



By Ruskin Bond

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Think About It

1. How does Toto come to grandfather's private zoo?

Answer:

Toto was in the captivity of a tonga owner. The grandfather gets sympathetic with the monkey and thinks that his private zoo would be a better place for Toto. So he purchased Toto from the tongawallah for five rupees.

2. "Toto was a pretty monkey." In what sense is Toto pretty?

Answer:

Toto was a pretty monkey. His bright eyes sparkled with mischief beneath the deep-set eyebrows, and his teeth, which were a pearly white, were very often displayed in a smile that frightened the life out of elderly Anglo-Indian ladies. But his hands looked dried-up as though they had been pickled in the sun for many years. Yet his fingers were quick and wicked and his tail, while adding to his good looks served as a third hand. He could use it to hang from a branch and it was capable of scooping up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands.

3. Why does grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how? Why does the ticket collector insist on calling Toto a dog?

Answer:

Toto was a real menace for every living soul in the household. Other animals in grandfather's zoo were at Toto's mercy even during night. So, grandfather decided to provide some relief to other animals in the zoo and thought of taking Toto to Saharanpur.

The ticket collector was following his rulebooks. As there seems to be no rule for fixing a monkey's fare so he equated Toto with dog. Ticket collector's ingenuity tried to categorize all pets of a certain size as dogs.

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