

Ch 1 - A Triumph of Surgery

- James Herriot

Extract Based Questions

1. I was really worried about Tricki this time. I had pulled up my car when I saw him in the street with his mistress and I was shocked at his appearance. He had become ~~too~~ ^{too} hugely fat, like a heated ~~sausage~~ ^{sausage} with a leg at each corner. His eyes, bloodshot and ~~other~~ ^{other} shrivelling, stared straight ahead and his tongue loll'd from his jaws.

(a) Who is "I" referred in the above extract?

(b) Why was he worried?

(c) Which word in the above extract means the same as 'excessively'?

(d) Why was the author shocked?

A (a) "I" refers to the veterinary doctor who is the narrator of the story.

(b) He was worried to see the appearance of Mrs. Pumphrey's dog.

(c) 'hugely'.

(d) The author was shocked to see Tricki in the street.

2. Mrs. Pumphrey hastened to explain, "He was so listless, Mr. Herriot. He seemed to have no

energy. I thought he must be suffering from malt malnutrition so I have been giving him some little extras between meals to build him up, some malt and cod-liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks at night to make him sleep - nothing much really."

- (a) What did Mrs. Pumphrey want to explain and to whom?
- (b) Why was she giving little extra between meals to 'him'?
- (c) Which word in the above extract means the same as 'lacking energy and enthusiasm'?
- (d) What did Mrs. Pumphrey think?

- A (a) Mrs. Pumphrey wanted to explain the critical condition of his pet dog, Tricki to Dr. Harriet.
- (b) She was giving Tricki malt, cod-liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks to make him energetic.
- (c) 'listless'.
- (d) Mrs. Pumphrey thought Tricki was suffering from malnutrition.

3. It was temptation to keep Tricki on a permanent guest, but I knew Mrs. Pumphrey was suffering and after a fortnight, felt compelled to phone and tell her that the little dog had recovered and was awaiting collection.

- (a) Why was it a temptation to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?
- (b) What was informed to Mrs. Pumphrey on phone?

(c) Which word in the above extract means 'a period of fifteen days'?

(d) Was Dr. Harriot a greedy Doctor?

A (a) It was a temptation to keep Tricky on as a permanent guest in the hospital because Dr. Harriot and his partners didn't want to lose the treat, i.e., two dozen fresh eggs and bottles of wine sent by Mrs. Pumphrey.

(b) Mrs. Pumphrey was informed that the doctor saved the life of her dog.

(c) 'Fortnight'.

(d) Yes, as he kept Tricky in Temptation.

Short Answer Type Questions

1 Why did Mrs. Pumphrey make a frantic call to Mr. Harriot /

What was Tricky's ailment? How did it worry Mrs. Pumphrey?

A Mrs. Pumphrey had a dog named Tricky. Indirectly she was responsible for the dog's illness. She gave him little extra between meals, i.e., malt, cod-liver oil, etc. He was not given any physical exercise. So, the dog fell ill and started vomiting also. It made Mrs. Pumphrey so much worried that she had to call the veterinary surgeon, Dr. Harriot for his treatment.

2. How & would you describe the behaviour of the rich women Mrs. Pumphrey's, pampering and overfeeding Tricky?

A Mrs. Pumphrey behaved in a very silly and thoughtless manner by over pampering Tricky. Indirectly, she was responsible for his ill health. It was totally a waste of money. But this behaviour is very common among rich people. It is a general problem of those who live alone.

3. What suggestions were given by Dr. Harriot to Mrs. Pumphrey at the initial stage?

A Dr. Harriot suggested Mrs. Pumphrey to cut down on the sweet things and not to give extra food to him. He also suggested her to give him more exercises and keep him on a very strict diet.

4. Why was Mrs. Harriot tempted to keep Tricky as a permanent guest?

A Mrs. Pumphrey used to send lots of things were consumed by the doctor and the other members of the hospital. Hence, Mr. Harriot was tempted to keep Tricky as his permanent guest.

5. Why was the narrator shocked at Tricky's appearance?

- A The narrator was shocked at Tricky's appearance because he had become very fat. His blood red and watery eyes gazed straight. His tongue loll'd from his jaws.
6. Do you agree that Tricky was in better hands of the surgeon who offered him no food but plenty of water, than with rich mistress?
- A Yes, Tricky was in better hands as the surgeon treated him well. He gave him the diet as per his need. He avoided over-feeding as his affectionate and emotional mistress did.
7. Why was Dr. Herriot Condident that Tricky will be in hospital soon
- A Dr. Herriot was shocked to see Tricky's condition. He knew that the latter would soon be ~~his~~ hospitalised as he was unable to move.
8. Why was Dr. Herriot worried about Tricky?
- A Dr. Herriot was worried about Tricky, because the latter was overnight and unable to walk.
9. Why was the entire staff of Mrs. Pumphrey at work while Tricky was going to hospital?
- A The entire staff of Mrs. Pumphrey was at work while Tricky was going to hospital, in order to supply all necessary items of Tricky to hospital.

10. In the end of the lesson Mrs. Pumphrey says "This is a Triumph of Surgery." Why?

A Mrs. Pumphrey's dog, Tricky had fallen ill and had to be admitted for treatment to Dr. Harriot's hospital. Dr. Harriot gave him a lot of water and exercise which helped Tricky to recover. When Mrs. Pumphrey went to collect him, Tricky jumped into her lap and started licking her face. Seeing him fully recovered, Mrs. Pumphrey called it a triumph in surgery.

Long Answer Type Questions

1 Mrs. Pumphrey was extremely fond of her dog. Elucidate with examples from the text?

A Mrs. Pumphrey was very fond of her dog. She gave him five star treatment. She provided him with delicious food to eat. Rather she overfed him by giving him little extra between meals. She felt miserable when Tricky was hospitalized. She sent eggs and wine for his speedy recovery. Tears of joy were seen in her eyes after seeing the dog recovered.

2. How can you say that Mrs. Pumphrey was a rich lady?

A Mrs. Pumphrey was a rich lady who had a small

dog, named Tricky. She had pampered the dog by providing him things like a raincoat of wet days, a whole wardrobe, full of tweed coats. There were separate bowls like breakfast bowl, lunch bowl, supper bowl, etc. or his different meals. She had a lot of servants and maids to take care of him and to serve Tricky's favorite cushions, toys and rubber rings. Besides, she owned a chauffeur driven long, black car. All these things suggest that she was a rich lady.

5. Why was Tricky happy in the doctor's house?

A In the doctor's house, Tricky was placed in a warm box next to the other dogs. Then he was given only water and no food. On the second day, he met the other dogs but showed not interest. By the fourth day he ran towards his food and joined the other dogs in their friendly, energetic struggles. He discovered the joys of being squashed and being an accepted member of the gang. He fought for his share at meals and hunted rats at night.

6. What treatment was given to Tricky by Dr. Harriet?

A Tricky fell ill. Dr. Harriet was called upon. When he looked at the dog, he immediately made out that Tricky did not need any medicine. He was sick because he had taken excess food. So, he

gave little food and stressed on lots of water and exercise which Tricki was not used to. He was served food with other dogs and was made to run and play also with them. He joined them in their friendly scrimmages. Gradually he learnt the art of hunting rats in the old hen, horse, fighting like a tiger for his share at mealtimes. In other words, he was leading a normal life which he never had done with Mrs. Pumphrey. Soon Tricki became normal without taking any medicine.

Theme

The theme of the story is about the blind love which we possess for the one whom we love the most. Mrs. Pumphrey had no idea that her blind and extreme love for her dog Tricki took him to trouble. Excessive love made Tricki sick and became a reason for his illness. It can be concluded after reading the story that excessive love can take the form of extreme consequences.