

Chapter – 8

The Bear Story

Exercises

1. Where did the lady find the bear cub? How did she bring it up?

Answer:

The lady found the bear-cub, very small and half dead of hunger, in the forest.

The lady and her cook brought up the bear cub only on milk.

2. The bear grew up but “he was a most amiable bear.” Give three examples to prove this.

Answer:

Nobody was ever harmed by the strong and powerful bear. He watched the cattle grazing in the field from his kennel with the most amicable eyes. He did not say anything when the dogs teased him and pulled his ears and tail. He ate in the same plate as the dogs.

3. What did the bear eat? There were two things he was not allowed to do. What were they?

Answer:

The bear was very fond of fruits but he was not allowed to climb the apple tree to eat apples. He ate bread, porridge, potatoes, cabbages and turnips. Apart from not being allowed to climb the trees, he was also not allowed to touch or disturb the beehives.

4. When was the bear tied up with a chain? Why?

Answer:

The bear was tied up with a chain only during the night and on Sundays when the lady went to her sister's house. Apart from this, when he created trouble with the beehives he was tied up as a punishment for his mischief.

5. What happened one Sunday when the lady was going to her sister's house? What did the lady do? What was the bear's reaction?

Answer:

The lady went to her sister's house every Sunday. One usual Sunday, when the lady was crossing the forest, a bear came up to her from behind. The lady took it to be her bear and scolded him for following her. When she noticed that the bear didn't have his collar on his neck, she hit him on the nose with her parasol.

The bear didn't understand the lady's reaction and was very surprised. He shook his head and opened his big mouth several times as if he wanted to say something but he finally turned around and went away.

6. Why was the bear looking sorry for himself in the evening? Why did the cook get angry with her mistress?

Answer:

The bear had been chained for the whole Sunday afternoon and was lonely without his mistress. This is why he was looking so.

The cook got angry with her mistress because she was scolding the bear for no fault. He had behaved very well during the absence of his mistress yet the lady was angry with him. The cook was unaware of the fact that the lady had met a bear on her way and she had taken it to be her bear.

1. Most people keep dogs and cats as pets. Can you think of some unusual pets that people keep?

Answer:

There are many unusual pets that people keep. Some of them are cocks, monkeys, tiger cubs, elephants and bears.

2. The second bear did not attack the lady because he was afraid of her. Do you agree?

Answer:

Bears are usually genial and good-natured animals. They do not attack anyone unnecessarily. They prove to be harmful only when they sense a threat to their lives.

No, I do not think that the bear was afraid of the lady. The bear just did not understand why he was being scolded by the lady but he had sensed that the lady did not mean any harm to him. Thus, he did not attack her.