

Class X - English

A Triumph of Surgery

CBSE NOTES

A Triumph of Surgery - Mastery Worksheet

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Mastery Questions

1. Analyze the character of Mrs Pumphrey based on her actions and decisions in the story. What does her behavior reveal about her personality?

Hint: Focus on her interactions with Tricki and the veterinary surgeon, and how her wealth influences her decisions.

Solution: Mrs Pumphrey is portrayed as a wealthy, indulgent, and overly affectionate mistress who lacks the will to discipline her dog, Tricki. Her actions reveal her inability to say no to Tricki's demands, leading to his poor health. This behavior highlights her loneliness and need for companionship, which she fulfills through her pet. Her character is a critique of how excessive pampering can harm those we care about.

2. Compare and contrast the treatment of Tricki at Mrs Pumphrey's home and at the veterinary surgeon's place. How do these environments affect Tricki's health?

Hint: List the differences in diet, exercise, and social interaction in both environments.

Solution: At Mrs Pumphrey's home, Tricki is overfed and under-exercised, leading to obesity and lethargy. In contrast, at the veterinary surgeon's place, Tricki is put on a strict diet, given plenty of exercise, and socializes with other dogs, which leads to his recovery. This contrast shows the importance of discipline and the right environment for health and well-being.

3. Discuss the role of the veterinary surgeon in the story. How does his approach to treating Tricki reflect his professional ethics and common sense?

Hint: Consider his interactions with Mrs Pumphrey and his treatment plan for Tricki.

Solution: The veterinary surgeon demonstrates professionalism and common sense by recognizing the root cause of Tricki's illness—overindulgence—and prescribing a natural remedy of diet and exercise instead of unnecessary medication. His tactful handling of Mrs Pumphrey's concerns and his firm decision to hospitalize Tricki reflect his commitment to the animal's well-being over the owner's sentiments.

4. Why does Mrs Pumphrey call Tricki's recovery 'a triumph of surgery'? Is this statement accurate? Justify your answer.

Hint: Analyze the actual treatment given to Tricki and Mrs Pumphrey's perception of it.

Solution: Mrs Pumphrey calls Tricki's recovery 'a triumph of surgery' because she believes the veterinary surgeon's intervention saved Tricki's life. However, this statement is ironic because no actual surgery was performed; Tricki's recovery was due to natural methods like diet and exercise. The term reflects Mrs Pumphrey's dramatic nature and her misunderstanding of the treatment.

5. Evaluate the transformation of Tricki from the beginning to the end of the story. What factors contributed to this change?

Hint: Track Tricki's physical and behavioral changes throughout the story.

Solution: Tricki transforms from an obese, lethargic dog to a healthy, active one. This change is due to the removal of excessive food, increased physical activity, and social interaction with other dogs at the veterinary surgeon's place. The story highlights how lifestyle changes can significantly impact health and happiness.

6. What does the story suggest about the relationship between humans and their pets? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Hint: Compare Mrs Pumphrey's and the veterinary surgeon's approaches to pet care.

Solution: The story suggests that while humans can deeply love their pets, excessive pampering can be harmful. Mrs Pumphrey's indulgence leads to Tricki's poor health, while the veterinary surgeon's balanced approach ensures his recovery. It underscores the need for responsible pet ownership that prioritizes the pet's health over the owner's desires.

7. How does the author use humor in the story? Provide examples and explain their effect.

Hint: Look for exaggerated situations and the veterinary surgeon's internal commentary.

Solution: The author uses humor to highlight the absurdity of Mrs Pumphrey's indulgence, such as the extensive wardrobe and accessories she sends with Tricki to the surgery. The veterinary surgeon's enjoyment of the extra eggs and wine sent for Tricki also adds a light-hearted tone, making the critique of overindulgence more palatable.

8. Discuss the significance of the title 'A Triumph of Surgery'. How does it relate to the story's themes?

Hint: Consider the actual treatment and the implied meaning of the title.

Solution: The title 'A Triumph of Surgery' is ironic, as no surgery is performed. It reflects the story's themes of misconception and the real triumph being the simple, natural methods of recovery. The title critiques how people often overlook straightforward solutions in favor of dramatic interventions.

9. What lesson can readers learn from Tricki's story? How is this lesson relevant to human health?

Hint: Draw parallels between Tricki's condition and common human health issues.

Solution: Tricki's story teaches the importance of moderation, discipline, and the right environment for health. This lesson is highly relevant to humans, as overindulgence and lack of exercise can lead to similar health issues. The story advocates for a balanced lifestyle for both pets and humans.

10. Imagine you are the veterinary surgeon. Write a diary entry reflecting on Tricki's recovery and your interactions with Mrs Pumphrey.

Hint: Include emotions, observations, and reflections on the events.

Solution: In the diary entry, the veterinary surgeon would express satisfaction at Tricki's recovery through natural methods, frustration at Mrs Pumphrey's inability to understand the real issue, and amusement at the luxuries sent for Tricki. The entry would highlight the challenges of dealing with indulgent pet owners and the joy of seeing a pet return to health.

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