

CHAPTER: THE ADVENTURES OF TOTO

Exam-Oriented Study Material (Latest Syllabus & Pattern)

A. Chapter Overview

- **Author Name: Ruskin Bond**
 - **Main Theme: Mischief and innocence of pets;** the conflict between a pet's natural wildness and domestic life; financial responsibility.
 - **Important Characters:**
 - **Toto** (a mischievous monkey)
 - **Grandfather** (loving, animal lover, careless spender)
 - **Grandmother** (practical, dislikes Toto's mischief)
 - **Narrator** (Grandfather's grandson, observer)
 - **Moral/Message:** Pets may bring joy but also chaos. One must think before buying exotic animals. **Love for animals should be responsible.**
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B. Very Short Answer Questions (1 Mark)

1. **Who bought Toto?**
→ Grandfather.
2. **From whom did Grandfather buy Toto?**
→ A tonga driver.
3. **How much did Toto cost?**
→ Five rupees.
4. **Where was Toto kept initially after being bought?**
→ In a **little cage** with a tortoise and a pair of rabbits.
5. **Why was Toto transferred to a big cage?**
→ He killed the pet tortoise and troubled the rabbits.
6. **What did Toto do to the narrator's school blazer?**
→ He **tore it** into shreds.
7. **What food did Toto love to steal?**
→ **Pullao (rice dish).**

8. **Where did Grandfather take Toto in a basket?**
→ **Saharanpur** (to Dehra Dun via train).
 9. **What did Toto do with a plate of pullao?**
→ He threw it out of the window.
 10. **Who did the railway ticket collector think Toto was?**
→ A **dog**.
 11. **How much fare did the ticket collector charge for Toto?**
→ **Three rupees** (for a dog).
 12. **What did Toto do to the wallpapers in Grandfather's room?**
→ He **tore them off**.
 13. **What happened to the narrator's school blazer?**
→ Toto **shredded** it.
 14. **Why did Grandfather sell Toto back?**
→ He was too **destructive and expensive to keep**.
 15. **Who bought Toto back?**
→ The same **tonga driver**.
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C. Short Answer Questions (2–3 Marks)

1. **How did Toto look?**
→ Toto was a **small, red monkey** with **bright eyes, white teeth**, and a **long tail** used as a third hand. His tail helped him hang from branches.
2. **Why did Grandfather decide to buy Toto?**
→ He was an animal lover and found Toto's **mischievous nature entertaining**. He thought Toto would be a good companion for other pets.
3. **Why was Toto not kept with other animals?**
→ He troubled the rabbits, killed the tortoise, and did not let other animals sleep peacefully.
4. **What did Toto do with the nankeen (coloured cloth)?**
→ He wrapped it around himself like a **loincloth** and then tore it to pieces.
5. **How did Toto behave in the train?**
→ He put his head out, looked at passersby, and when a plate of pullao arrived, he **threw it out the window**.
6. **How did the ticket collector react to Toto?**
→ He thought Toto was a dog and charged **three rupees fare**.

7. **Why did Grandmother dislike Toto?**
→ He broke dishes, tore clothes, pulled curtains, and disturbed her morning prayers.
 8. **What did Toto do to Grandmother's pet parrot?**
→ He **nearly killed it** by pulling its tail and feathers.
 9. **Why did Grandfather finally sell Toto?**
→ Toto's mischief **cost more money** than the family could afford. Also, he had become a **nuisance** for everyone.
 10. **Describe Toto's intelligence with an example.**
→ He learned to **open latches** easily. Once he escaped from a closet by unfastening the hook.
 11. **What did Toto do when Grandfather tried to take a bath?**
→ He jumped into the **bathwater** and enjoyed the warmth, refusing to come out.
 12. **How did Toto behave with the cook?**
→ He would **steal food** from the kitchen and run away. Once he ate a large plate of pullao.
 13. **Why was Toto called "dangerous" in the house?**
→ He broke **dishes, jugs, glasses**, tore clothes, and attacked the parrot.
 14. **What lesson does the story teach about keeping wild pets?**
→ Wild animals are not meant for domestic life. They can be destructive, and one must be **financially and mentally prepared**.
 15. **How did the family feel after Toto was sold?**
→ They felt **relieved** but also missed his funny antics. Grandfather was sad but accepted it was necessary.
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D. Long Answer Questions (4–6 Marks)

1. **Describe Toto's journey by train with Grandfather. Why was it an adventure?**
→ Grandfather took Toto to Saharanpur in a basket. Toto kept peeping out. When lunch came, Toto grabbed the plate of pullao and **threw it out the window**. The ticket collector charged three rupees for Toto as a dog. Grandfather argued but had to pay. This shows Toto's unpredictable, naughty nature even in public.
2. **Explain the financial and emotional reasons why Toto was sold back to the tonga driver.**
→ **Financially:** Toto broke dishes, tore clothes, and damaged furniture. Grandfather had to pay for replacements and train

fare. **Emotionally:** Grandmother was angry, the parrot was in danger, and no one had peace. Grandfather loved him but realized he couldn't afford to keep him.

3. **How does the story show the difference between Grandfather and Grandmother's attitudes towards pets?**

→ Grandfather is **romantic and impulsive** – buys Toto without thinking. Grandmother is **practical and strict** – dislikes Toto's mischief and demands he be removed. The story shows that love for animals must be balanced with responsibility.

4. **Toto is described as "clever but destructive." Justify with three incidents.**

- **Clever:** Learned to open latches and escape.
- **Destructive 1:** Tore the narrator's school blazer.
- **Destructive 2:** Pulled off wallpapers.
- **Destructive 3:** Nearly killed the parrot.

5. **Do you think Grandfather was irresponsible in buying Toto? Give reasons.**

→ Yes, because he didn't check if Toto could adjust at home. He ignored Grandmother's warnings. No, because he genuinely loved animals and thought Toto needed a good home. The story suggests that **good intentions are not enough** without planning.

6. **What role does the narrator play in the story?**

→ The narrator is Grandfather's grandson. He observes everything and reports Toto's adventures. He loses his school blazer to Toto. His voice adds humour and a child's perspective.

7. **Compare Toto's behaviour at home and in the train. Is he equally naughty everywhere?**

→ Yes. At home: tears clothes, breaks dishes. In train: throws food, puts head out, disturbs passengers. Toto is **consistently mischievous** regardless of the place.

8. **How does the author create humour in the story?**

→ Through Toto's **exaggerated actions** – bathing in warm water, wrapping himself in cloth, throwing pullao, fighting with the parrot. The contrast between Grandfather's love and Grandmother's frustration also adds humour.

9. **Why does the writer call the chapter "The Adventures of Toto"?**

→ Because Toto's every act – from escaping a cage to travelling in a train – is an **adventure** full of risk, fun, and trouble. The word "adventures" suits his unpredictable, daring nature.

10. What is the message of the story for teenagers who want to keep exotic pets?

→ Exotic pets may seem fun but need special care. They can be destructive and expensive. One must think about **family, space, and budget** before getting one.

E. Character-Based Questions

Toto

- **Traits:** Mischievous, clever, curious, destructive, funny
- **Actions:** Tears clothes, breaks dishes, steals food, opens latches
- **Purpose:** Represents the conflict between wild nature and domestic life

Grandfather

- **Traits:** Loving, generous, careless with money, animal lover
- **Actions:** Buys Toto for ₹5, defends him, finally sells him
- **Purpose:** Shows that love alone cannot control a wild animal

Grandmother

- **Traits:** Practical, strict, religious
- **Actions:** Complains about Toto, wants him sold
- **Purpose:** Voice of reason in the story

Narrator (Grandson)

- **Traits:** Observer, humorous, suffers Toto's mischief
 - **Purpose:** Provides a child's perspective and continuity
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F. Extract/Reference-to-Context Questions

Passage 1

“Toto was a pretty monkey... his teeth were sparkling white... he would scratch himself with them...”

- **Q1:** Who is Toto?
→ A pet monkey bought by Grandfather.
- **Q2:** How does the author describe Toto's teeth?
→ Sparkling white, used for scratching.

Passage 2

“The ticket collector... said, ‘You have to pay for his fare.’ ‘But he is not a dog,’ said Grandfather.”

- **Q1:** Where were they going?
→ To Saharanpur.
- **Q2:** Why did the ticket collector charge fare?
→ He thought Toto was a dog.
- **Q3:** How much was charged?
→ Three rupees.

Passage 3

“Toto was left in the stable... He pulled out the peg... and was now sitting on the top of the jackfruit tree.”

- **Q1:** Where was Toto tied?
→ In the stable.
- **Q2:** What did he do?
→ Pulled out the peg and escaped to a tree.

G. Competency-Based Questions

1. **If Toto were a dog instead of a monkey, would the story change? Why?**
→ Yes, a dog is easier to train. Toto’s **opposable thumbs and tail** made him more destructive.
 2. **How would you train Toto if you were Grandfather?**
→ Use positive reinforcement with food, keep him in a secure enclosure, and avoid leaving valuable items near him.
 3. **Do you think the ticket collector was fair? Give a reason.**
→ Yes, because any pet on a train must have a ticket. No, because Toto was not a dog, but rules were unclear.
 4. **What would have happened if Grandmother had agreed to keep Toto?**
→ More items would break, and the parrot might have died. The family would have faced more stress.
 5. **Should zoos or wildlife sanctuaries keep monkeys like Toto?**
→ Yes, monkeys are wild animals. Sanctuaries provide proper space and diet.
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H. Previous-Year Style Questions (CBSE Pattern)

- 1. Why did Toto throw the pullao out of the train window? (2 marks)**
→ He was curious and naughty. He didn't understand the value of food and enjoyed the act of throwing.
 - 2. Describe any two destructive acts of Toto. (3 marks)**
 - Tore the narrator's school blazer.
 - Pulled off the decorative wallpapers.
 - 3. Was Grandfather right in selling Toto? Justify. (4 marks)**
→ Yes, because Toto's mischief cost more than ₹5, he endangered other pets, and Grandmother was upset.
 - 4. Give a character sketch of Toto in 80 words. (5 marks)**
→ Toto was a small, red monkey with shining eyes and a long tail. He was extremely clever – he could open latches. But he was also very destructive – he tore clothes, broke dishes, and killed a tortoise. He loved stealing food and bathing in warm water. His innocence mixed with mischief made him lovable but impossible to keep.
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I. Important Value-Based Questions

- 1. What value does Grandfather lack in buying Toto impulsively?**
→ **Responsibility** – He didn't think about the consequences.
 - 2. What value should one have before adopting a pet?**
→ **Empathy** (for the pet's needs), **Patience**, and **Financial planning**.
 - 3. What does Grandmother's attitude teach us?**
→ Being **practical and firm** is necessary for family peace.
 - 4. What value does the story teach about money management?**
→ Don't spend on things that will cause more loss than joy.
 - 5. How does Toto teach us to respect wildlife?**
→ Wild animals belong in their natural habitat, not homes.
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J. HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills) Questions

- 1. Do you think Toto was "adventurous" or just "wild"?**
→ Both. He was adventurous because he explored everything; wild because he didn't understand domestic rules.

2. **If Toto could speak, what would he say to Grandfather when sold?**
→ “I was just being myself. You should have known monkeys can’t live in a house.”
 3. **Why is Toto’s tail mentioned so many times in the story?**
→ Because it acts like a **fifth hand**, making his mischief unique and more destructive.
 4. **Could Toto have become a good pet if trained from infancy?**
→ Possibly better, but still difficult because monkeys are naturally wild, unlike dogs.
 5. **Compare Toto’s behaviour with a modern child’s mischief. How are they similar?**
→ Both seek attention, explore forbidden things, and don’t understand consequences. But Toto lacks moral reasoning.
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K. One-Page Quick Revision Notes

Chapter Summary

Grandfather buys a monkey named Toto for ₹5. He keeps him at home, but Toto tears clothes, breaks dishes, kills a tortoise, and fights a parrot. Grandfather takes him by train to Saharanpur; Toto throws food out the window. The ticket collector charges ₹3 for a “dog”. At home, Toto pulls wallpapers and ruins things. Finally, Grandfather sells Toto back to the same tonga driver.

Key Events

1. Bought from tonga driver – ₹5
2. Killed tortoise
3. Tore blazer
4. Train journey + threw pullao
5. ₹3 fare
6. Destroyed wallpapers
7. Sold back for ₹5

Important Points

- **Toto’s tail** = extra hand
- **Grandfather** = animal lover but impractical

- **Grandmother** = practical and annoyed
- **Moral** = Think before buying exotic pets

Important Quotes

- *“Toto was a pretty monkey.”*
 - *“You have to pay for his fare.”*
 - *“Grandfather had to sell him back.”*
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L. Exam Booster Section

Top 20 Most Important Questions for Final Revision

#	Question	Probability
1	Why did Grandfather buy Toto?	Very High
2	How much did Toto cost?	High
3	What did Toto do to the tortoise?	Very High
4	Describe Toto’s train adventure.	Frequently Asked
5	Why was Toto sold back?	Frequently Asked
6	How did Toto destroy the school blazer?	High
7	What did the ticket collector say?	Very High
8	How much fare for Toto?	High
9	Why did Grandmother dislike Toto?	Very High
10	How did Toto behave with the parrot?	High

#	Question	Probability
11	What did Toto do with pullao?	Frequently Asked
12	How did Toto use his tail?	Very High
13	Was Grandfather responsible? Give opinion.	High (Value-based)
14	Character sketch of Toto.	Frequently Asked
15	Character sketch of Grandfather.	High
16	Why did Toto tear wallpapers?	Medium
17	How did Toto escape from the stable?	Medium
18	What lesson does the story teach?	Very High
19	Do you sympathise with Toto or Grandfather?	High (HOTS)
20	Compare Toto with other pets in the story.	Medium