📘 Chapter 6: **Mijbil the Otter**

✍️ Written by Gavin Maxwell

This is a **real-life account** of the author's unique experience of adopting and raising an otter in Iraq, and the deep bond that grows between them.
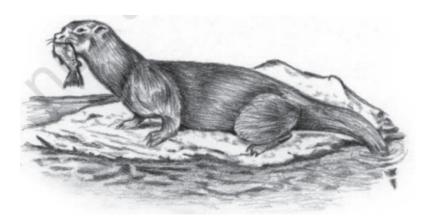
👨‍🏫 About the Author – Gavin Maxwell

- A **British naturalist and writer**, known for his love for animals and nature.
- Lived in the Iraqi marshes for a while and decided to own an otter after the death of his pet dog.

🌟 Main Characters and Their Traits

🧑 Gavin Maxwell (Narrator)

- 🧠 **Curious** – He chooses an unusual animal (an otter) as a pet instead of a dog.
- 💕 **Loving and Caring** – Takes great care of Mijbil and is emotionally attached.
- 🧳 **Patient and Responsible** – Handles Mij's mischief and the challenges of travelling with an animal.

🦦 Mijbil (The Otter)

- 🐾 **Playful** – Invents his own games, especially with marbles and water.
- 🧠 **Intelligent** – Learns quickly, explores new things creatively.
- 💗 **Affectionate** – Bonds closely with the author and trusts him.
- 😼 **Mischievous** – Escapes from the box and causes chaos during travel!

📖 Detailed Summary (With Explanation)

1. 🐾 **Adopting Mijbil**

- The author was living in Iraq and wanted a pet otter instead of a dog.
- A friend brought an otter from the **Tigris Marshes**.
- He named it **Mijbil**, or simply **Mij**.

🗣️ *At first, Mij was scared and shy, hiding under the bed. But he slowly became comfortable and started exploring the surroundings.*

2. 💦 Mijbil Discovers Water

- Once introduced to water in a bathtub, Mij became very excited!
- He **loved splashing, diving, and playing with water**.
- He even made a game with **marbles**, spinning them around like a circus performer.

🧠 *This shows Mijbil's intelligence and love for fun. His curiosity turned everyday objects into toys.*

3. ✈️ Journey to London

- The author had to return to England and take Mij with him.
- Airline rules didn't allow pets in the cabin, so Mij had to travel in a **closed box**.
- Inside the box, Mij became restless and **escaped**, causing chaos in the airplane.

🎭 *This scene adds humor to the story as passengers were shocked by the otter running through the plane like a "jet-propelled frog".*

4. 🏙️ Mijbil in London

- After reaching London, Mij adjusted slowly to the city life.
- He would go on walks with the author and became a subject of interest.
- People often asked if he was a **baby seal or a hippo**, because most had never seen an otter.

🌍 *This part shows how rare otters were in urban life, and how Mijbil helped spread awareness of wildlife in cities.*

📈 Character Arcs (How They Change Over Time)

🔄 Gavin Maxwell:

- Starts with curiosity ➡️ becomes deeply attached to Mij.
- Learns to handle **emotional bonding with animals**, their needs, and their quirks.

🔄 Mijbil:

- Begins as scared and shy ➡ grows into a joyful, loving, and expressive companion.
- Learns to **trust humans**, especially the narrator, and adjusts to new environments.

💡 Moral / Message of the Chapter

- 🐾 **Animals are emotional beings** – they feel fear, joy, and affection just like humans.
- 👬 **Companionship has no species barrier** – true friendship can be formed between humans and animals.
- 🌿 **Patience and empathy** are key to understanding nature.
- 🌍 **Traveling with pets** needs sensitivity and preparation.

❓ Important Questions (CBSE Pattern Based)

1. **Why did the author choose an otter as a pet?**
   ➤ Because he wanted a change from a dog and was inspired by the natural beauty of Iraq's marshes.
2. **How did Mijbil behave in water?**
   ➤ He was extremely playful, dove in and out, and made games with household objects like marbles.
3. **Describe the incident during air travel.**
   ➤ Mij escaped from the box and created panic, but also gave a funny, chaotic moment to everyone.
4. **What challenges did the narrator face during travel?**
   ➤ Airline restrictions, Mij's behavior, and people's reactions all made the journey difficult yet memorable.

📝 New Words & Phrases – Learn with Emoji!

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Emoji
Marshes	Wetlands 🌾	🌿
Distraught	Deeply upset 😫	😟
Scuttled	Moved quickly 🏃	🐁
Hamper	A box or basket 📦	🧺
Jet-propelled	Moving very fast 💨	✈️