

CHAPTER

02

The Adventures of Toto

by Ruskin Bond

Chapter Sketch

'The Adventures of Toto' by Ruskin Bond is an interesting story of a mischievous pet monkey. The narrator's grandfather loved animals and he brings home a pet monkey called Toto. The complete story revolves around Toto's constant nuisance and how he gets into trouble with his adventures. Finally, he is sent back to the same place from where he came.

About the Characters

Toto A mischievous monkey who often gets into trouble with his antics.

Grandfather A pensioner who is fond of animals. Ultimately, he loses his patience with Toto and returns him.

Summary of the Chapter

Toto is Bought by the Narrator's Grandfather

The narrator's grandfather was very fond of animals. He bought a monkey from a Tonga-driver for ₹ 5 and named it Toto. First, when the grandfather saw Toto tied up to a feeding-trough, he looked very ill and ugly. As the grandfather had his own private zoo with many other animals, he kept the little monkey in it. Toto used his tail as a third hand. He used it to hang from a branch and for scooping up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands. Toto's presence was kept a secret from grandmother as she didn't like animals. It was kept secretly in a little closet.

Toto Travels Secretly with Grandfather

One day, when grandfather was going to Saharanpur to collect his pension, he decided to take Toto along with him as he did not want to leave him at home. A big black canvas kit bag was provided for Toto so that he could not escape. However, he was caught at Saharanpur station by the ticket collector and classified as a dog, so that grandfather had to also pay his fare.

Toto is Finally Accepted in the Family

Gradually grandmother accepted Toto in the house and he was put in the stable with Nana, the donkey. But, Toto teased Nana (donkey) so much that Nana never became friends with Toto.

Toto Nearly Half Boiled Himself Alive

In winters, Toto had an elaborate bathing ritual and enjoyed bathing with warm water. Due to this, once Toto almost boiled himself alive. A kettle had been put on the stove for making tea for the family. When nobody was there, he felt the water warm enough for a bath, so he climbed in. As the water kept heating up, he kept hopping in it until grandmother took him out, barely alive. Toto continued his antics by tearing clothes to shreds, breaking plates and other utensils etc.

Toto is Sold Back to Tonga Driver

Toto caused too much loss in the family. Finally grandfather realised that Toto was not the type of pet to be kept in the house. They could not tolerate him any more. At last, grandfather found the Tonga-driver and sold Toto back to him for ₹ 3 and heaved a sigh of relief.

» Chapter Highlights

- 1 A pretty monkey named Toto was bought by the narrator's grandfather for ₹ 5 from a tonga-driver and brought home to be kept in the grandfather's private zoo.
- 2 As Toto was very mischievous, he had to be kept separate from the other animals.
- 3 When the grandfather visited Saharanpur on some work, he carried Toto with him in the train concealed in a bag.
- 4 But, he was caught at Saharanpur when grandfather was going out of the station and so his fare had to be paid.
- 5 During winter, Toto bathed with warm water and also soaped himself as he had seen the narrator doing.
- 6 However, Toto once nearly boiled himself alive by climbing into the tea kettle for bathing while the kettle was on the stove for making tea.
- 7 Toto continued his antics by tearing clothes to shreds, breaking plates, other utensils etc.
- 8 Finally grandfather realised that Toto was not the type of pet to be kept in the house. He found the tonga-driver and sold Toto back to him for ₹ 3.

Word Meanings

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
PAGE 7	
feeding-trough	a container containing food for the animal
pickled	dried
wicked	could create mischief
scooping	picking
wrenched	pulled out violently
shreds	pieces torn apart
PAGE 8	
made his escape	escaped
servants' quarters	living place given to servants
very sociably	in a friendly manner
turnstile	exit gate
taken aback	shocked
annoyance	irritation
in vain	without success
qualify	fall in the category of
quadruped	any four footed animal
triumphant	jubilant
PAGE 9	
halter	rope/strap placed around her head for tying the animal
fastened on to	bit into
treat	pleasurable activity
cunningly test	cleverly feel
PAGE 10	
feelings would be hurt	would become unhappy
with nothing better to do	idle
spite grandmother	make grandmother miserable

TO VIEW COMPLETE CHAPTER PUBLISHED BY NCERT

Visit <https://goo.gl/c1oGKN> OR Scan the Code



NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Think About It (Page 11)

1 How does Toto come to grandfather's private zoo?

Or Why did the author's grandfather decide to buy Toto?

Or Why did grandfather decide to add Toto to his private zoo?

Ans. Toto was in the captivity of a tonga owner. Grandfather got sympathetic with the monkey and thought that his private zoo would be a better place for Toto. So, he purchased Toto for ₹ 5.

2 "Toto was a pretty monkey." In what sense is Toto pretty?

Or Why does the author call Toto 'a pretty monkey'?

Or Toto was a pretty monkey. Support your answer.

Or In what sense was Toto 'a pretty monkey'?

Ans. Toto was a pretty monkey because his bright eyes sparkled with mischief beneath the deep-set eyebrows and his teeth, which were a pearly white, were usually displayed in a smile that frightened the life out of elderly Anglo-Indian ladies. But, his hands looked dried-up as though they had been pickled in the sun for many years. Yet his fingers were quick and wicked. His tail, while adding to his good looks, served as a third hand. He could use it to hang from a branch and it was capable of scooping up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands.

3 Why does grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how? Why does the ticket collector insist on calling Toto a dog?

Or Why did grandfather decide to take Toto along with him to Saharanpur?

Ans. Toto was a real menace (problem) for every living soul in the household. Other animals in grandfather's zoo were at Toto's mercy even during night. So, grandfather decided to provide some relief to other animals in the zoo and thought of taking Toto to Saharanpur when he went there to collect his pension.

The ticket collector was following his rule book. As there seemed to be no rule for fixing a monkey's fare, he equated Toto with a dog. The ticket collector's ingenuity (cleverness) put together (categorised) all pets of a certain size as dogs.

4 How does Toto take a bath? Where has he learnt to do this? How does Toto almost boil himself alive?

Or How did Toto take a bath during winter evenings?

Or How does Toto take a bath? Where has he learnt to do this?

Ans. Toto takes bath in a tub of warm water. He puts his legs in the water one by one and applies soap as well. As monkeys are good at aping (imitating) others, so Toto has learnt the proper steps of bathing while watching the narrator doing the same. Toto is fond of bathing with warm water. So once, having tested the warmth of water in the kettle put on the stove for making tea, Toto climbs into the kettle. Probably he is not intelligent enough to understand the effects of boiling water, so he pops his head up and down in the kettle until grandmother comes and rescues him.

5 Why does the author say, "Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long"?

Ans. Though Toto was pretty and clever, he was very mischievous (naughty). He wrought a lot of damage in the house by breaking dishes, tearing up clothes, damaging walls and ripping (making holes) curtains. He also scared the visitors by tearing holes in their dresses. Furthermore, he didn't get along well with other animals in the house too.

One day, Toto crossed the limit by picking up a dish of *pullao* and running up a tree to eat it. When scolded, he threw the plate and broke it. That's when grandfather decided he had had enough of Toto as he couldn't bear the losses due to Toto's mischief.

Talk About It (Page 11)

1 Do you have a pet? Is your pet mischievous? Tell the class about it.

Ans. Yes, I have a pet dog that is still a puppy. He loves to play with all members of the family, especially being chased around the house. But, he is very mischievous as he tries to avoid bathing at all costs. When he sees water being but in a small tub by mummy for his bath, he runs away and hides under a sofa, bed or some chair. He has to be dragged out, kicking and yelping, (shouting) for getting cleaned up. Sometimes he tears books or magazines to shreds, as his teeth are growing, if he finds them on the floor. Altogether, he is an enjoyable pet despite being naughty.

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[4 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

1 He could use it to hang from a branch; and it was capable of scooping up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands.

- (i) Who is 'he' in the above extract?
 - (a) Grandfather
 - (b) Nana
 - (c) Toto, a monkey
 - (d) Ticket-collector
- (ii) What is referred to as 'it' in this extract?
 - (a) Toto's head
 - (b) Toto's tail
 - (c) Toto's heart
 - (d) Toto's hands
- (iii) Which word in the extract means the same as 'picking'?
 - (a) Hanging
 - (b) Leaving
 - (c) Lifting
 - (d) Scooping
- (iv) "It was capable of". What does "capable" mean?
 - (a) unable
 - (b) competent
 - (c) manage
 - (d) movable

Ans. (i) (c) Toto, a monkey (ii) (b) Toto's tail
(iii) (d) Scooping (iv) (b) competent

2 "Given time, I'm sure he could have tied the torn pieces of your blazer into a rope, and made his escape from the window!"

- (i) Who is speaking these words to whom in the above extract?
 - (a) The author to grandfather
 - (b) The grandfather to the author
 - (c) The author to his friend
 - (d) The friend's author to the author
- (ii) Who is referred to as 'he' in this extract?
 - (a) Toto
 - (b) Nana
 - (c) The author
 - (d) Grandfather
- (iii) Find a word from the extract which means the same as 'school uniform jacket or coat'.
 - (a) Rope
 - (b) Blazer
 - (c) Suit
 - (d) Shirt
- (iv) Which word in the extract is the opposite of 'capture'?
 - (a) Abscond
 - (b) Avoid
 - (c) Rope
 - (d) Capture

Ans. (i) (b) The grandfather to the author
(ii) (a) Toto
(iii) (b) Blazer
(iv) (d) Capture

3 To his surprise he found Nana, without apparent cause, pulling at her halter and trying to keep her head as far as possible from a bundle of hay.

- (i) What or who is referred to as 'Nana' in the above extract?
 - (a) Ticket-collector
 - (b) The author
 - (c) The male monkey
 - (d) The female monkey
- (ii) Why was she 'pulling at her halter'?
 - (a) Because she did not like it
 - (b) Because she wanted to be set free
 - (c) Because Toto was biting her long ears
 - (d) Because she had a habit of doing so
- (iii) Which word in the extract is a synonym of 'evident'?
 - (a) Surprise
 - (b) Bundle
 - (c) Apparent
 - (d) Obvious
- (iv) What inference do you get from the above extract?
 - (a) Toto was very mischievous
 - (b) Toto was very lazy
 - (c) Toto was very obedient
 - (d) Toto was bullied by the other pets

Ans. (i) (d) The female monkey
(ii) (c) Because Toto was biting her long ears
(iii) (c) Apparent
(iv) (a) Toto was very mischievous

4 The poor man was taken aback; but, with great presence of mind and much to Grandfather's annoyance, he said, "Sir, you have a dog with you. You'll have to pay for it accordingly."

- (i) Who was the 'poor man' in the above extract?
 - (a) Grandfather
 - (b) Author
 - (c) The ticket-collector
 - (d) Nana
- (ii) Why was grandfather annoyed?
 - (a) Because he would be unable to sleep
 - (b) Because he would have to keep Toto
 - (c) Because he would fall ill soon
 - (d) Because he would have to pay for Toto's train fare
- (iii) Find a word/phrase in the extract which means the same as 'startled'.
 - (a) Presence of mind
 - (b) Accordingly
 - (c) Taken aback
 - (d) Taken back
- (iv) What part of speech is the word 'but'?
 - (a) Preposition
 - (b) Conjunction
 - (c) Adverb
 - (d) Noun

Ans. (i) (c) The ticket-collector
(ii) (d) Because he would have to pay for Toto's train fare
(iii) (c) Taken aback
(iv) (b) Conjunction

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

1 Describe Toto in your own words.

Or Give a brief description of Toto.

Ans. Toto was a pretty monkey with bright eyes sparkling with mischief. His pearly white teeth frightened some people. His hands looked dried-up and his tail added to his good looks. All this hid a very naughty personality.

2 Why was Toto's presence kept a secret from grandmother?

Or Where was Toto kept immediately after grandfather got him? Why?

Ans. It was decided that Toto's presence should be kept a secret from grandmother until she was in a good mood because she always fussed (got annoyed) when grandfather brought home some new bird or animal. So he was kept in a closet tied securely to a peg in the author's room.

3 Give the names of grandfather's pets. Where did they live?

Ans. A tortoise, a pair of rabbits, a tame squirrel and a goat, besides Nana, the donkey, were grandfather's pets. They lived in a big cage in the servant's quarters, except Nana, who was kept in a stable. Toto, the monkey, was added to this.

4 How did Toto travel by train? What was the ticket collector's reaction?

Or How does Toto become a problem to grandfather while going to Saharanpur?

Or What happened when Toto was taken to Saharanpur?

Ans. Grandfather took Toto in a canvas bag by train to Saharanpur. At the station exit, when grandfather was producing his ticket, Toto suddenly poked his head out of the bag and gave the ticket collector a wide grin. So, the ticket collector insisted that grandfather must buy the ticket for the pet.

5 Who was Nana? How did Toto tease Nana?

Ans. Nana was the family donkey. When Toto was kept with her in the stable, at night Toto teased Nana by biting her long ears with his sharp little teeth. He disturbed her so much that she was not be able to eat the grass.

6 Why could Toto and Nana not become friends?

Ans. Toto was very naughty and wicked and could not stay still for a long time. Nana was a well-behaved and docile donkey. When they were together in the stable, Toto bit on her long ears making her annoyed with him. Thus, Toto and Nana could not become friends.

7 How was Toto a nuisance in the house?

Ans. Toto was a nuisance in the house because he was always up to some mischief.

He sometimes tore curtains, tore people's clothes, scratched wallpaper, broke dishes by throwing them and so on. He even fought with the pet donkey. With all these losses, he was surely a nuisance to all.

8 Why was Toto sold back to the tonga-driver?

Or Why did the grandfather sell Toto back to the tonga-driver?

Or Why did the grandfather give away Toto, the monkey?

Ans. Due to his naughty antics, Toto troubled everyone, including the pet donkey.

He caused monetary loss to the family because he broke dishes, tore clothes, curtains and wallpaper. So, he was sold back to the tonga-driver.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

1 What was a great treat for Toto? How did he enjoy it?

Ans. Toto was a playful pet. He loved to be on the doing side. He never got low in his energy. His energy knew no ending. He constantly performed the tricks and kept all the members of the family entertained. During the winter, Toto used to do some good artistic and exceptionally innovative acts. As he was a clever pet, it was expected of him. A great treat for Toto during cold winter evenings was a large bowl of warm water given to him for his bath. He enjoyed it thoroughly, first testing the temperature with his hand. If okay, he would gradually step into bath. He would then soap himself all over. When the water became cold, he would get out and run to the kitchen fire to dry himself. If anyone laughed at him during this performance, Toto would refuse to go on with his bath because his feelings had been hurt. Of course, it was a great fun Toto doing all this. It was just a tribute to his intelligence and all his acts were very lovable.

2 Grandfather was a great lover of animals. Describe.

Ans. When there is love with you, you do all the things that appeal to you. You bring joys in it, your passion in it and put the best of your energy in this. The same was with grandfather. He had a great feel for the animals and he was spirited and animated in keeping the pets. His love for the pets was just like an open sky where there is a lot of space for the countless stars. Despite the continuous and ongoing protest from the grandmother, he never let his habit go. This shows his open love for the pets. Grandfather was a great lover of animals because he had his own private zoo containing a variety of pet

animals including a tortoise, a pair of rabbits, a tame squirrel and, a pet goat and a donkey, besides Toto the monkey. He frequently bought animals, facing the anger of his wife, who did not like them. He was pleased with Toto's cleverness. He even looked after his pets by visiting them at night and keeping Toto separate from them after observing his naughtiness.

3 Toto's mischiefs are beyond imagination. Support your answer.

Or 'Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long.' Explain, giving examples from the text.

Ans. Toto could not be kept for long due to three main reasons: he destroyed the family's possessions at home, annoyed the animals by teasing them and got into unnecessary trouble.

His mischiefs included

- (i) He damaged the wall when he wrenched out the peg he was tied to.
- (ii) He tore the author's school blazer to shreds.
- (iii) He did not allow the other pets to sleep at night.
- (iv) He forced the grandfather to pay his railway fare, by popping his head out of the bag he was being carried in, just at the exit gate at Saharanpur station.
- (v) He teased the family donkey by biting her long ears.
- (vi) He almost killed himself by climbing into a tea kettle for having a bath while the kettle was being heated on the stove.
- (vii) He ate a dish full of *pullao* by throwing plates at the family and running out onto a tree to escape them, finally breaking the bowl also.
- (viii) He tore curtains and other clothes of the family, besides damaging other stuffs belonging to the family.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Question

Read the following extract carefully and choose the correct option.

- 1 The peg in the wall had been wrenched from its socket, and my school blazer, which had been hanging there, was in shreds.
- (i) Who is referred to as 'my' in the above extract?
(a) Grandfather (b) Toto (c) Author (d) Nana
- (ii) Why were all the actions mentioned in the extract done and by whom?
(a) Done by Nana as he was mischievous
(b) Done by the author as he was free
(c) Done by Grandfather as he wanted to pass his time
(d) Done by Toto as he was very mischievous
- (iii) Find a word from the extract which is a synonym of 'pieces'.
(a) Socket (b) Peg (c) Shreds (d) Parts
- (iv) On the basis of the above extract, can you say Toto was naughty?
(a) Yes (b) No
(c) Yes, but to some extent (d) Can't say

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 2 Why did grandfather buy Toto?
- 3 Initially, Toto was hidden in a cupboard, away from everybody's eyes. Why?
- 4 How did Toto escape from the closet?
- 5 How was the author's grandmother different from his grandfather?
- 6 Was the grandfather's decision to take Toto with him to Saharanpur correct or not? Justify.
- 7 Why did the ticket collector not charge for the tortoise?
- 8 How was Toto's mischief with the family donkey discovered?
- 9 What would Toto do if someone laughed at him while he was bathing?
- 10 Why did Toto enter the large kitchen kettle?
- 11 Why was the decision taken to sell back Toto?
- 12 Why was Toto sold back at a lesser price than he was purchased at?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 13 How can you say that Toto was an extraordinary animal? Give instances from the text to prove your point.
- 14 Justify whether it is advisable to keep a monkey like Toto as a pet in the house.
- 15 Describe the incident involving Toto with a full bowl of *pullao*.
- 16 How was Toto an expensive deal for the author's family? Did it teach the grandfather a lesson?
- 17 Describe Toto's bath in the kitchen kettle which almost killed him.
- 18 What antics of Toto made him unwelcome in the author's home?