

A TIGER IN THE HOUSE

[Comprehension Check]

Question 1. “He had the distinction of being the only member of the party *to have bagged any game...*” The phrase in italics means

- (i) Grandfather was the most distinguished member of the party.
- (ii) Grandfather was the only sportsman in the party.
- (iii) Grandfather was the only successful member of the hunting party.

Mark the right answer.

Answer: (iii) Grandfather was the only successful member of the hunting party.

Question 2. Complete the following sentences.

- (i) Toto climbed up the curtains when -----
- (ii) -----, I became one of the tiger’s favourites.
- (iii) Timothy had clean habits, -----

Answer:

- (i) Toto climbed up the curtains when **Timothy lost his temper.**
- (ii) **When I came to live with my grandfather,** I became one of the tiger’s favourites.
- (iii) Timothy had clean habits, **and would scrub his face with his paws exactly like a cat.**

Question 3. Grandmother’s prophecy was that the tiger

- (i) would prefer Mahmoud’s bed to sleep in.
- (ii) and the cook would disappear together from the house.
- (iii) would one day make a meal of Mahmoud.

Mark the right answer.

Answer: (iii) would one day make a meal of Mahmoud.

Question 4. When Timothy was about six months old, a change came over him.

The phrase in italics means that

- (i) Timothy had grown to his full size.
- (ii) Timothy grew more friendly.
- (iii) Timothy grew less friendly, in fact more dangerous

Answer: (iii) Timothy grew less friendly, in fact more dangerous

Question 5. Write ‘True’ or ‘False’ against each of the following statements.

- (i) Timothy and Grandfather went to Lucknow in a special compartment. _____
- (ii) The compartment in which Grandfather and Timothy travelled had no other passenger. _____
- (iii) Timothy and Grandfather travelled in a first class compartment. _____
- (iv) All passengers in the compartment thought that Timothy was a well-fed and civilized tiger. _____

Answer:

- (i) False
- (ii) True
- (iii) True
- (iv) False

Question 6. Grandfather suggested that Timothy should be put in another cage.

The reason was that

- (i) the tiger had become very bad tempered.
- (ii) a leopard in the next cage would constantly rush at Timothy.
- (iii) the cage was too small for a full grown tiger.

Answer: (ii) a leopard in the next cage would constantly rush at Timothy.

Question 7. The tiger was still licking his arm, with increasing relish. The phrase in italics suggests that Timothy

- (i) was good natured.
- (ii) recognized an old friend.
- (iii) smelt fresh food.

Answer: (ii) recognized an old friend.

[Exercises]

Answer the following questions.

Question 1. Where was the tiger cub hiding when Grandfather found him?

Answer: It was hiding in the roots of a banyan tree in the Tarai jungle near Dehra

**Question 2. (i) What did Toto do to entertain Timothy?
(ii) What did he do when Timothy lost his temper?**

Answer: (i) Toto would pull Timothy by the tail to entertain him.
(ii) He would climb up the curtain when Timothy lost his temper.

Question 3. "I became one of the tiger's favorites". Who is 'I' in the statement? Why did he think so?

Answer: In this statement, 'I' is the author. He thought Timothy would creep closer and closer to him, suddenly making a dash on his feet, rolling over on his back and kicking with delight, and pretending to bite his ankles.

Question 4. Where was Timothy most comfortable during the day? Where was he during the night?

Answer: Timothy was most comfortable on the sofa during the day. In the night, he would sleep in the cook's quarter.

Question 5. What was Grandmother's prophecy about the cook? Did it come true?

Answer: Grandmother's prophecy about the cook was that one day Timothy will eat him. No, it did not come true.

Question 6. What made Grandfather decide to transfer Timothy to the zoo?

Answer: Timothy had begun to be less friendly. He seemed to follow Mahmood with wrong intentions. He would eat birds. This made Grandfather decide to transfer Timothy to the zoo.

Question 7. Why did Grandfather want Timothy to be put in another enclosure?

Answer: Because a leopard in the neighbouring cave was bothering and frightening him.

Question 8. What shocked Grandfather in the end?

Answer: Grandfather was shocked to hear from the keeper that Timothy was dead two months ago and the tiger he was caressing was not Timothy but someone else – very dangerous.