



TOPIC- MIJBIL THE OTTER

CLASS 10- OCTOBER 2022

READING CONTENT

GLOSSARY

1. Otter-a semiaquatic fish-eating mammal of the weasel family, with an elongated body, dense fur, and webbed feet.
2. Armour- provide (someone) with emotional, social, or other defences.
3. Mole-a small burrowing mammal with dark velvety fur, a long muzzle, and very small eyes, feeding mainly on worms, grubs, and other invertebrates.
4. Plunging- falling steeply.
5. Chromium- a hard white metal used in stainless steel and other alloys.
6. Trickled- (of a liquid) flow in a small stream.
7. Squawk-a loud, harsh, or discordant noise made by a bird or a person.
8. Craning- stretching out one's body or neck in order to see something.
9. Affront- an action or remark that causes outrage or offence.

LEARN YOUR LANGUAGE

ANIMAL IDIOMS 1

 As busy as a bee Extremely busy	 Cash cow A good way to make money
 Loaded for bear Prepared for problems	 Dog-eat-dog Very competitive
 Eager beaver A person who is excited about doing certain work	 Fat cat A highly placed, well-paid executive
 A bird's eye view The appearance of smt seen from above	 Bull in a china shop A person with no tact who upsets others or upsets plans
 Hold your horses Wait and be patient	 Get the lion's share Get the greatest percentage
 Ants in your pants You can't stay still because you're very agitated, excited, or worried	 The world is your oyster You have many good opportunities in front of you

ANIMAL IDIOMS 2

 Raining cats and dogs Raining heavily	 Fish out of water Someone feels out of place
 Catnap A short sleep	 At a snail's pace Moving very slowly
 One-trick pony Someone who has only a single talent	 Like shooting fish in a barrel Very easy to catch or trick
 To be dog tired To be exhausted	 Rat race Fierce, competitive struggle for power, position,...
 Kangaroo court A self-appointed group that decides what to do to someone who is supposed to have done wrong	





THEME: Companionship, humour & adventure

The theme of the story is the bond between the pet otter and the author share. The story is about the experiences that the poet has with the otter. The story highlights how the otter was quick to fill the void left behind because of the death of the poet's dog. It also humorously highlights how the people in London were so unfamiliar with the animal and made all kinds of assumptions about who he was. The story talks about how the otter changed the poet's life. He takes the readers through the journey and his experiences with the otter. The story ends with the wild assumptions that the people in London make about who the animal really is. They make all kinds of guesses about who it is like a seal, a squirrel, and some called him a beaver. The best question was from a labourer who asked what that was supposed to be. The story about the bond is humorous and heartwarming.

SETTING- Basra, Iraq & Camusfearna, Scotland

NARRATION- 1st person narrative

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- 1. Gavin Maxwell:** Maxwell was a naturalist and author, best known for his work with otters. Maxwell's famous book *Ring of Bright Water* (1960) describes how, in 1956, he brought a smooth-coated otter back from Iraq and raised it in Camusfearna at Sandaig Bay on the west coast of Scotland. He took the otter, called Mijbil, to the London Zoological Society, where it was decided that this was a previously unknown sub-species of a smooth-coated otter. Maxwell named it Mijbil. He was thrilled to own an otter as a pet. He had extreme love for pets and his life changed due to the presence of the otter. Maxwell was also caring enough to let his pet sleep with him on his bed. He was extremely cautious about food and drink of the pet and proved to be a good teacher who taught Mijbil the art of following without a lead, opening a tap, etc. Maxwell was grateful towards the air hostess who allowed him to keep the otter with him during the flight.
- 2. Mijbil, the Otter:** The otter, Mijbil, was in fact, of a species previously unknown to science. At last, it was christened *Lutrogale perspicillata* Maxwell by zoologists. He resembled like a very small imaginary dragon of the Middle Ages. It was like a chocolate brown mole. Mijbil was an intelligent, friendly and fun loving animal. The main characteristic of an otter is to extend and spread every drop of water about the place. A bowl full of water must be overturned. He would sit in and splash in until it flows. The real game which Mijbil enjoyed most was juggling with small objects with his paws lying on his back. His favourite toys for his play were marbles.



MCQS

1. What did Mijbil do during the second night?

- (a) Came on to Maxwell's bed soon after midnight.
- (b) Run away from Maxwell's house
- (c) Slip away from Maxwell's hand
- (d) None of the Above

2. When the author saw the otter for the first time, it resembled a _

- (a) dog
- (b) dragon
- (c) cat
- (d) seal

3. Why were Otters known as Maxwell Otters?

- (a) they were found by Maxwell
- (b) they are found at a place called Maxwell
- (c) Its the species name in science
- (d) None of the Above

4. Maxwell called the _ "the very queen of her kind".

- (a) airhostess
- (b) driver
- (c) Mijbil
- (d) Pilot



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DPS, MYAPUR