

ENGLISH -7
SUPPLEMENTARY READER
CHAPTERS 1 TO 3

BY: EMMANUEL VARGHESE

.....

CHAPTER 1
THE TINY TEACHER

Comprehension Check

Question 1. The story of an ant's life sounds *almost untrue*.

The italicized phrase means

- (i) Highly exaggerated.
- (ii) Too remarkable to be true.
- (iii) not based on facts.

(ii) Too remarkable to be true.

Question 2. Complete the following sentences.

- (i) An ant is the smallest ...
 - (ii) We know a number of facts about an ant's life because.....
-
- (i) An ant is the smallest, the commonest and the wisest insect.
 - (ii) We know a number of facts about an ant's life because people have kept ants as pets and have watched their daily behaviour closely.

Question 3. In what ways is an ant's life peaceful?

An ant's life is peaceful because each does its work intelligently and bravely and never fights with other members of its group. Each member has a designated place to stay and a definite work to do. A soldier ant never goes out to search for food and similarly a worker never enters the domain of a soldier ant. No worker or soldier has ever harmed any grub. Each one loyally and diligently does his duty and relentlessly carries on with their work peacefully. They know sharing and contribution and do not interfere in each other's work.

Comprehension Check

Question 1. How long does it take for a grub to become a complete ant?

It takes two or three weeks for a grub to become a cocoon. After another three weeks the cocoon breaks and a complete ant appears.

Question 2. Why do the worker ants carry the grubs about?

The worker ants carry them about daily for airing, exercise and sunshine.

Question 3. What jobs are new ants trained for?

The new ants are trained as workers, soldiers, builders, cleaners, etc.

Question 4. Name some other creatures that live in anthills.

Some other creatures that live in anthills are beetles, lesser breeds of ants, and the greenfly.

Question 5. Mention three things we can learn from the 'tiny teacher'. Give reasons for choosing these items.

Though ants are very small and unassertive they are undoubtedly great teachers for our life. We can learn team work as ants do their work by sharing and contributing without interfering in each other's work.

We can learn hard work as ants spend their most of time in doing their respective jobs without hesitation.

We can learn loyalty, power of cohesive work and discipline as ants live a disciplined life and always follow the rules of their group and are loyal towards it.

Exercise

Discuss the following topics in groups.

Question 1.

- (i) What problems are you likely to face if you keep ants as pets?
 - (ii) When a group of bees finds nectar, it informs other bees of its location, quantity, etc. through dancing. Can you guess what ants communicate to their fellow ants by touching one another's feelers?
-
- (i) We may face several problems in keeping ants as pets.
They are too tiny to keep a watch on. They may bite and cause an itchy skin. Making a suitable and a safe home for them would not be practically possible.
 - (ii) Ants appear to greet each other when they move in a single file but actually they touch the feelers of each other to inform them about the location of food.

Question 2. Complete the following poem with words from the box below. Then recite the poem.

Soldiers live in barracks
And birds in _____,
Much like a snake that rests in a
_____. No horse is able
To sleep except in a _____.
And a dog lives well,
Mind you, only in a _____. To
say 'hi' to an ant, if you will,
You may have to climb an _____.
Hole, kennel, nests, anthill, stable

Soldiers live in barracks and bird in
nests,
Much like a snake that rests
in a hole. No horse is able
to sleep except in a stable.
And a dog lives well,

Mind you, only in a kennel.
To say 'hi' to an ant, if you will,
you may have to climb an anthill

-

CHAPTER 2

BRINGING UP KARI

Exercises

Answer the following questions.

Question 1. The enclosure in which Kari lived had a thatched roof that lay on thick tree stumps. Examine the illustration of Kari's pavilion on page 8 and say why it was built the way.

Kari's pavilion was built of hatched roof that lay on thick tree stumps because it (the elephant) was very tall and the thatch would not fall when Kari bumped against the poles.

Question 2. Did Kari enjoy his morning bath in the river? Give a reason for your answer.

Yes, Kari enjoyed his morning bath in the river as he lay down on the sand bank and let his friend rub his back and also lay in the river water for a long time. He squealed with pleasure when water was rubbed down his back.

Question 3. Finding good twigs for Kari took a long time. Why?

Finding good twigs for Kari took a long time because his friend had to climb all kinds of trees to get the most delicate and tender twigs. Also, if a twig was mutilated an elephant would not touch it. So, one had to be very sharp hatchet to cut down these twigs which took half an hour to sharpen it. It was not an easy job.

Question 4. Why did Kari push his friend into the stream?

Kari pushed his friend into the stream because a boy was lying flat on the bottom of the river. Kari wanted his friend to save the life of that boy, so he pushed his friend into the stream.

Question 5. Kari was like a baby. What are the main points of comparison?

Kari was like a baby because he had to be trained to be good just like a baby. He had to be taught when to sit down, when to walk, when to go fast, and when to go slow. When he was naughty, he needs to be scolded and if not, he would do more mischief.

Question 6. Kari helped himself to all the bananas in the house without anyone noticing it. How did he do it?

Kari stole the bananas from the table near the window in the dining room. He put his trunk through the window very much like a snake and disappeared with all the bananas without anyone noticing it.

Question 7. Kari learnt the commands to sit and to walk. What were the instructions

for each command?

When his friend pulled his ear and said 'Dhat', Kari sat down and when he pulled his trunk forward and said 'Mali', Kari walked.

Question 8. What is “the master call”? Why is it the most important signal for an elephant to learn?

The master call is a strange hissing, howling sound, as if a snake and a tiger were fighting each other. It is the most important signal for an elephant because whenever the master was in trouble, one master call would bring the elephant near him and help him out of danger.

CHAPTER 3

THE DESERT

Comprehension Check

Question 1. From the first paragraph

- (i) pick out two phrases which describe the desert as most people believe it is;
- (ii) Pick out two phrases which describe the desert as specialists see it.

Which do you think is an apt description, and why?

- (i) Two phrases which describe the desert as most people believe it is:
'dry, hot, waterless and without shelter.'
'an endless stretch of sand where no rain falls and, therefore, no vegetation grows.'

- (ii) Two phrases which describe the desert as specialists see it:
'a beautiful place'

'home of a variety of people, animals and plants'

I think both the descriptions are apt in their own way as most people describe it as what they see on television or read over internet while specialists make their conclusion based on their interests and experiences after living in the desert.

Question 2. The phrases on the left in the following box occur in the text. Match each of them with a phrase on the right.

(i)	an endless stretch of sand	fertile place with water and plants in a desert
(ii)	waterless and without shelter	not visible because the grass is thick
(iii)	an oasis	nothing but sand as far as one can see
(iv)	hidden by a cover of grass	no water and no shade

(i)	an endless stretch of sand	nothing but sand as far as one can see
(ii)	waterless and without shelter	no water and no shade
(iii)	an oasis	fertile place with water and plants in a desert
(iv)	hidden by a cover of grass	not visible because the grass is thick

Comprehension Check

Question 1. A camel can do without water for days together. What is the reason given in the text?

A camel can do without water for days together because they sweat very little. Camels can stand high body temperature, they don't need to sweat and therefore can retain the water they drink for long periods of time.

Question 2. How do the smaller desert animals fulfill their need for water?

The smaller animals fulfill their need for water by burrowing underground during the hot day and come out at night to eat. Some of them eat other animals and get the water they need from the moisture in the meat. Others eat plants and seeds and get the water they need from plant juices.

Question 3. In a desert the temperature rises during the day and falls rapidly at night. Why?

In a desert the temperature rises during the day and falls rapidly at night because of the absence of moisture in desert lands. The moisture present in the air acts as a blanket and protects the earth's surface from the hot rays of the sun but the moisture in air is absent in desert. Therefore, the land gets heated up quickly during the day due to the sun's rays and cools down rapidly at night.

Exercises

Do the following activities in groups.

Question 1. Describe a desert in your own way. Write a paragraph and read it aloud to your classmates.

A desert is generally without water and vegetation but it is as beautiful as a forest. A desert may be too hot or too cold but plants and animals there have learned to survive in hot and dry and cold conditions. Deserts also have a different kind of vegetation.

Question 2. Go to the library and collect information about the lifestyle of people in desert areas—their food, clothes, work, social customs, etc. Share this information with the group.

Temperatures rise and fall to the extremes in deserts. Rainfall varies every year. Ponds are the only sources of water for animals and human beings. Life is difficult for these dwellings however they live life with rich customs and traditional values. Tourists through these places to know more about such cultures.

Woodwork, wool-weaving, leather work, jewellery-making, cloth-dyeing, embroidery,

snake- charming, agriculture (in a few parts), herd- grazing are the major occupations of these people. Folk music and dance are the living traditions of Thar.

