**Symbiosis School, Nasik.**

**Std: X Term I (2020-21)**

**Subject: English Language & Literature - Worksheet – 48**

**Lesson : Chapter 1 – A Triumph of Surgery**

**By James Herriot**

**Introduction to the lesson**

***Tricki, a small dog, is pampered and overfed by his rich mistress. He falls seriously ill and his mistress consults a veterinary surgeon. Does he perform an operation? Does the dog recover?***

This story is about Tricki, a dog who is the pet of a rich lady named Mrs. Pumphrey. She loves her dog very much and is unable to refuse him anything he wants. Tricki, is fond of eating cream cakes and chocolates. So one day when Mrs. Pumphrey is out with Tricki for a walk the narrator sees them and stops to talk. While talking to Mrs. Pumphrey he realises that she has been overfeeding Tricki and also had been giving him things that he shouldn’t eat due to which Tricki had started looking like a bloated sausage. Soon Tricki got unwell and Mrs. Pumphrey has to call Mr. Herriot (narrator) for help. She does not want to send him away but the only way suggested by Mr. Herriot is to get him hospitalised for 15 days. Then the story unfolds into how he gets well. Read the description to know more.



**About the Author**

**James Alfred Wight** (3 October 1916 – 23 February 1995), known by the pen name **James Herriot**, was a British veterinary surgeon and writer, who used his many years of experiences as a veterinary surgeon to write a series of books each consisting of stories about animals and their owners. He is best known for these semi-autobiographical works, beginning with *If Only They Could Talk* in 1970, which spawned a series of movies and television series.

**A Triumph of Surgery Summary**

The story starts when Mrs. Pumphrey, a rich lady takes her dog out for a walk. A nearby veterinary doctor who knows the lady sees the dog and is shocked as he sees that the dog looks like a bloated sausage with a leg at each end. He advises her to stop giving him unhealthy things to eat but Mrs. Pumphrey is not able to refuse him. Soon he falls sick and the doctor is called. The narrator, Mr. Herriot then somehow takes Tricki, the dog to the hospital even though he knows that Mrs. Pumphrey is not ready to leave her dog and nearly fainted just by hearing these words.Then he takes the dog along and puts a bed for him in his surgery. The dog doesn't move much nor eats anything for the first two days. On the second day he looks around and whimpers a bit. He wanted to go out on the third day and started playing with the bigger dogs when he was taken out. He also licked the bowls of other dogs clean on the third day.

Then his condition started improving very fast. He started fighting for his meals with other dogs. Then when this news reached Mrs. Pumphrey, she started sending him eggs as she thought that Tricki was recovering from an illness and needed energy foods. Mr. Herriot and his partners started eating those eggs for morning breakfast. Then for improving Tricki’s blood, Mrs. Pumphrey started sending in bottles of wine which was again consumed by Mr. Herriot. He used to take two glasses before lunch and some more glasses while having his lunch. Then when she started sending in bottles of brandy for Tricki that was the time when Mr. Herriot thought that he would really like to keep Tricki as a permanent guest in the surgery. Mr. Herriot used to be really happy someday by having two extra eggs every morning. Then having few glasses of wine in the afternoon and closing the day by having brandy at night. But then he took a wise decision and called up Mrs. Pumphrey as she was really worried and on this side Tricki was ready to be taken back home. Tricki was really happy to see his mistress and jumped into the car. Mrs. Pumphrey said that she won't be able to ever thank him for what he had done and also, that his surgery had been successful as Tricki was now cured.

**Character Sketch of Dr. Herriot**

Mr Herriot is a veterinary doctor. He is very kind and gentle with animals. When he sees the condition of Tricki, he is worried. He warns the dog's mistress of the consequences of over feeding the dog but she loves the dog so much that she can't change her ways.Mr Herriot's kindness and compassion compels him to do something for the dog. He admits the dog in his clinic and gives him proper food and enough exercise to help him get back in shape. Here we see Mr Herriot's determination to help the animals. We can easily say that Mr Herriot is the good neighbourly doctor we all wish to have.

**Character Sketch of Tricki**

Tricki was a small dog. His rich mistress pampered him. She loved him like his son. He was given princely luxuries. He had the number of beds, clothes, bowls for different occasions. Due to overfeeding by his mistress he became ugly and fatty. So her mistress took home to a vet. The vet knows the tricki real problem. He knows that Mrs. Pumphrey will not stop overfeeding tricki. Therefore out of concern, he took the dog. Mrs. Pumphrey fed him all favorite dishes. This overindulgence made tricki fat and lazy. He lost all energy. Dr. Herriot took interest in him and asked his mistress to cut down on sweet things. He was very greedy. He was fond of cream, cakes, and chocolates. He was not given plenty of exercises. A whole wardrobe was full of his clothing.

His mistress got upset when Tricki left eating, going for walks and doing anything. His mistress bewailed when he was taken to the hospital. He had no energy left. Dr. Herriot took a personal interest in him. He was only given plenty of water for two days. He regained energy and showed interest in other dogs. He enjoyed playing in their company. His mistress sent eggs and wine for him. They built him up and enriched his blood. He licked his mistress's face when he was taken back home. He was a kind, sensible and grateful dog.

**Meanings**

Mistress- a woman in a position of authority or control.  
Bloated- excessive in size or amount.  
Sausage- an item of food in the form of a cylindrical length of minced pork or other meat encased in a skin, typically sold raw to be grilled or fried before eating.  
Bloodshot- (of the eyes) inflamed or tinged with blood, typically as a result of tiredness.  
Rheumy- watery.  
Lolled- sit, lie, or stand in a lazy, relaxed way.  
Hastened- be quick to do something.  
Listless- lacking energy or enthusiasm.  
Malnutrition- lack of proper nutrition  
Cod liver oil- oil pressed from the liver of cod  
Relent- become less severe or intense.  
Lumbago- pain in the muscles and joints of the lower back.

Severe-  very great; intense.  
Regime- a system or ordered way of doing things.  
Tottering- move in a feeble or unsteady way.  
Tweed- a rough-surfaced woolen cloth  
Wardrobe- a large, tall cupboard or recess in which clothes may be hung or stored.  
Harness- a set of straps and fittings  
Distraught- very worried and upset.  
Bouts- a short period of intense activity of a specified kind.  
Rug- a floor covering  
Panting- breathing with short, quick breaths; out of breath.  
Fortnight- a period of two weeks.  
Swooned- a partial or total loss of consciousness  
Wailings- crying with pain, grief, or anger.  
Marched-  walk quickly and with determination.

Roused- cause to stop sleeping.  
Maids- a female domestic servant.  
Rushed- done or completed too hurriedly; hasty.  
Supper- an evening meal, typically a light or informal one.  
Despairing- showing loss of all hope.  
Glanced- take a brief or hurried look.  
Patted- touch quickly and gently with the flat of the hand.  
Wag- (especially with reference to an animal's tail) move or cause to move rapidly to and fro.  
Surged- move suddenly and powerfully forward or upward.  
Motionless- not moving; stationary.  
Sniffing- the action of drawing in air audibly through the nose.  
Whimper- make a series of low, feeble sounds expressive of fear, pain, or unhappiness.  
Trotted- run at a moderate pace with short steps.  
Engulfed- sweep over (something) so as to surround or cover it completely.  
Slopped- spill or flow over the edge of a container, typically as a result of careless handling.  
Liable-  likely to do or to be something

Licking- pass the tongue over (something) in order to taste, moisten, or clean it.  
Pleased- feeling or showing pleasure and satisfaction,  
Jostling- push, elbow, or bump against (someone) roughly, typically in a crowd.  
Scrimmages- a confused struggle or fight.  
Trampled- tread on and crush.  
Squashed- flat, soft, or out of shape as a result of being crushed or squeezed with force.  
Shaggy- long, thick, and unkempt.  
Hovered- remain poised uncertainty in one place or between two states.     
Anxiously-  feeling or showing worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome.  
Dozen- 12 in number  
Bulletins- a short official statement or broadcast summary of news.  
Convalescing- recover one's health and strength over a period of time after an illness or medical treatment.

Brandy- a strong alcoholic spirit distilled from wine or fermented fruit juice.  
Constitution- the composition of something.  
Reverently- with deep and solemn respect.  
Temptation- the desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.  
Compelled- bring about (something) by the use of force or pressure.  
Awaiting- wait for (an event).  
Gleaming- reflecting light, typically because very clean or polished.  
Chauffeur- a person employed to drive a private or hired car.  
Clasped-  grasp (something) tightly with one's hand.  
Trembled- shake involuntarily, typically as a result of anxiety, excitement, or frailty.  
Fetch- go for and then bring back (someone or something) for someone.  
Hurtling- move or cause to move at high speed, typically in an uncontrolled manner  
Midst- in the middle of.  
Lithe-  thin, supple, and graceful.  
Startled- feeling or showing sudden shock or alarm.  
Swarmed- move somewhere in large numbers.  
Shone- a quality of brightness produced

**Concept Based Questions**

**Question 1.**

What made James Herriot expect a call from Mrs Pumphrey?

**Question 2.**

What ‘extra’ did Mrs Pumphrey start to give Tricki and why?

**Question 3.**

What made Mrs Pumphrey call the vet?

**Question 4.**

How can you say that it was hard for Mrs Pumphrey to part with her doting pet?

**Question 5.**

What kind of treatment was given to Tricki? Did it help in his recovery?

**Question 6.**

Was Tricki suffering from any ailment in reality? If not, then what made him inactive and lethargic?

**Question 7.**

Briefly describe Herriot’s days of content.

**Question 8.**

Do you think Tricki was enjoying his stay at the hospital?