



BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034

SUBJECT: - ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

CLASS-IX

MOMENTS (Supplementary Reader)

The Adventures of Toto

Dear Students

This E lesson caters to the second chapter of the book MOMENTS (Supplementary Reader). Before you go through it, ensure you have read the story thoroughly from the link shared in this E lesson and also complete the graphic organizer. A brief introduction has been given for your better understanding.

ABOUT THE STORY

The narrator's Grandfather had a private zoo. He bought a baby monkey from a tonga-driver for five rupees and added it to the zoo. This new pet was called Toto. He was a pretty monkey with bright and mischievous eyes. He was so naughty that he would frighten people by showing his white teeth. He had dry hands with quick fingers and he would use his tail as his third hand.



Toto looked cute but his presence was kept a secret from the narrator's Grandmother because she did not approve of any new additions to the already existing pets. Consequently, Toto was put in a close to opening into the narrator's bedroom wall and

was tied to a peg fastened into the wall. However, the naughty monkey did not stay there for long. He tore off the ornamental wall-paper and pulled out the peg. He also tore the narrator's school blazer in shreds.

Grandfather was so fond of Toto that instead of being angry, he was pleased with this destruction. He said that Toto was so clever that if he had got more time, he would have tied the torn pieces of the blazer to make a rope and used it to escape from the window. After this, Toto was put in a big cage in the servants' quarters. A tortoise, a pair of rabbits, a tame squirrel and the narrator's pet goat already lived peacefully over here. But the mischievous monkey troubled all these animals at night and did not let them sleep.

So, Grandfather decided to take him to Saharanpur with him where he had to go to collect his pension. The narrator could not accompany his Grandfather on this trip.

A big black canvas kit-bag was used to carry Toto to Saharanpur from Dehradun. Some straw was put at the bottom of this bag to make it comfortable.

The bag was strong enough to prevent Toto from escaping or getting his hands out. So, when he tried to come out of the bag, he could only make it roll about on the floor and jump with it into the air. This quaint sight drew the attention of onlookers at the Dehradun platform.

On reaching Saharanpur, Toto suddenly poked his head out of the bag and grinned widely at the ticket-collector when Grandfather was producing his ticket. The collector initially got a shock but after regaining his composure, asked Grandfather to pay for the animal. To the annoyance of Grandfather, the ticket-collector referred to the monkey as a dog. Grandfather made an attempt to convince the collector but had to finally pay three rupees as fare for Toto. Irritated, Grandfather took out his pet tortoise from his pocket and asked the collector to charge for it as well. Funnily enough, the ticket-collector examined the tortoise closely and said that there were no charges to be paid since that pet was not a dog.

Finally, Toto was accepted as a pet by the narrator's Grandmother and he was given a comfortable home in the stable. He was to stay there with the family donkey, Nana. However, on the first night of his stay, Toto hung on to the donkey's long ears with his sharp teeth and never ever became friends with him.

Toto used to love hot water baths in winters. His bath ritual was a sight. Grandmother would give him a large bowl of warm water and Toto would first test its temperature with his hand. Then he would step into it gradually, one foot after the other. He would sit comfortably with water up to his neck and rub soap all over himself with his hands or feet. When the water would cool down, he would run out quickly and reach the kitchen fire to dry himself. In case anyone laughed at him during this act, he would get hurt and refuse to take a bath.

One day Toto almost boiled himself alive while trying to bathe. He saw a large kitchen kettle left on the fire to boil for tea. He removed the lid and found the water warm enough for a bath. He got in with his head sticking out from the open kettle. A little while later, the water began to boil and Toto raised himself but sat down again since it was cold outside.

Toto's monkey business continued and it was decided that he could no longer be kept a pet. This happened when he was caught stuffing himself with rice (*pulao*) laid at the table at lunch-time. Grandmother screamed at him when she saw this. Toto threw a plate at her and a glass of water in the face of one of the aunts who tried to shoo him away.

On Grandfather's arrival, Toto picked up the dish and got out to sit in the branches of the jackfruit tree. He stayed there all afternoon and ate slowly till he finished all the rice. Then, to irritate Grandmother; he threw the dish from the tree thus breaking it into pieces.

The middle-class family of the narrator could not afford these frequent losses. So, Grandfather sold him back to the tonga-driver for three rupees, thus incurring a loss of two rupees.

Read the story from the link <http://www.ncert.nic.in/ncerts//iemo102.pdf> and complete the graphic organizer given below:

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Toto was bought by the Grandfather

- For Rs. 3/-, Tonga-driver

Toto was attractive

- White pearly teeth...

Toto was mischievous

- Broke the plates, tore the blazer

Toto proved expensive

- Was sold back to the Tonga-driver

Questions for Discussion

Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 words)

- Q1. How did Toto come to Grandfather's house?
- Q2. Why was Toto kept as a secret from the Grandmother?
- Q3. Explain, "Toto was a pretty monkey."
- Q4. Why was Toto sold back to the Tonga-driver?

Long Answer Type Questions (100-150 words)

- Q1. Toto proved to be an 'expensive deal' for the Grandfather. Elucidate with reference to the text.
- Q2. Justify that Toto was a mischievous monkey.

Vocabulary Check

Choose the words given in the box and complete the blanks by using appropriate words which we commonly use as descriptive words for 'very'.

Expensive	Exceptional	Serene
Sweltering	Thrilled	
Immaculate	Innovative	Accurate
Timid	Exhausted	

- a. Very clean _____
- b. Very costly _____
- c. Very creative _____
- d. Very shy _____
- e. Very hot _____
- f. Very tired _____
- g. Very excited _____
- h. Very calm _____
- i. Very exact _____
- j. Very Special _____
