



- Ruskin Bond

Page No: 131

Working with Text

A. Complete the following sentences.

1. The old banyan tree “did not belong” to grandfather, but only to the boy, because \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans: the grandfather at sixty-five could no longer climb it.

2. The small gray squirrel became friendly when \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans: he found that the boy did not arm himself with catapult or air-gun.

3. When the boy started to bring him pieces of cake and biscuit, the squirrel \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans: quite bold and was soon taking morsels from the author's hand.

4. In the spring, the banyan tree \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ would come there.

Ans: was full of small red figs, birds of all kinds

5. The banyan tree served the boy as a \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans: library.

6. The young boy spent his afternoons in the tree \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans: when it was not too hot

Page No: 132

B. Answer the following questions.

1. “It was to be a battle of champions.” (8)

(i) What qualities did the two champions have? Pick out words and phrases from the paragraph above this line in the text and write them down. this line in the text and write them down.

Mongoose	Cobra
(a) _____	(a) _____
(b) _____	(b) _____
(c) _____	(c) _____

(ii) What did the cobra and the mongoose do, to show their readiness for the fight?

Answer:

Mongoose	Cobra
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(a) superb fighter	(a) skilful
(b) clever	(b) experienced
(c) aggressive	(c) swift

(ii) To show its readiness for the fight, the cobra hissed defiance, his forked tongue darting in and out. It raised three of its six feet off the ground, and spread its broad and spectacled hood. The mongoose bushed his tail. The long hair on his spine stood up.

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