree belonged to him because his grandfather could no longer climb it.

Q.2. What does the author mean by the statement that the banyan tree was as old Dehradun itself?

Ans : By statement that the banyan tree was “as old as Dehradun itself “, means that it is much older than his grandfather, the house and grew from the time the city came to existence.

Q.3. How did the writer gain the confidence of the grey squirrel?

Ans: The writer gained the confidence of the grey squirrel by bringing him pieces of cake and biscuits.

Q.4. How did the writer make a “banyan tree library “?

Ans. The writer made the banyan tree a library with a cushion from the living room where he could spend his afternoon reading books like Treasure Island, Huckleberry Finn and the story of Dr.Dolittle.

Q.5. What is being described as the “Classic of the Indian Wilds”?

Ans : The fight between the mongoose and the cobra is being described as the “Classic of the Indian Wilds”

Q.6. How does the writer describe the fighting skill of mongoose and the cobra?

Ans :The writer describes the mongoose as a superb fighter , clever and aggressive. The Cobra too,as a skilful and experienced fighter.

Q.7. How did the cobra try to fight the mongoose at the initial stage of their fight?

Ans : At the initial stages of their fight, the cobra tried to fight the mongoose with a hissing defiance, his forked tongue darting in and out raising three of his six feet body of the ground, spreading his broad, spectacled hood. It swayed from side to side trying to make a false move.

Q.8. What happened to the crow and mynah during the third round of the fight between the cobra and the mongoose ?

Ans : When the cobra struck at the mongoose the crow and the mynah hurled themselves at him, only to collide heavily in mid-air and returned to the cactus plant.

Q.9 Why was the cobra weakening ?

Ans : The cobra was weakening because the mongoose had bitten him repeatedly.

10. Describe the death of the cobra.

Ans. After being repeatedly bitten by the mongoose, the cobra was weakening. The mongoose fearlessly walked up to the cobra, raised himself on his short legs and with a lightning snap had the big snake by the snout. The cobra writhed and lashed about in a frightening manner, and even coiled itself about the mongoose but to no avail. The little fellow hung grimly on, until the snake ceased to struggle.

Q. 11. What did the mongoose do to the dead cobra ?

Ans. The mongoose smelt along its quivering length, gripped it around the hood, and dragged it into the bushes.

Q. 12. What happened to grandmother's knitting needles ?

Ans. Grandmother's knitting needles which were missing, was found in a hole in the banyan tree with three white baby squirrels among the wool.

Q. 13 Write why the writer says that the fight between the cobra and the mongoose was to be a battle of champions.

Ans. Because the mongoose was a superb fighter, clever and aggressive and the cobra, too, was a skilful and experienced fighter.

Q. 14. Write what happened to the mynah and the crow during the cobra- mongoose fight.

Ans. During the cobra- mongoose fight the mynah and the crow tried to attacked the cobra without much success. The crow was struck with great force by the cobra and flung nearly twenty feet across the garden. It fluttered about for a while, then lay still. The mynah remained on the cactus plant and decided not to interfere in the fight again.

Q. 15. Narrate the ‘Strange Case of the grey Squirrel and the White Rat.’

Ans. In the old banyan tree many birds flock into its branches and smaller animals like squirrel and snail and butterflies lived on its numbers of twisting passages. Among them was the young grey squirrel who became the boy’s first friend. Then the squirrel became friend with a white rat and they used to go off together for little excursions among the branches. Few days later three baby squirrels were born and all of them were white in colour just like their father the white rat. It was quite exciting because the boy had never seen a white squirrel before and it is one of the wonder of nature. This is the strange case of the grey squirrel and the white rat.

