

2.1 Animals

Warming Up!

1. Get into pairs and attempt the following:

"The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog. - Mark Twain.

Discuss with your partner what Mark Twain means from the above quote, Write in your own words.

Ans. By the above quote. Mark Twain means that his dog has certain qualities which he wishes that human beings possess, but do not. Each day, as he comes across different people and learn more about human nature, the feeling grows within him that humans possess many disagreeable qualities that do not help in improving relationships. As a result. he begins to love his dog more than human beings.

2. Put the following attributes! abilities given below in the proper circles.

Human	Common to both	Animals
cooks	Self control	lives for more than 150 years
Learn computing	communicates	sleep in standing position
Stands up immediately	Love and care	has 360° vision
Worship god	Shows gratitude	belongs to various species after birth
Good manners	Swims	
	Brings up children	

3. At times, especially when you are frustrated, you wish you were an animal, a bird, a fish, a butterfly and not a human being. Say which of the above you would choose to transform to and give 3 or 4 reasons for your choice.

Ans. When I am frustrated. I wish I could be a bird, so I could fly away from the cause of frustration. At such times, I would like to be far from the noise and crowd on earth and sail in silence across the sky. I would prefer to concentrate on my own thoughts and regain my peace, and the best place for that would be up in the heavens, close to God. Flapping my wings would keep me active and busy and help me forget about my worries.

4. We come across many animals in our vicinity. We have also read about different animals in books, Make a list of all animals that fall under various categories. One is

given for you.

Amphibians	mammals
Frog	Cow
Toad	Bat
Salamander	Squirrel
caecilian	mangoose

(Continued here)

Wild animals	Aquatic animals	Pet animals
Lion	Octopus	Cat
Tiger	Crocodile	Dog
Bear	Alligator	Guinea pig
Wolf	Hippopotamus	Gold fish
Cheetah	turtle	
Leopard		
monkey		

ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. (A) Match the words given in table A with their meanings in table B.

A. Column	B. Column (Answer)
(1) whine	complain in an annoying way
(2) sin	an offence against religious or moral law
(3) evince	show
(4) mania	mental illness
(5) negligent	failing to take proper care

(B) Find adjectives from the poem which refer to positive and negative thinking:

Positive	Negative
(1) placid	(1) dissatisfied
(2) self-contained	(2) demented
(3) Respected	(3) unhappy

2. Complete the following:

- (a) The poet wishes he could turn and live with animals
- (b) Animals do not complain about their condition.
- (c) Animals do not merely discuss their duty to God
- (d) Animals are not crazy about owning things.

3. State whether the following statements are true or false.

(a) Animals are self-reliant.

Ans. True

(b) Animals quarrel for their possessions.

Ans. False

(c) Animals do not worship other animals.

Ans. True

(d) Humans have given up many good qualities.

Ans. true

(e) Animals suffer humiliation.

Ans. false

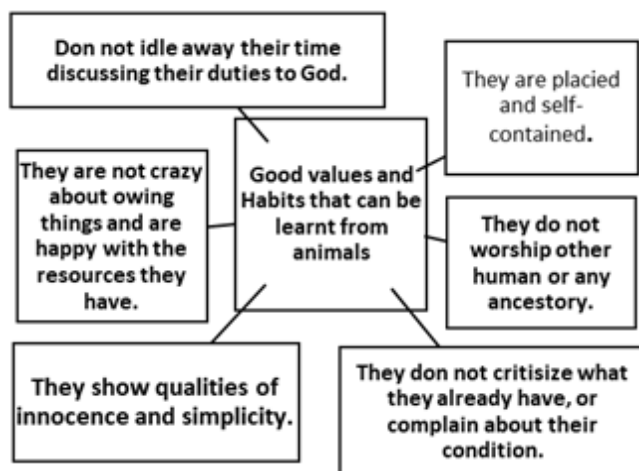
(f) The poet has retained all his natural virtues.

Ans. false

4. With the help of the poem find the differences between animals and human beings.

Human Beings	Animals
Always dissatisfied.	Always contented.
<u>Crazy about acquiring possessions</u>	<u>Never interested in owning things.</u>
<u>Worship other human beings</u>	<u>Never worship anyone of their kind.</u>
<u>Always unhappy about earthly matters.</u>	<u>Unconcerned about earthly matters.</u>

5. Read the text again, and complete the web, highlighting the good values/habits which we can learn from animals.



6. Find out lines from the poem that are examples of following Figures of Speech.

Figures of Speech	Lines
Repetition	I stand and look at them long and long They do not sweat and whine ... They do not lie awake ... They do not make ... Not one is dissatisfied. Not one is demented .
Alliteration	Not one is dissatisfied, not one is demented ... they evince them plainly in their possession.
Hyperbole	Not one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth.

7. Identify the Figures of Speech in the following lines.

(a) I stand and look at them long and long.

Ans. Repetation

(b) They do not sweat and whine about their condition.

Ans. Personification

(c) They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God.

Ans. Alliteration

(d) Not one is demented with the mania of owning things.

Ans. metaphor/alliteration

(e) They bring me tokens of myself.

Ans. Metaphor

(f) No one is respectable 'or unhappy over the whole earth.

Ans. Hyperbole

8. Read the poem again and write the appreciation of the poem in format with the help of given points.

Ans. Paragraph Format

The poem 'Animals' has been penned by Walt Whitman.

The central idea of the poem is that animals today are better than humans.

The poet has broken away from the conventional use of a rhyme scheme and has written the poem in free verse.

The chief figure of speech used in the poem is Repetition. Lines such as "They do not sweat.... They Do not lie awake.... "They do not make me sick.. make a strong impact. expressing the qualities that humans should possess, but do not. The other figures of speech are Alliteration, Tautology. Hyperbole, etc.

A line in this poem which is my favourite is: They bring me tokens of myself. This is a very powerful line that shows us what good qualities human beings must have possessed when they were almost like animals in the early stages of evolution and which animals still possess, while we do not.

This is a reflective poem. The language used is simple, but the tone is subtle. By describing the qualities that animals possess today, the poet indirectly implies that we human beings too should possess these qualities. The poet has used adjectives such as 'placid' and 'self-contained' to bring out the good qualities possessed by animals.

I like this poem very much because it tells us indirectly that if we want to improve human relationships we should observe and pick up qualities that animals now possess and which we might have once possessed but have carelessly given up on the path of evolution.

9. Divide the class into two groups. One group should offer points in favour of (views) and the other against (counterviews) the topic:

"The life of an animal is better than that of a human being. Later use the points to express your own views/counterviews in paragraph format in your notebook.

Ans. Paragraph Format

View: Unlike humans, animals are placid and self. contained. They do not try to set targets or achieve goals as humans do. Animals do not complain about their condition. They are quite satisfied with their

living conditions, whatever they be. Moreover, they do not worship things, other animals or

people as gods. Neither are they too bothered about possessions or earthly matters

Counterview: Since animals are self-contained and self-satisfied, they do not feel the need to improve their living conditions. Humans are restless, they complain about their lives. The result is that they continuously try to improve their living conditions. By setting targets humans are able to achieve all. Animals have no idea about God. Humans acknowledge a divine Creator. Animals do not worry about possessions or earthly matters. As a result, they do not possess the will to care about the future of this planet, as humans do.