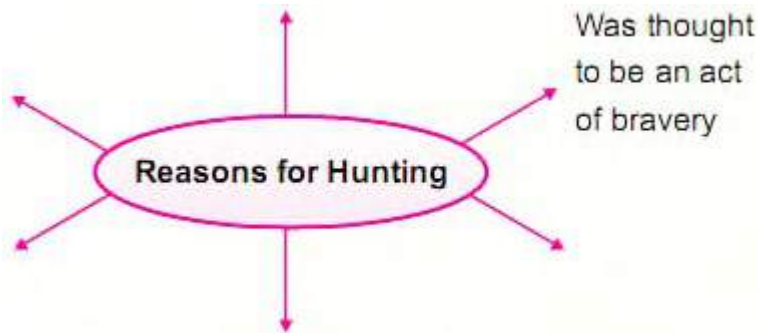


## Chapter - 2

### Mrs Packletides Tiger

Q.1 Why do people hunt? Complete the web chart giving various reasons for the same:



Ans.: People hunt because-

- To protect themselves from being attacked and wild animals
- Poaching for animal skin
- Hunting was to be a game
- To earn fame
- Tiger skin and head were supposed to be precious for interior decorations.

Q.2 Read these lines and guess the answers to the questions given below  
It was Mrs. Packeltide's pleasure and intention that she should shoot a tiger .... The compelling motive ....was the fact that Loona Bimberton had recently ..... personally procured tiger-skin and a heavy harvest of Press photographs could successfully counter that sort of thing.

- a) Why did Mrs. Packletide want to kill a tiger?
- b) What does it tell you about her?
- c) What is the tone of the story writer?

d) Do you think she was successful in her mission?

e) What do you think the story is all about?

Ans.: (a) Mrs. Packeltide couldn't allow Loona Bimberton to enjoy limelight and press photographs than she herself. So, she decided to kill a tiger and come into the limelight.

(b) The greed for power, attention, and lust for limelight had turned her so blind to humanity that she doesn't care for the way to achieve her ends. She is intensely selfish and inhumane.

(c) The narrator is extremely sarcastic in her tone. The lust for fame and popularity in Mrs. Packeltide is pointed by the narrator in a mocking fashion.

(d) Mrs. Packeltide was not completely successful in her attempt as she almost scared the tiger while just killing a goat in the end.

(e) The story narrates the incident of Mrs. Packeltide who in the process to attain attention and fame decided to kill a tiger and ultimately comes up killing a goat. Her inhumanity is what the narrator tries to stress in the text.

Q.3 This story was written at a time when there was very little awareness about the need to protect the environment and the wildlife. Now read the story.

Ans.: Please read from the book.

Q.4A Answer the following questions in your own words:

Why did Mrs. Packletide wish to kill a tiger?

Ans.: Mrs. Packeltide had heard about Loona Bimberton's fame and how she had acquired such haughtiness after possessing a tiger skin. To put her

down and attract masses towards her, Mrs. Packeltide decided to kill a tiger to reduce Loona Bimberton's fan following.

**Q.4B** Answer the following questions in your own words:

What made her decide to give a party in Loona Bimberton's honour? What did she intend to give Loona on her birthday?

**Ans.:** Mrs. Packeltide was dissatisfied with Loona Bimberton's fan following and haughtiness and wanted to demean her publicly. Thus, she throws a party to let her down before others.

To make Loona Bimberton realize her superior position than her and to bring her down before others, Mrs. Packeltide decided to gift her a brooch made of tiger claws.

**Q.4C** Answer the following questions in your own words:

How was the tiger shooting arranged? What kind of tiger was chosen for the purpose?

**Ans.:** The tiger shooting arranged in the village was a paid one. The villagers were excited to win prizes for shooting and so a paid arrangement for the shooting was organized.

The villagers arranged for a tiger who would be less dangerous and an easy hunt for Mrs. Packeltide. Thus, they brought a tiger that usually fed on cattle and was less violent.

**Q.4D** Answer the following questions in your own words:

In what way did the villagers help Mrs. Packletide shoot the tiger?

**Ans.:** The villagers kept their cattle in the open for days for the tiger to hunt them down without much effort of going too far off places. They even arranged a platform for Mrs. Packeltide to make it convenient for her to kill the tiger.

Q.4E Answer the following questions in your own words:

Who was Miss Mebbin? Was she really devoted to Mrs. Packletide? How did she behave during the tiger shooting?

Ans.: Miss Mebbin was hired by Mrs. Packeltide to provide her with the company during the shooting.

Mrs. Mebbin was an extreme opportunist with a manipulative nature, who tried to convince Mrs. Packeltide not to pay the villagers as much for the old tiger.

Q.4F Answer the following questions in your own words:

Mrs. Packletide was a good shot. Discuss.

Ans.: The given statement is actually an instance of sarcasm. Mrs. Packeltide maintained a very bad shot by scaring the tiger to death and killing a goat instead. However, the villagers kept it a secret in order to not let the money wipeout of their hands and tried to spread the news that Mrs. Packeltide had actually hunt down a tiger.

Q.4G Answer the following questions in your own words:

What comment did Miss Mebbin make after Mrs. Packletide had fired the shot? Why did Miss Mebbin make this comment? How did Mrs. Packletide react to this comment?

Ans.: After the shot, Miss Mebbin shouted out the fact that the tiger had not been shot. Instead, she had killed a goat.

Miss Mebbin is an extremely cunning person and an opportunist who knows how to utilize things to her benefit. Thus, she made a hue and cry about Mrs. Packeltide's failure in the hope that she could later exploit her through this.

Mrs. Packeltide was infuriated with her as she didn't expect her to spread her news of failure in such a manner.

Q.4H Answer the following questions in your own words:

How did the villagers react to the tiger's death?

Ans.: The villagers were only concerned about the money. So, they decided to keep Mrs. Packeltide's words and remained silent after watching Mrs. Packeltide's failure lest she should deny to give them their amount.

Q.4I Answer the following questions in your own words:

Do you think Mrs. Packeltide was able to achieve her heart's desire? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans.: Mrs. Packeltide is a person who can go to extents to attain fame, pleasure and the air of superiority. Though she couldn't kill the tiger, yet she bribed the villagers well enough to keep her failure a secret and her victory of killing grand tiger published in a well-known newspaper. Thus, she has achieved her heart's desire.

Q.4J Answer the following questions in your own words:

How did Miss Mebbin manage to get week-end cottage? Why did she plant so many tiger lilies in her garden?

Ans.: Miss Mebbin was an important witness to the true incident and had made large cry over Mrs. Packeltide's failure in order to prise out the money for the cottage from her through blackmailing her.

Miss Mebbin is a humorous character in the way she used the cottage to plant tiger lilies in the memory of the tiger that helped her to extract the cottage from Mrs. Packeltide.

Q.4K Answer the following questions in your own words:

"The incidental expenses are so heavy," she confides to inquiring friends. Who is the speaker? What is she referring to here?

Ans.: The given words have been spoken by Mrs. Packeltide. She used these words as an excuse for hunting.

Mrs. Packeltide seems to excuse herself from tiger hunting in order to avoid the large sum of secondary expenses. Though we know for sure that the matter is something else.

Q.5A Discuss the following question in detail and write the answers in your notebooks:

Do you think the tiger shooting organized by the villagers was a serious affair?

Give reasons for your answer.

Ans.: The tiger shooting organized by the villagers was a petty issue after all as the villagers were already carrying the knowledge about the weakness and frailty of the tiger. In order to reduce the risk of tiger shooting, they had intentionally got a tiger that was old and senile so that it wouldn't create much violence. The villagers had even got their children to keep the tiger in the outskirts of the village where it wouldn't get much to eat and would sulk in its performance thereby making it an easy catch for Mrs. Packeltide to shoot it down. However, the children had left some goats near the tiger so that it might feed on them and not die of starvation.

**Q.5B** Discuss the following question in detail and write the answers in your notebooks:

Do you think the writer is trying to make fun of the main characters in the story i.e. Mrs. Packletide, Miss Mebbin and Loona Bimberton? Pick out instances from the story that point to this fact.

**Ans.:** In this text, the narrator adopts the technique of satire to mock the characters and to expose their particular idiosyncrasies. Mrs. Packeltide's singular intention was to prevent Loona Bimberton's growing fame and popularity. Loona Bimberton too was insecure of Mrs. Packeltide's limelight and wanted to capture a share of it, she even turned down Mrs. Packeltide's invitation for a lunch party organized in her honour. Miss Mebbin is another character in this story who adopts an opportunistic stance and tries to blackmail Mrs. Packeltide with the truth of the tiger shooting in order to procure a cottage from her. The writer skillfully satirizes these characters to expose them to their barest possibilities to show the possible streaks of human nature and behavior present in society.

**Q.5C** Discuss the following question in detail and write the answers in your notebooks:

A person who is vain is full of self-importance and can only think of himself/herself and can go to great lengths to prove his/her superiority. Do you think Mrs. Packletide is vain? Give reasons in support of your answer.

**Ans.:** Humans are innately greedy for power, superiority, limelight and the gaze of others. Mrs. Packeltide offered thousand rupees to the villagers to help her get an easy prey and to keep mum even after knowing her failure in shooting the tiger. She even settles for a paid witness to her tiger shooting. However, the plan goes wrong and she had to bribe Miss Mebbin, the opportunist witness to not let out the news to the public. Miss Mebbin, finding the situation suitable goes to the extent of blackmailing Mrs. Packeltide in procuring a cottage from her.

Q.5D Discuss the following question in detail and write the answers in your notebooks:

Sometimes writers highlight certain negative aspects of society or human beings by making fun of it. This is called satire. In your groups discuss whether you would classify this story as a satire. Give reasons to support your answer.

Ans.: In this text, the narrator adopts the technique of satire to mock the characters and to expose their particular idiosyncrasies. Mrs. Packeltide's singular intention was to prevent Loona Bimberton's growing fame and popularity. Loona Bimberton too was insecure of Mrs. Packeltide's limelight and wanted to capture a share of it. She even turned down Mrs. Packeltide's invitation for a lunch party organized in her honor. The language of her letter of thanks sent to Mrs. Packeltide very clearly stated her repressed emotions. Miss Mebbin is another character in this story who adopts an opportunistic stance and tries to blackmail Mrs. Packeltide with the truth of the tiger shooting in order to procure a cottage from her. Besides, the whole affair of tiger hunting is conjoined with satire. Instead of killing a weak tiger, Mrs. Packeltide ends up shooting a goat while making the tiger die in fright. The writer skillfully satirizes these characters to expose them to their barest possibilities to show the possible streaks of human nature and behavior present in society

Q.5E Discuss the following question in detail and write the answers in your notebooks:

How does the writer create humor in this story?

Ans.: The writer has laced the instances in the text with intense satire and succeeding humor. The character sketches of Mrs. Packeltide, Miss



Mebbin, and Loona Bimberton absolute materialistic. selfish, inhumane fools who have nothing to do except searching for means to get to the limelight with the easiest means and resources. The instance of tiger hunting is extremely funny where the woman is unable to shoot a lean and weak tiger and ends up killing a goat. Another crude instance is the case of Miss Mebbin who tries to extract the cottage from Mrs. Packeltide in return for keeping mum about the true incident.

Q.6 Choose extracts from the story that illustrate the character of the people listed in the table given below. There are some words given to help you. You may add words of your own. One has been done as an example: vain jealous competitive shrewd manipulative stingy materialistic spiteful

Character	Extract from the story	What this tells us about the character
Mrs. Packeltide	(i) The compelling motive for her sudden deviation towards the footsteps of Nimrod was the fact that Loona Bimberton had recently been carried eleven miles in an aeroplane by an Algerian aviator, and talked of nothing else; only a personally procured tiger-skin and a heavy harvest of Press photographs could successfully counter that sort of thing Character Extract from the story What this tells us about the	Competitive

	(ii) Mrs. Packletide had offered a thousand rupees for the opportunity of shooting a tiger without over-much risk or exertion,	.....
	(iii) Mrs. Packletide faced the cameras with a light heart, and her pictured fame reached from the pages of the Texas Weekly Snapshot to the illustrated Monday supplement of the Novoe Vremya.	.....

Louisa Mebbin	(i) "If it's an old tiger I think you ought to get it cheaper. A thousand rupees is a lot of money."	.....
	(ii) Louisa Mebbin adopted a protective elder-sister attitude towards money in general, irrespective of nationality or denomination	.....
	(iii) "How amused every one would be if they knew what really happened," said Louisa Mebbin a few days after the ball.	.....
	(iv) Louisa Mebbin's pretty week-end cottage,	.....

	christened by her "Les Fauves," and gay in summer-time with its garden borders of tiger-lilies, is the wonder and admiration of her friends	
Loona Bimberton	<p>(i) As for Loona Bimberton, she refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks, and her letter of thanks for the gift of a tiger-claw brooch was a model of repressed emotions</p> <p>(ii) there are limits beyond which repressed emotions become dangerous.</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

Ans.: Mrs. Packletide - (i) Competitive; (ii) Manipulative; (iii) Vain  
 Louisa Mebbin – (i) Stingy; (ii) Materialistic (iii) Shrewd (iv) Spiteful  
 Loona Bimberton – (i) Jealous; (ii) Spiteful

Q.7 There are many amusing lines in the story. Here are a few of them. Rewrite each one in ordinary prose so that the meaning is retained. One has been done for you as an example:

- It was Mrs. Packletide's pleasure and intention that she should shoot a tiger.
- Mrs. Packletide had already arranged in her mind the lunch she would give at her house in Curzon Street, ostensibly in Loona Bimberton's

honour, with a tiger-skin rug occupying most of the foreground and all of the conversation.

c) Mothers carrying their babies home through the jungle after the day's work in the fields hushed their singing lest they might curtail the restful sleep of the venerable herd-robber.

d) Louisa Mebbin adopted a protective elder-sister attitude towards money in general, irrespective of nationality or denomination

(e) Evidently, the wrong animal had been hit, and the beast of prey had succumbed to heart-failure, caused by the sudden report of the rifle, accelerated by senile decay

(f) As for Loona Bimberton, she refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks, and her letter of thanks for the gift of a tiger-claw brooch was a model of repressed emotions

Ans.: (a) Mrs. Packletide wanted to shoot a tiger

(b) Mrs. Packletide had already arranged in her mind about the lunch that she would throw in the honour of Loona Bimberton while displaying the tiger-skin rug and extensive talks on the tiger hunt.

(c) Mothers, returning home with their babies after work, walked past the jungle silently lest the tiger should wake from sleep.

(d) Louisa Mebbin was very particular about monetary issues irrespective of nationality or denomination.

(d) It was obvious that the wrong animal had been hit as the tiger had died out of heart attack with the bullet shooting an innocent goat instead.

(e) Neither did Loona Bimberton go through the newspaper for weeks nor did she read the letter of thanks for the gift of the tiger-claw brooch written in a form that could conceal her true emotions.

Q.8 An oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines normally-contradictory terms. The most common form of oxymoron involves an adjective-noun combination of two words like- failed success

Writers often use an oxymoron to call attention to an apparent contradiction. For example, Wilfred Owen's poem The Send-off refers to soldiers leaving for the front line, who "lined the train with faces grimly gay." The oxymoron 'grimly gay' highlights the contradiction between how the soldiers feel and how they act: though they put on a brave face and act cheerful, they feel grim. Some examples of oxymorons are- dark sunshine, cold sun, living dead, dark light, almost exactly etc.

The story Mrs. Packletide's Tiger has a number of oxymorons. Can you identify them and write them down in your notebooks?

Ans.: Some oxymorons listed in the story are-

Over-much risk, elaborate consciousness, gladly connived, pardonably annoyed, immeasurably nearer.

Q.9A Years later Mrs. Packletide writes her autobiography. As Mrs. Packletide, write about the tiger episode with the help of the clues given below.

jealous of the applause Loona was getting--thought of tiger hunt--all arranged-- Louisa Mebbin accompanied; turned out to be a blackmailer--huge price to pay to outdo a rival.

Ans.: As Mrs. Packletide, I must showcase my fame and power before the world. I was highly jealous of the growing popularity and the applause that Loona Bimberton was getting. Thinking about ways to divert the

attention towards myself, I suddenly came up with the thought of tiger hunt to earn a token of bravery in my neighborhood. I gathered the villagers to get a lean tiger to serve as an easy prey to my plan. All was arranged except that I had to get a witness to my shooting. I got Louisa Mebbin to serve as a witness. However, as I shot the bullet, it went past the tiger which died out of fright and the bullet hurt an innocent goat. Highly embarrassed, I ordered the villagers to stay mum about this and spread the news of my valiance. Louisa turned out to be a blackmailer and followed me to extract money for keeping quiet about the situation. Thus, I had to shell out a large sum of money for a cottage and hand it over to her. Apparently, the entire plan cost me more than the actual result expected out of it.

Q.9B In groups of four constructs the dialogues and enact the following situations from the story:

1. Mrs. Packletide and the headman of the village/other villagers discussing the details of the tiger shooting.
2. Miss Mebbin blackmailing Mrs. Packletide into gifting her a cottage.
3. Loona Bimberton and a lady-friend discussing Mrs. Packletide's hunting success.

Ans.: (1) Village head: I just heard that Memsahib wanted to hunt a tiger

Mrs. Packeltide: Yes. But I want a lean and thin one.

Village head: I got it. A tiger has been seen preying on our cattle and is now without any food to satisfy its thirst. It roams around, looking thin and weak. We shall get that for you, Memsahib.

Mrs. Packeltide: Fine. Arrange that and you will get ten thousand rupees from me.

Village head: As you wish, Memsahib. We shall see to it and arrange for the platform for your shooting.

2. Miss Mebbin: I have found a week end cottage at Darking and I'm thinking of buying. What do you say?

Mrs. Packeltide: Go ahead. What am I to do for it?

Miss Mebbin: Nothing much. I was wondering how Loona would be elated on knowing about your tiger shooting?

Mrs. Packeltide: Is it a blackmail?

Miss Mebbin: Not at all. I was just thinking of retiring to some calm corner and wondering if you could help me out.

Mrs. Packeltide: And what if I don't act accordingly? Will you give out the truth and tell everyone that the bullet frightened the tiger to death while hitting an innocent goat?

Miss Mebbin: Let's see. May be. I don't know.

Mrs. Packeltide: fine. Tell me your amount and remember not to open your mouth henceforth.

Miss Mebbin: Never ever. And why should I? I just want some peace.

3. Lady friend: What's' that lying on the table?

Loona Bimberton: Oh, nothing. Just a tiger claw brooch sent by a friend.

Lady friend: And who is this friend of yours?

Loona Bimberton: Some Mrs. Packeltide

Lady friend: Is this that woman whom we saw in the newspapers some weeks ago?

Loona Bimberton: Oh, yes. That poor lady! Somehow managed to hunt down a tiger in the jungles.

Lady friend: Very courageous though.

Loona Bimberton: Not exactly. I doubt whether it was really she herself who shot the tiger or she made someone do it for her.

Lady friend: And why so?

Loona Bimberton: Mrs. Packeltide is not at all a courageous lady. She must have duped people and bribed someone to do it just to put me down.

Q.10A Listen to the passage on lion hunting and answer the questions given below:

The Maasai tribe in Africa hunt lions because

- A. they live near the forests of Africa
- B. they view it as a sign of bravery and personal achievement
- C. they are a hunting tribe
- D. they adorn their bodies with body parts of the lion

Ans.: They view it as a sign of bravery and personal achievement.

Q.10B Listen to the passage on lion hunting and answer the questions given below:

Solo hunting has been banned because of

- A. it is dangerous



- B. of the declining lion population
- C. too many hunters have been killed
- D. it creates pride in the minds of the successful hunters

**Ans.:** of the declining lion population

Q.10C Listen to the passage on lion hunting and answer the questions given below:

The hunting of lionesses is discouraged because

- A.. they bear the cubs
- B. they run much faster
- C. they are more fierce
- D. they cannot be spotted easily

**Ans.:** they bear the cubs.

Q.10D Listen to the passage on lion hunting and answer the questions given below:

The Maasai warriors chase a lion with rattle bells to

- A. awaken it
- B. make it run faster
- C. make it angry
- D. frighten it

**Ans.:** make it angry

Q.10E Listen to the passage on lion hunting and answer the questions given below:

The Maasai use three parts of the lion. They are

- A. the mane, tail and claws
- B. the mane, nails and claws
- C. the mane, tail and nails
- D. the whiskers, tail, and claws

**Ans.:** the mane, tail, and claws

Q.10F Listen to the passage on lion hunting and answer the questions given below:

The tail is given to

- A. the strongest warrior
- B. the fastest warrior
- C. the youngest warrior
- D. the bravest warrior

**Ans.:** the strongest warrior