

## Lesson - 14

# RIKKI TIKKI TAWI

### A. WARMER

Animals are our friends. Man has been domesticating animals for a long time. Which animals are pet animals? How are they useful?

- ◆ *Read this story of a pet mongoose and see how he helped his master.*

It had rained heavily all night. The sunlight was a little pale. Teddy, a young boy of ten, ran out into the garden. He saw a mongoose lying wet and still on the grass.

‘Here’s a dead mongoose, Teddy called out to his mother. Let’s bury him.’



'No', said Teddy's mother. His heart is beating faintly. Perhaps he will live. Let's take him inside and dry him.'

Teddy's father wrapped him up in an old woolen muffler and placed him near the fire. The mongoose sneezed. Teddy and his parents were delighted. They gave him some meat and then took him outside. He sat in the sun and shook his fur till it was quite dry. He then shook his long, fluffy tail till it looked like a bottle brush.

He started taking interest in Teddy and the things around him. He followed Teddy around the house and into the garden. At night he slept in Teddy's room.



In the morning he came to breakfast sitting on Teddy's shoulder. Teddy gave him a banana and a boiled egg. The mongoose enjoyed his breakfast.

Soon Teddy and the little mongoose became very good friends. The mongoose would run through the tall grass crying 'Rikki-tikki-tikki-tikki'. Teddy used to laugh at him and started calling him Rikki Tikki Tawi.

One morning, Rikki Tikki was wandering about in the garden. There he saw Nag, the big cobra and his wife, Nagin. Cobras and mongooses are old enemies. Although Rikki Tikki was young he knew that the main purpose of a mongoose's life is to fight and kill snakes. Nag also knew that a mongoose in the garden meant death for him and his family. He was a full grown snake and measured five feet from the tip of his tongue to the end of his tail. Rikki Tikki was still a baby. He told himself, 'I won't fight Nag and Nagin when they are together.' So he jumped up high in the air and ran away.

It was night. Teddy carried Rikki to bed. As soon as the boy was asleep Rikki went off for his nightly walk round the house. Suddenly the silence was disturbed by a faint noise; it was coming from the bathroom of Teddy's parents.

Rikki Tikki quickly entered the bathroom. He could hear Nag and Nagin talking on the other side of the bathroom drain.

Nagin was telling her husband, 'Bite and kill all three people in the house. The mongoose will go away when there is no one left in the house. We will then have the garden to ourselves.'

Then Rikki Tikki saw Nag slithering into the bathroom through the drain. Although Rikki Tikki was very angry, he was also a little scared. Nag was so big and poisonous.

Nag waited for Teddy's father to come to the bathroom. He

knew he would come at midnight. So he coiled himself up till he looked like a length of rope arranged in the shape of a circle. Then he went to sleep. Rikki Tikki was hiding behind the door and watching Nag.

When Nag was fast asleep, Rikki Tikki jumped on his head and dug his teeth into the snake's flesh. Nag was furious. He threw his head from side to side and poor Rikki Tikki was thrown against the wall again and again. He was hurt and bleeding but he did not let go his hold of Nag's head.

During this struggle Nag's tail upset the mug and soap dish. They fell to the ground with a loud thud. Rikki Tikki thought he was going to die. Suddenly, the wild struggling stopped. Nag's head dropped down and did not move again. Teddy's father, who had entered the bathroom on hearing the loud thud, had shot him with a gun.

He picked up the bleeding Rikki Tikki and went back to his bedroom. He asked his wife to put some medicine on Rikki's wounds.

'I have shot the snake,' he said, 'but it is Rikki Tikki that has saved our lives.'

Teddy's mother washed Rikki's wounds with medicine. She petted his poor, sore head and gave him some toffees. Rikki Tikki was happy. He fluffed up his tail and ran off to Teddy's room.

**RUDYARD KIPLING**

## GLOSSARY AND NOTES

wrap	:	(रैप), लपेटना	to put paper or cloth around something
fluff	:	(फ्लक), रोयॉँ	the soft new fur on young animals
measured	:	(मेजर्ड), माप	to find size weight, quantity
faint	:	(फेइन्ट), कमजोर	not strong or clear
slither	:	(स्लीदर), फिसलते हुऐ आगे बढ़ना	to move by sliding
scare	:	(स्केयर), डराना	to frighten
upset	:	(अपसेट), परेशान	feel unhappy
thud	:	(थड), धमाका	the low sound that is made when a heavy object hits something else
pet	:	(पेट), पालतू या दुलारा	an animal or bird that we keep for pleasure

## B. COMPREHENSION

### B.1 Think and Tell

#### B.1.1 Answer the following question :

1. How old was Teddy?
2. How did the mother know that the mongoose was not dead?
3. Why were Teddy and his parents delighted?
4. Where did the mongoose sleep?

### B.2 Think and Write

#### B.2.1 Answer the following questions in a word or a sentence :

1. Why did Teddy's father wrap the mongoose in an old woolen muffler and placed him near fire?
2. What did the mongoose eat in breakfast?
3. What is the main purpose of a mongoose's life?
4. Where did Rikki Tikki see Nag and Nagin?

#### B.2.2 Answer each of the following in not more than 50 words.

1. Why did Teddy name the mongoose 'Rikky Tikky Tawi'?

2. What were Nag and Nagin talking?
3. Why did Rikki Tikki enter the bathroom of Teddy's parents?
4. Why did Nag and Nagin want to bite Teddy and his parents?
5. What made Rikki Tikki fight against Nag?

### C. WORD POWER

**C.1** Go through the text again and again and guess the meaning of the following words :

pale, still, bury, faintly, wrapped, sneezed

**C.2** Find out words that are opposite in meaning to the following:

friends, death, wet, awake, unhappy

### D. GRAMMAR

#### D.1 Perfect Tenses

Read the following sentences from the lesson :

- (a) I have shot the snake.
- (b) It had rained heavily all night.

Mark the use of 'have shot' and 'had rained' in the sentences above. The first sentence is in the Present Perfect Tense which suggests a completed action with the results still noticeable. The second sentence, which is in the Past Perfect Tense, suggests a completed action in the past with results to be noticed in the immediate past.

We use the Present Perfect (has/have+V3) for an action in the past with a result seen now.

**D.1.1 Complete each sentence with the correct form of verb in the box:**

1. Look, somebody ..... that window.
2. I cannot find my pen. Somebody ..... it.
3. Where is Mamta? .....you ..... her?
4. My house ..... Where shall we go?
5. I am looking for Khushboo. Where..... she .....?

steal, break, see, go, fall, down

**E. LET'S TALK AND WRITE**

**Work in Groups**

- (a) Talk about pet animals.
- (b) Write a paragraph on your pet animal.

**F. TRANSLATION**

**F.1 Translate the following into English:**

क्या तुमने गोलघर देखा है?  
नहीं मैंने गोलघर नहीं देखा है।  
क्या आप पटना जा चुके हैं?  
हाँ, मैं पटना जा चुका हूँ।  
आपने वहाँ क्या देखा है?  
मैंने वहाँ चिड़ियाघर देखा है।

**F.2 Translate the following into your mother tongue:**

Has he ever come to you?  
No, he has never come to me.  
Who has told you about him?

Where have they gone?  
Why have they come?

## G. LANGUAGE GAME

### H.1 Cross Word:

This cross word can be played between two teams. One player of each team writes a letter in the box at a time. If the letter makes a meaningful word, the team gets as many points as the number of letters in the word. At last, the team that gets more points is the winning team :

			a	n	d				
					o				

**Points:** TEAM1 ...  
TEAM2....

