

Class X - English

**Mijbil the Otter**

# CBSE NOTES

## **Mijbil the Otter - Quick Look Revision Guide**

*Your 1-page summary of the most exam-relevant takeaways from First Flight.*



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# Key Points

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## 1. Gavin Maxwell's decision to keep an otter.

After his dog Jonnie died, Maxwell decided to keep an otter as a pet, finding life without a pet lonely. This decision led to his unique bond with Mijbil.

## 2. Mijbil's introduction to Maxwell.

Mijbil was given to Maxwell by two Arabs in a sack, marking the beginning of Maxwell's otter fixation and a new phase in his life.

## 3. Mijbil's initial behavior.

Initially, Mijbil was aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep far from Maxwell. This changed as he became more comfortable and interactive.

## 4. Mijbil's love for water.

Mijbil exhibited a characteristic otter behavior of loving water, playing wildly in it, and ensuring every drop was in motion, showing his natural instincts.

## 5. Mijbil's intelligence shown through tap turning.

Mijbil demonstrated intelligence by learning to turn on the tap to play with water, though sometimes he turned it the wrong way out of frustration.

## 6. Mijbil's playful nature.

Mijbil spent hours playing with toys like rubber balls and marbles, inventing games that showcased his playful and intelligent nature.

## **7. Challenges in transporting Mijbil to England.**

Transporting Mijbil involved booking a flight to Paris first, as British airlines wouldn't fly animals, highlighting the difficulties in pet transportation.

## **8. The incident with the box during transport.**

Mijbil tore the lining of his transport box, causing a bloody mess, showing his distress and the challenges of traveling with wild animals.

## **9. Mijbil's escape on the plane.**

Mijbil escaped on the plane, causing chaos and fear among passengers, illustrating the unpredictability of keeping wild animals as pets.

## **10. Mijbil's recognition and affection towards Maxwell.**

Despite the chaos, Mijbil showed affection by nuzzling Maxwell's face, demonstrating their strong bond.

## **11. Mijbil's life in London.**

In London, Mijbil adapted to city life, playing with toys and developing habits like galloping along a wall, showing his adaptability.

## **12. Public's reaction to Mijbil.**

Londoners couldn't recognize Mijbil as an otter, guessing he was anything from a baby seal to a hippo, highlighting people's unfamiliarity with otters.

## **13. Mijbil's species identification.**

Mijbil was identified as a previously unknown otter species, later named *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli*, or Maxwell's otter, after his owner.

#### **14. Mijbil's compulsive habits.**

Mijbil developed habits like touching every seventh railing, similar to children's rituals, showing his need for routine and play.

#### **15. Maxwell's admiration for the airhostess.**

Maxwell praised the airhostess for her kindness and understanding during Mijbil's escape, calling her 'the very queen of her kind.'

#### **16. The bond between Maxwell and Mijbil.**

The story showcases the deep bond between Maxwell and Mijbil, transcending the usual pet-owner relationship, filled with love and mutual respect.

#### **17. Ethics of keeping wild animals as pets.**

The chapter subtly questions the ethics of keeping wild animals like otters as pets, through the challenges and adaptations Mijbil undergoes.

#### **18. Mijbil's impact on Maxwell's life.**

Mijbil brought joy, companionship, and a sense of adventure to Maxwell's life, changing his perspective on pets and wildlife.

#### **19. The importance of understanding pet needs.**

The story emphasizes the responsibility of pet ownership, highlighting the need to understand and cater to the animal's natural behaviors and needs.

#### **20. Mijbil's legacy.**

Mijbil's story leaves a lasting impression on readers about the beauty and challenges of interspecies friendships and the wonders of the natural world.



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