Summary

*In the story, the narrator highlights the emotional bond shared by his wife and their pet bear Bruno. He got the baby bear in an accident and presented it to his wife. She named the bear ‘Bruno’ and treated it like a baby. The bear was fed milk with a bottle and later it started eating different food items. He enjoyed eating and drinking everything and anything. Bruno was attached to everyone including their tenant’s children and their pet Alsatian dogs. It would play, run around the house and even sleep in their bed.*  
*One day, accidentally, it ate a poison - Barium carbonate which had been kept in the library to kill mice and rats. Bruno was under a fit of paralysis and was taken to a veterinary doctor. He was injected twice and finally, revived. After a while, Bruno resumed eating normally. In another incident, he drank a gallon of old engine oil which the narrator had kept to fight a termite attack. This did not have any ill - effect on Bruno.*  
*As days passed, Bruno grew bigger but remained as sweet and playful. The narrator’s wife changed his name to ‘Baba’ which was a Hindustani word for ‘a small boy’. He had learned a few tricks too. When commanded ‘Baba, wrestle’ or ‘Baba, box’, he would tackle and overpower the person. When ordered ‘Baba, hold gun’ he would point a stick at the person. When asked ‘Baba, where’s baby?’ he would take out the piece of wood and would cradle it affectionately like a baby. As he was big now, he had to be chained because he could harm the tenant’s children.*  
*The narrator, his son and their friends advised the narrator’s wife to send Baba to a zoo as he was too big to be kept as a pet. She gave in and finally, after taking consent from the zoo incharge, they packed Baba in a cage and sent him to the zoo at Mysore. Everyone missed him but felt relieved as it was not comfortable to keep him at home. The narrator’s wife missed Baba immensely. She cried and worried about him. She wrote letters to the zoo incharge to ask about Baba’s well - being. They replied that Baba was fine but did not eat and remained sad much like her. She would ask her friends visiting Mysore to visit Baba. Everyone said that he was sad and appeared thin. After three months had passed, the narrator’s wife convinced him to take her to meet Baba. Everyone had predicted that the bear would not recognize her but she had not even reached the cage when Baba recognised her. He stood on his two paws and was delighted to see her. She petted Baba and fed him his favourite food. She spent three hours there until the visiting hours ended and left teary - eyed. She requested the zoo incharge to allow them to take Baba back for which they had to take permission from the Superintendent in Bangalore. As they got the required permission, Baba was put in a cage, the cage kept on top of their car and Baba was brought back home.*  
*They got a special island made for Baba to live on. It was surrounded by a deep dry pit. Baba was provided with his belongings, a box to sleep in, straw to keep him warm, his stick and piece of wood to play with.*   
*The narrator’s wife would visit Baba on the island by swinging on a rope tied to a mango tree. She would make the big bear sit in her lap for hours and would pat him affectionately.*

Question and Answers

**Answer the following questions.**

Q1. “I got him for her by accident.”   
(i) Who says this?   
(ii) Who do ‘him’ and ‘her’ refer to?   
(iii) What is the incident referred to here?

A.   
(i) The narrator says this.   
(ii) ‘him’ refers to the bear and ‘her’ refers to the narrator’s wife.   
(iii) The incident referred to here is when the narrator’s companion shot a bear dead and they found that the baby bear was alive. They caught the baby bear and took it along with them.

Q2. “He stood on his head in delight.”   
(i) Who does ‘he’ refer to?   
(ii) Why was he delighted?

A.   
(i) ‘he’ refers to Baba.   
(ii) Baba was delighted to see the narrator’s wife.

Q3. “We all missed him greatly: but in a sense we were relieved.”   
(i) Who does ‘we all’ stand for?   
(ii) Who did they miss?   
(iii) Why did they nevertheless feel relieved?

A.   
(i) ‘we all’ stands for the narrator, his wife, his son, the alsatian dogs and the tenant’s children.   
(ii) They missed Baba.   
(iii) They nevertheless felt relieved because Baba was a big bear now and keeping him at home was inconvenient for them.

**Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words each.**

Q1. On two occasions Bruno ate/drank something that should not be eaten/ drunk. What happened to him on these occasions?

A. In the first incident, Bruno ate the poison Barium carbonate which had been kept to kill rats. He was struck by an attack of paralysis. The narrator took him to a veterinary doctor who injected medicines twice to revive Bruno.   
In the second incident, Bruno drank the old engine oil which the narrator had drained out of the sump of his old car in order to fight a termite attack. This did not have any adverse effect on Bruno.

Q2. Was Bruno a loving and playful pet? Why, then, did he have to be sent away?

A. Yes, Bruno was a loving and playful pet. He was sent away because as he had grown into a big bear, it was not safe to keep him in an inhabited area as he could harm people. The narrator, his son and their friends convinced his wife who was particularly attached to Bruno and finally, it was sent to the zoo at Mysore.

Q3. How was the problem of what to do with Bruno finally solved?   
A. The problem of what to do with Bruno was finally solved by sending him off to the zoo at Mysore. They wrote a letter to the zoo incharge at the zoo at Mysore. Upon his consent, Baba was packed in a cage and was sent away.

Grammar Exercises

**Find these words in the lesson. They all have ie or ei in them.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| F  lds | Ingred  nts | H  ght | Misch  vous |
| Fr  nds | ghty-seven | Rel  ved | P  ce |

**Now here are some more words. Complete them with ei or ie. Consult a dictionary if necessary.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| bel ve | rec ve | w rd | l sure | s ze |
| w ght | r gn | f gn | gr f | p rce |

(There is a popular rule of spelling: ‘i’ before ‘e’ except after ‘c’. Check if this rule is true by looking at the words above.)

A.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| believe | receive | weird | leisure | seize |
| weight | reign | feign | grief | pierce |

**Here are some words with silent letters. Learn their spelling. Your teacher will dictate these words to you. Write them down and underline the silent letters.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| knock | wrestle | walk | wrong |
| knee | half | honest | daughter |
| hours | return | hornet | calm |
| could | sign | island | button |

A.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| knock | wrestle | walk | wrong |
| knee | half | honest | daughter |
| hours | return | hornet | calm |
| could | sign | island | button |

**Find the adverbs in the passage below.**   
We thought that everything was over when suddenly a black sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun. Now I will not shoot a sloth-bear wantonly but, unfortunately for the poor beast, one of my companions did not feel that way about it, and promptly shot the bear on the spot.

A. We thought that everything was over when suddenly a black sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun. Now I will not shoot a sloth-bear wantonly but, unfortunately for the poor beast, one of my companions did not feel that way about it, and promptly shot the bear on the spot.

**Complete the following sentences, using a suitable adverb ending in –ly.**   
(a) Rana does her homework \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .   
(b) It rains \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Mumbai in June.   
(c) He does his work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .   
(d) The dog serves his master \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.   
(a) Rana does her homework neatly .   
(b) It rains heavily in Mumbai in June.   
(c) He does his work sincerely.   
(d) The dog serves his master devotionally.

**Choose the most suitable adverbs or adverbial phrases and complete the following sentences.**   
(a) We should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ get down from a moving train. (never, sometimes, often)   
(b) I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  in need of support after my poor performance. (badly, occasionally, sometimes)   
(c) Rita met with an accident. The doctor examined her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (suddenly, seriously, immediately)

A.   
(a) We should never get down from a moving train.   
(b) I was badly  in need of support after my poor performance.   
(c) Rita met with an accident. The doctor examined her immediately.

**Take down the following scrambled version of a story, that your teacher will dictate to you, with appropriate punctuation marks. Then, read the scrambled story carefully and try to rewrite it rearranging the incidents.**

A grasshopper, who was very hungry, saw her and said, “When did you get the corn? I am dying of hunger.” She wanted to dry them. It was a cold winter’s day, and an ant was bringing out some grains of corn from her home. She had gathered the corn in summer.   
“I was singing all day,” answered the grasshopper. “If you sang all summer,” said the ant, “you can dance all winter.” “What were you doing?” asked the ant again. The grasshopper replied, “I was too busy.” “I collected it in summer,” said the ant. “What were you doing in summer? Why did you not store some corn?”

A.  It was a cold winter’s day, and an ant was bringing out some grains of corn from her home. She had gathered the corn in summer. She wanted to dry them. A grasshopper, who was very hungry, saw her and said, “When did you get the corn? I am dying of hunger.” “I collected it in summer,” said the ant. “What were you doing in summer? Why did you not store some corn?” The grasshopper replied, “I was too busy.”“What were you doing?” asked the ant again. “I was singing all day,” answered the grasshopper. “If you sang all summer,” said the ant, “you can dance all winter.”

### Short Answer Type

Question 1.  
How did the author get the baby sloth bear?  
Answer:  
The author got the baby sloth bear in a freak accident. Once the author and his friends were passing through the sugarcane fields near Mysore, Bruno’s mother was wantonly shot dead by one of his companions. The cub was found moving on the body of his mother. It was in great shock and tried to flee but the author managed to capture it, and bring it home.

Question 2.  
Why did the author not kill the sloth bear when she appeared suddenly?  
Answer:  
Being kind-hearted, the author did not kill any animals without any motive or provocation. As the sloth bear had not provoked or attacked him, he did not kill it. That is why he describes his companions shooting of her a wanton act.

Question 3.  
Why did one of the author’s companions kill the bear?  
Answer:  
One of the author’s companions killed the bear wantonly, in a moment of impulsive rush of blood. He may have though the bear would attack them and he may have shot it as an impulsive act born of self-preservation.

Question 4.  
How did the author capture the bear cub?  
Answer:  
When the bear cub’s mother was shot, it ran around its prostrate parent making a pitiful noise. The author ran up to it to attempt a capture. It scooted into the sugarcane field. Following it with his companions, the author was at last able to grab it by the scruff of its neck and put it in a gunny bag.

Question 5.  
How did the author’s wife receive the baby sloth bear?  
Answer:  
The author’s wife was extremely happy to get the baby sloth bear as a pet. She put a coloured ribbon around his neck and named him Bruno.

Question 6.  
How was Bruno, the baby bear, fed initially? What followed within a few days?  
Answer:  
Initially, the little Bmno was given milk from a bottle. But soon he started eating all kinds of food and drank all kinds of drinks. He ate a variety of dishes like porridge, vegetables, nuts, fruits, meat, eggs, chocolates etc., and drank milk, tea, coffee, lime-juice, buttermilk, even beer and alcoholic liquor.

Question 7.  
“One day an accident befell him”. What accident befell Bruno?  
Answer:  
One day Bmno ate the rat poison (barium carbonate) kept in the library to kill rats. The poison affected his nervous and muscular system and left him paralysed. He rapidly became weak, panted heavily, vomited, and was unable to move.

Question 8.  
How was Bruno cured of paralysis?  
Answer:  
Bruno had mistakenly consumed poison and had got paralysed. However, he managed to crawl to the author’s wife on his stumps. He was taken to the veterinary doctor who and injected 10 cc of the antidote into him. The first dose had no effect. Then another dose was injected which cured Bruno absolutely. After ten minutes of the dose, his breathing became normal and he could move his arms and legs.

Question 9.  
Why did Bruno drink the engine oil? What was the result?  
Answer:  
Once the narrator had drained the old engine oil from the sump of his car and kept it to treat termites. Bruno, who would drink anything that came his way, drank about one gallon of this oil too. However, it did not have any effect on him.

Question 10.  
What used to be Bruno’s activities at the author’s home?  
Answer:  
In the beginning, Bruno was left free. He spent his time in playing, running into the kitchen and going to sleep in our beds. As he grew older, he became more mischievous and playful. He learnt to do a few tricks, too. At the command, ‘Baba, wrestle’, or ‘Baba, box,’ he vigorously tackled anyone who came forward for a rough and tumble. If someone said ‘Baba, hold gun’, he would point the stick at the person. If he was asked, ‘Baba, where’s baby?’ he immediately produced and cradled affectionately a stump of wood which he had carefully concealed in his straw bed.

Question 11.  
How did Bruno become attached to the family of the author?  
Answer:  
Bruno got lot of love in the family of the author and he grew very fond of them. It slowly got attached even to the two Alsatian dogs and to all the children of the tenants. But, above all, he loved the author’s wife and she loved him dearly too.

Question 12.  
How did Bruno come to be called ‘Baba’?  
Answer:  
Bruno came to be called ‘Baba’ which in Hindustani means a ‘young boy’ after the narrator’s wife developed a special bond of affection for him. She loved him as she loved her son and started calling him ‘Baba’.

Question 13.  
What kind of tricks did Bruno, the pet bear, do?  
Answer:  
Bruno was mischievous and played a lot of tricks. When he was called to wrestle, he would vigorously tackle anyone who came forward. When asked to hold the gun, he pointed a stick at the person. On being asked where the baby was, he brought out a stump of wood and cradled it as if it were a baby.

Question 14.  
Why had Bruno to be kept in chains most of the time?  
Answer:  
Bruno had grown up very fast. Therefore, it was felt that it could be dangerous to let him move about freely around the children of the tenants. Therefore, it was decided to keep Bruno in chains.

Question 15.  
Who advised the author’s wife to send Bruno to a zoo and why? What was her reaction?  
Answer:  
The narrator, his son and even some friends advised the author’s wife to send Bruno to a zoo because he was now too big to be kept at home. They felt he may become a danger to children. But she loved the pet bear so deeply that she could not accept the proposal readily. It took her three weeks to make up her mind and give her consent.

Question 16.  
Bruno was a loving and playful pet. Why, then, did he have to be sent away?  
Answer:  
Bruno was certainly a loving and playful pet. He had developed affection for everyone around him and was particularly attached to the author’s wife. However, he had to be sent away to the zoo because he had grown too big to be kept at home. He could be a threat to the people in the neighbourhood, especially children.

Question 17.  
How was the problem of what to do with Bruno solved?  
Answer:  
As he grew up and became larger in size, the author, his son and some friends felt that Bruno could no longer be kept at home. The problem of what to do with Bruno was solved when the narrator’s wife, though reluctantly, gave her consent to send Bruno to the zoo in Mysore. A letter was written to the curator of the zoo who replied in the positive. Bruno was put in a cage and sent away in a lorry that had been sent by the zoo authorities.

Question 18.  
How did the narrator’s wife react when Baba was sent to Mysore zoo?  
Answer:  
When Baba was sent to Mysore zoo, the narrator’s wife felt so miserable that she could not be consoled. She wept and kept worrying about the bear. She refused to eat anything for some days. She wrote letters to the curator of the zoo to inquire about Baba’s well being.

Question 19.  
What did the letters from the curator and the friends who visited the zoo report about Baba?  
Answer:  
The letters from the curator of the zoo reported that though Baba was well, he was sad and upset, and refused to eat. The friends who visited the zoo gave similar reports telling that he had grown very thin and kept fretting all the time.

Question 20.  
When did the author take his wife to the Mysore zoo? Why?  
Answer:  
The author’s wife was deeply disturbed to hear reports of her dear Bruno was sad and refused to eat. She wanted to go to mysore and see him for herself. Though the author had managed to prevent her from going to the Mysore zoo for three months, one day she put her foot down and told him that if he was not ready to take her to the zoo by car, she would go by bus or train. So, the narrator took her to the zoo by car to see her Baba.

Question 21.  
What had the author thought would happen when he took his wife to see Bruno?  
Answer:  
The author and his friends had conjectured that the bear would not recognise his wife to see him as three months had elapsed since Bruno had been sent to the zoo. However, contrary to their expectations, Bruno had not forgotten her. He was delighted to see her.

Question 22.  
How did Baba behave when he saw the narrator’s wife in the zoo?  
Answer:  
Baba was overjoyed to see the narrator’s wife. He recognised her from a distance of some yards and howled with happiness. To express his pleasure at meeting her again, he stood on his head.

Question 23.  
How did the author’s wife do when she met her ‘Baba’ at the zoo?  
Answer:  
At the zoo, the author’s wife rushed to the cage where Baba was been kept. She showed her love by stroking him affectionately through the bars and sat near the cage for three hours. She fed him tea, lemonade, cakes, ice-cream and what not.

Question 24.  
Describe the scene at the time of the closing of the zoo when Bruno and the narrator’s wife had to separate again.  
Answer:  
As the closing time at the zoo drew near, the author’s wife was desolate. She cried bitterly at the thought of being parted from her Baba. He, too, cried bitterly. This touching scene saddened the curator and the keepers of the zoo.

Question 25.  
What request did the narrator’s wife make to the curator? Did the curator grant the request?  
Answer:  
The narrator’s wife requested the curator of the zoo to allow her to take her pet sloth bear, Baba, back home. He refused initially, saying that Baba was a government property and he could not be given away. But afterwards, seeing how unhappy both she and Bruno were at being parted, he suggested that they should contact the Superintendent in Bangalore for permission to take Baba home.

Question 26.  
How did Baba reach back home?  
Answer:  
At the request of the narrator’s wife, the Superintendent of the zoo agreed to permit her to have Baba back home. He wrote a letter to the curator and asked him to lend a cage so that the bear could be brought home safely. The cage was carefully put on the top of the car and Baba travelled back to his home in Bangalore.

Question 27.  
What kind of a place was prepared for Baba at the narrator’s home and why?  
Answer:  
To prevent Baba from ever becoming a threat to the children of the tenants, an island measuring twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide was created in the compound by digging a six feet wide and seven feet deep moat around it. This island became Baba’s home.

Question 28.  
Describe the house on the island in which Baba would sleep at night.  
Answer:  
A wooden box that was once used to keep the fowls was put on the island for Baba to sleep at night. Straw was placed inside to keep it warm and Bruno’s toys—his ‘baby’, the gnarled stump, and his ‘gun’, the piece of bamboo—were also placed there for him to play with.

Question 29.  
How would the narrator’s wife reach the island where Baba was kept?  
Answer:  
The narrator had tied a rope to the overhanging branch of a mango tree with a loop at its end. To reach the island, his wife would put one foot in the loop and kick off with the other to cross the six-foot wide pit around the island. She would then spend hours sitting on a chair with Baba in her lap.

Question 30.  
How does the story illustrate that animals love human beings just as humans love them?  
Answer:  
Bruno’s is a story of emotional bonding between a woman and a bear. The author’s wife loved her pet bear, Bruno deeply. In turn, Bruno performed many playful tricks which amused the lady. They enjoyed each other’s company. When Bruno was sent to a zoo, the parting was as painful for the author’s wife as it was for Bruno. Seeing their plight, Bruno was brought home again. The entire episode shows the mutual love between the two.

### Long Answer Type

Question 1.  
How was Bruno brought to the author’s home? How did he become it member of the family?  
Answer:  
The baby bear was brought to the author’s home by chance. Once, when the author and his companions, were going to Mysore, they were passing through the sugarcane fields when they saw people driving away the wild pigs from the fields by shooting at them. Some of the animals were shot and some escaped. When the author thought that everything was over, suddenly a black sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun, and one of the author’s companions wantonly killed the bear.

The cub who was riding the back of his mother ran around its prostrate parent making a pitiful noise. Filled with pity, the author chased him and captured him. He brought the baby bear home and gifted it to his wife as a pet. The author’s wife accepted him with love and named him Bruno to mark that he was no longer a homeless, wild animal. Soon there developed a bond of love between Bruno and the author’s wife and Bruno came to be called ‘Baba’ which means a ‘small boy’. He had now become a true family member who enjoyed complete freedom and deep affection.

Question 2.  
On two occasions Bruno ate/drank something that should not be eaten or drunk. What happened to him on these occasions?  
Answer:  
Bruno, the bear cub, was an inquisitive and playful one. Moreover, he enjoyed a variety of dishes and drinks in the author’s home. On the one hand, he was curious about things around him and on the other he had become very fond of eating and drinking. Once the narrator had kept some barium carbonate for killing rats in the library.

Bruno went there as he usually did and, seeing the poison that had been kept there, he consumed it. The poison had an immediate effect on him and, as paralysis set in, he could not stand on his feet. However, he managed to drag himself on his stumps to reach the author’s wife who at once called him.

Bruno began weakening rapidly, he was vomiting and breathing heavily, as his flanks heaved and mouth gaped. The author rushed to the veterinary doctor who, after consulting his book, gave Bruno an injection of 10 cc of the antidote for barium chloride. Since the first injection did not improve his condition, another injection of the same potency was given. After ten minutes, Bruno’s heavy breathing became normal.

After thirty minutes, he stood on his feet and ate a good meal.On another occasion, Bruno drank engine oil. It so happened that the author had emptied the sump of his car and about one gallon of the engine oil had been collected. The narrauthor had kept it to kill the termites. Bruno drank the whole of it. However, the engine oil did not have any effect on him.

Question 3.  
Why was Bruno sent to the Mysore zoo and why was he ultimately brought back home?  
Answer:  
As months passed, Bruno, the cub bear, grew big in size. The author and his son felt it was not advisable to keep a fully grown wild animal at home, especially with the children of the tenants around. So, they felt Bruno should be sent to the zoo in Mysore. Their friends, too, offered the same advice. Although the author’s wife opposed the proposal for some time, she ultimately gave her consent after three weeks.

After her approval, they wrote a letter to the curator of the zooasking if he wanted a tame bear for his collection. Once they received a positive response from the curator of the zoo, Baba was sent to the Mysore zoo. However, the separation was unbearable both for the author’s wife and Baba.

Both were inconsolable and would not eat properly. Bruno, especially, grew very weak and fretted. After three months of separation, the narrator’s wife put her foot down and had to be taken to the zoo in a car. On seeing each other after so long, both the narrator’s wife and Baba expressed their joy and pleasure. He recognized her from a distance, howled with .delight and stood on his head in happiness.

She patted him through the bars of his cage and fed him a variety of food and drinks that she had brought. When it was closing time at the zoo both the narrator’s wife and Baba cried so bitterly that even the curator was moved. She requested the curator to send Baba back and he suggested to seek the Superintendent’s permission. The Superintendent, who was a kind fellow, agreed and at his recommendation, the curator had the bear sent back home to Bangalore.

Question 4.  
How was Bruno transported back to Bangalore from the Mysore zoo? What special arrangements were made to keep him at home?  
Answer:  
Bruno, the pet bear, was transported back to Bangalore in a cage lent by the Mysore zoo authorities. The cage containing Bruno was hoisted on top of the car and tied securely. The vehicle was driven slowly and carefully, lest he was hurt. At the writer’s home in Bangalore, special arrangements were made to keep Bruno at a safe distance from the tenants’ children.

An island was made for Baba that was twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide, and was surrounded by a dry pit, or moat, six feet wide and seven feet deep. A wooden box that once housed fowls was brought and put on the island for Baba to sleep in at night. Straw was placed inside to keep him warm, his toys – the gnarled stump, his ‘baby’, and the piece of bamboo, which was his ‘gun’ – both of which had been sentimentally preserved by the author’s wife were put back for him to play with. After that the coolies hoisted the cage on to the island and Baba was released.

Question 5.  
The author ends the story “The Bond of Love” with the rhetorical question: “But who can say now that a sloth bear has no sense of affection, no memory and no individual characteristics?” Discuss this statement in the light of Bruno’s character.  
Answer:  
The Bond of Love revolves around the mutual, sincere and selfless love of the narrator’s wife and her pet bear, Bruno. The young bear loved and brought up like a child by the author’s wife, proves that he richly deserves this love because he himself is capable of showing equally deep and faithful love.

He is treated like a member of the family and he himself proves that he is as much bound by loyal love to the members of the family as they are to him. The deep emotions of Bruno come to the fore when he is sent to the Mysore zoo. He is so pained by the separation from his mistress that he frets terribly and refuses to eat anything. He grows very lean and thin.

Even three months is not long enough a period for him to reconcile himself to the separation from the author’s wife. When she goes to see him, he recognizes her at once, even from a distance of some yards, and expresses his delight by howling and standing on his head. At the closing time of the zoo he cries bitterly at the thought of parting again from his mistress. His emotions move the hearts of the zoo curator and the keepers who agree to give Bruno back to the author’s family. This proves that animals too feel love and affection.

### Reference to Context

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

Question 1.  
I got him for her by accident.

(a) Who says this?  
Answer:  
The author Kenneth Anderson says this.

(b) Who do ‘him’ and ‘her’ refer to?  
Answer:  
‘Him’ refers to the young sloth bear cub that the author had captured in the sugarcane fields in Mysore. ‘Her’ refers to the author’s wife.

(c) Why did the speaker take ‘him’ to ‘her’?  
Answer:  
The bear’s cub mother had been shot and wantonly killed by one of author’s companions.

(d) What did ‘she’ name ‘him’?  
Answer:  
She named him Bruno.

Question 2.  
Some were shot and some escaped. We thought that everything was over when suddenly a black sloth bear came out panting in the hot sun

(a) Who does ‘we’ refer to in the above extract? Where were they at the time?  
Answer:  
We refers to the author of the story and his companions. They were near the sugarcane fields in Mysore.

(b) Who were shot at and why?  
Answer:  
The wild pigs who had entered the fields and were destroying the crops, were shot at to kill them or to make them run away.

(c) What does the author mean by his remark, “Everything was over”?  
Answer:  
The author means that the shooting had stopped and the animals had either been driven away or killed.

(d) What happened suddenly?  
Answer:  
Suddenly, a black sloth bear appeared on the scene panting in the hot sun.

Question 3.  
As we watched the fallen animal we were surprised to see that the black fur on its back moved and left the prostrate body.

(a) Where was the ‘fallen animal’? Why had it fallen?  
Answer:  
The fallen animal was in some sugarcane fields near Mysore at the time. It had fallen after being wantonly shot dead by one of the author’s companions.

(b) What was the ‘black fur’ that moved on the animal’s back?  
Answer:  
The ‘black fur’ that moved on the animal’s back was its cub that had been riding her back at the time.

(c) What did the author do when he saw the little creature?  
Answer:  
The author ran up to the little creature to attempt a capture.

(d) What did the little creature do to the author when he grabbed it?  
Answer:  
As the author grabbed it by the scruff of its neck, it snapped and tried to scratch the author with its long, hooked claws.

Question 4.  
The little creature ran around its prostrate parent making a pitiful noise.

(a) Who is the Tittle creature’ referred to in the above line?  
Answer:  
The little creature referred to is the young cub of the sloth bear who had been shot dead.

(b) Who lay prostrate and why?  
Answer:  
The little creature’s mother lay prostrate because she had been shot dead by one of the author’s companions.

(c) What did the little creature do?  
Answer:  
The little creature ran around the body of his mother which lay flat on the ground, making a pitiful noise.

(d) What did the speaker decide to do with the creature?  
Answer:  
The speaker decided to take the little creature home and give it to his wife to take care of.

Question 5.  
She was delighted! She at once put a coloured ribbon around its neck, and after discovering the cub was a ‘boy ’ she christened it Bruno.

(a) Who is ‘she’?  
Answer:  
She is the author’s wife.

(b) Why was ‘she’ delighted?  
Answer:  
She was delighted because her husband presented her a young sloth bear cub as a pet.

(c) What does this extract reveal about her character?  
Answer:  
This extract reveals that she had a tender and affectionate heart that was full of love for animals.

(d) How did she take care of Bruno?  
Answer:  
Bruno was a little bear cub. The author’s wife fed him milk from a bottle and looked after him.

Question 6.  
Bruno soon took to drinking milk from a bottle. It was but a step further and within a very few days he started eating and drinking everything else.

(a) How was Bruno fed in the beginning?  
Answer:  
In the beginning, Bruno was fed milk from a bottle.

(b) What did he start eating within a very few days?  
Answer:  
Within the next few days Bruno was eating everything including vegetables, fruit, nuts, meat (especially pork), curry and rice regardless of spices and chillies, bread, eggs, chocolates, sweets, pudding, ice . cream, etc.

(c) What did Bruno drink?  
Answer:  
Bruno drank all kinds of liquids including drink: milk, tea, coffee, lime-juice, aerated water, buttermilk, beer, alcoholic liquor.

(d) On two occasions Bruno ate/drank something that should not be eaten/drunk. What was it?  
Answer:  
Once Bruno ate the rat poison which was kept to get rid of rats from the library. On another occasion, Bruno drank the discarded engine oil which was kept in the garage.

Question 7.  
Paralysis set in to the extent that he could not stand on his feet. But he dragged himself on his stumps to my wife, who called me. I guessed what had happened.

(a) Why did paralysis strike him?  
Answer:  
Paralysis struck him because he had consumed the rat-poison, barium carbonate kept in the library.

(b) What other symptoms did he suffer?  
Answer:  
He was paralysed and unable to move and soon he was breathing heavily and vomiting.

(c) How did ‘he’ manage to reach the author’s wife in spite of the paralysis?  
Answer:  
In spite of the paralysis, he dragged himself on his stumps to the author’s wife who then called the author.

(d) What light does this throw on his character?  
Answer:  
He was an inquisitive and playful creature. He entered the library and finding the rat-poison kept there, he ate it.

Question 8.  
He promptly drank the lot. But it had no ill effects whatever.

(a) What was ‘it’ that ‘he’ drank?  
Answer:  
He drank the engine oil which the author had drained out from the sump of his car.

(b) What had the author kept ‘it’ for?  
Answer:  
The author had kept the engine oil to use against the termites if they attacked.

(c) What was its effect?  
Answer:  
It had no effect at all on Bruno, the pet bear.

(d) What similar incident had happened to him earlier?  
Answer:  
Earlier, he had found rat-poison lying in the library and had consumed that.

Question 9.  
The months rolled on and Bruno had grown many times the size he was when he came. He had equalled the Alsatians in height and had even outgrown them.

(a) What happened to Bruno over the next few months?  
Answer:  
Over the next few months, Bruno grew large. In fact, he became bigger than the two dogs the author had.

(b) Which other pet did the author and his family have?  
Answer:  
The author and his family had Alsatian dogs as pets.

(c) What qualities did Bruno share with the other pets?  
Answer:  
Bruno was just as sweet, just as mischievous, just as playful as the Alsatians.

(d)  
What new name did the author’s wife give Bruno?  
Answer:  
The author’s wife started calling Bruno Baba, a Hindustani word meaning little boy.

Question 10.  
But was just as sweet, just as mischievous, just as playful. And he was very fond of us all. Above all, he loved my wife, and she loved him too! She had changed his name from Bruno, to Baba, a Hindustani word signifying ‘small boy ’.

(a) Who is Bruno being compared with here?  
Answer:  
Bruno is being compared with the two Alsatian dogs in the author’s home.

(b) Which of his traits are being compared to ‘theirs’?  
Answer:  
He is being compared to them for traits like sweet nature, playful temperament and mischievous behaviour.

(c) What kind of relationship was there between the author’s wife and Bruno?  
Answer:  
The author’s wife and the pet bear Bruno had a deep love for each other.

(d) Why did the author’s wife change his name from Bruno to Baba?  
Answer:  
In Hindustani language, ‘Baba’ is a name of endearment for a small boy in the family. For the author’s wife, Bruno was nothing less than a dear son. Therefore, she changed his name from Bruno to Baba.

Question 11.  
After some weeks of such advice she at last consented. Hastily, and before she could change her mind, a letter was written to the curator of the zoo.

(a) What advice was given to her? By whom?  
Answer:  
She was advised that Bruno, the pet sloth bear should be sent to a zoo. This advice was given by the author, their son, and their friends.

(b) Why was she being advised to follow that course?  
Answer:  
She was being advised to follow that course because Bruno had become too big to be kept at home.

(c) Did ‘she’ readily agree to the advice? Why/Why not?  
Answer:  
No, the author’s wife did not readily agree to the advice. She was so affectionately attached to the bear that she could not think of parting from him. It took them weeks to convince her to give her consent.

(d) Why was the letter to the curator of the zoo written hastily?  
Answer:  
The author did not want to wait as he was afraid that his wife could change her mind about sending the bear to the zoo. Therefore, he hastily wrote a letter to the curator.

Question 12.  
We all missed him greatly; but in a sense we were relieved.

(a) Who do ‘we all’ stand for?  
Answer:  
‘We all’ stands to the author, his wife, his son and the children of the tenants.

(b) Who did they miss? Why?  
Answer:  
They missed Baba, the bear who had been sent away to the zoo in Mysore.

(c) Why did they feel relieved?  
Answer:  
They felt relieved because Baba had grown very big and it could have been dangerous to keep him at home with the tenants’ children around him.

(d) How did the author’s wife react to his absence?  
Answer:  
When Bruno was gone, the author’s wife was inconsolable. She wept and fretted. For the first few days she would not eat a thing.

Question 13.  
After that, friends visiting Mysore were begged to make a point of going to the zoo and seeing how Baba was getting along. They reported that he was well but looked very thin and sad. All the keepers at the zoo said he was fretting.

(a) What does the author mean by the phrase “after that”?  
Answer:  
By “after that” the author means after Bruno had been sent to the Mysore zoo.

(b) Who begged their friends to go to Mysore zoo? Why?  
Answer:  
The author, his wife and family begged their friends visiting Mysore to go to the zoo because they wanted news of Bruno and how he was faring at the zoo.

(c) What news did the friends bring?  
Answer:  
Their friends told the author and his wife that Bruno was well but looked very thin and sad. All the keepers at the zoo said he was fretting because he missed the author’s family.

(d) What lesson do you learn from this?  
Answer:  
We learn that even animals understand the language of love. They respond to love in equal measure and also feel the pangs of separation.

Question 14.  
Friends had conjectured that the bear would not recognise her. I had thought so too. But while she was yet some yards from his cage Baba saw her and recognised her.

(a) What had the author and his friends thought about Bruno?  
Answer:  
They had thought Bruno would not recognise the author’s wife because of the passage of time.

(b) What did Bruno do to show he had recognised her?  
Answer:  
As soon as Bruno saw her he howled with happiness and he stood on his head in delight.

(c) What did the author’s wife do?  
Answer:  
She patted Bruno on the head. Then she sat down and fed him tea, lemonade, cakes, ice-cream and what not.

(d) What happened when it was time for the author and his wife to leave the zoo??  
Answer:  
When it was time for them to leave, the author’s wife and Bruno cried bitterly and even the hardened curator and the keepers at the zoo felt depressed. The author realised he would have to take Bruno back home.

Question 15.  
“I cannot give away Government property. But if my boss, the superintendent at Bangalore agrees, certainly you may have him back. ”

(a) Who says these words? To whom?  
Answer:  
These words are spoken by the curator of the Mysore zoo to the author, Kenneth Anderson.

(b) Who is Government property? How had he become Government property?  
Answer:  
Bruno was Government property. He had become Government property when the author and his family had given him to the zoo three months ago.

(c) Who wanted him back? Why?  
Answer:  
The author and his wife wanted Bruno back because both had been desolate and fretting without each other and both had given up eating.

(d) Where was the Superintendent’s office? What did he say?  
Answer:  
The Superintendent’s office was in Bangalore. He readily agreed to let Bruno go.

Question 16.  
Once home, a squad of coolies were engagedfor special work in our compound.

(a) Who returned home? From where?  
Answer:  
The author and his wife returned home after meeting Bruno at the Mysore zoo.

(b) Where had they gone? Why?  
Answer:  
They had gone to the Mysore zoo to see Bruno as they had heard reports that he was missing the author’s wife and was fretting and not eating.

(c) What was the “special work” that the coolies were engaged for?  
Answer:  
A squad of coolies was hired to make an island for Baba. The island was made for Baba.

(d) Why was the special work being done?  
Answer:  
The author wanted to keep Bruno at a distance from the children of the tenants as he was by now a folly- grown bear.

Question 17.  
In a few days the coolies hoisted the cage on to the island and Baba was released. He was delighted; standing on his hind legs, he pointed his ‘gun’ and cradled his ‘baby

(a) What ‘island’ does the author talk about?  
Answer:  
The island was a piece of land in the author’s compound which was surrounded by a dry moat. This place was prepared to keep the bear, Bruno.

(b) Why was a separate island required to house Baba?  
Answer:  
Baba was quite grown up and could be dangerous for the children of tenants. Therefore, it was necessary that he should be kept on a separate island.

(c) Why was Baba delighted?  
Answer:  
Baba was delighted because he had come back home after three months in the zoo where he had terribly missed the family, particularly the author’s wife.

(d) What were Baba’s ‘gun’ and ‘baby’?  
Answer:  
Baba’s ‘gun’ was a piece of bamboo which he playfully used as a gun and the ‘baby’ was a piece of bamboo that he would cradle affectionately.