

Class X - English

Mijbil the Otter

CBSE NOTES

Mijbil the Otter - Mastery Worksheet

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Mastery Questions

1. Describe the initial reaction of Mijbil the otter when he first arrived at Maxwell's cottage. How did his behavior change over time?

Hint: Focus on the transition from indifference to attachment.

Solution: Initially, Mijbil was aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep far from Maxwell. Over time, he became more friendly and interactive, showing a keen interest in his surroundings and developing a close bond with Maxwell.

2. Compare and contrast the natural habitat of otters in Iraq with the environment in London where Mijbil was taken.

Hint: Consider climate, water availability, and urban vs. natural settings.

Solution: Otters in Iraq live in marshes with abundant water, suitable for their aquatic nature. London, with its temperate climate and urban setting, was a stark contrast, lacking natural water bodies but offering open spaces and parks.

3. Explain the challenges Maxwell faced while transporting Mijbil to England and how he overcame them.

Hint: Think about the airline's rules and Mijbil's behavior.

Solution: Maxwell faced challenges like airline restrictions, Mijbil's discomfort in the box, and the otter's escape during the flight. He overcame them by improvising solutions, such as keeping Mijbil on his knee and ensuring his comfort.

4. Analyze the significance of the airhostess's role in ensuring Mijbil's safe journey to London.

Hint: Focus on her actions and their impact on the journey.

Solution: The airhostess played a crucial role by understanding the situation, suggesting Mijbil stay on Maxwell's knee, and ensuring the otter's safety and comfort, showcasing her empathy and professionalism.

5. Discuss how Mijbil's intelligence and playful nature are depicted in the chapter.

Hint: Look for examples of problem-solving and play.

Solution: Mijbil's intelligence is shown through his ability to open taps and invent games. His playful nature is evident in his water antics and interactions with toys, highlighting his curiosity and energy.

6. What does Maxwell's description of Mijbil's species being unknown to science tell us about the otter?

Hint: Consider the implications of a new species discovery.

Solution: It highlights Mijbil's uniqueness and the rarity of his species, emphasizing the special bond Maxwell formed with him and the scientific interest in his discovery.

7. How do the Londoners' reactions to Mijbil reflect their unfamiliarity with otters?

Hint: Think about the range of guesses and what they signify.

Solution: The varied and incorrect guesses about Mijbil's species show the Londoners' lack of knowledge about otters, underscoring the otter's exotic nature in an urban setting.

8. Evaluate the ethical considerations of keeping wild animals like otters as pets, as presented in the chapter.

Hint: Balance the positives and negatives of keeping wild pets.

Solution: The chapter subtly raises questions about the ethics of domesticating wild animals, highlighting the challenges and responsibilities, while also showing the deep bond that can form.

9. Describe Mijbil's compulsive habits and compare them to those of children, as mentioned by Maxwell.

Hint: Look for parallels in behavior patterns.

Solution: Mijbil's habits, like jumping on walls and touching specific objects, mirror children's rituals, showing how both seek comfort and predictability in their environments.

10. Reflect on how Maxwell's narrative style brings Mijbil's character to life for the reader.

Hint: Consider the use of descriptive language and personal anecdotes.

Solution: Maxwell's detailed observations and affectionate tone vividly portray Mijbil's personality, making the otter's antics and emotions palpable to the reader.

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