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Class-X

English

First Flight

Chapter-6



Gavin Maxwell

Mijbil the Otter

Part - 4

Neha Rajvanshi

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COMPREHENSION

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Question 1. What 'experiment' did Maxwell think Camusfearna would be suitable for?

Answer : Camusfearna would be suitable for keeping an otter as a pet. It is because it was ringed by water at a very short distance. Otters live mainly in water.

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Question 2. Why does he go to Basra? How long does he wait there, and why?

Answer : The author went to Basra to the Consulate-General to collect and answer mail from Europe. He waited there for five days. It was because there were various problems in getting the mail.

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Question 3. How does he get the otter? Does he like it? Pick out the words that tell you this.

Answer : He got the otter from the two Arabs who got it for the author from Tigris marshes. The author liked it very much. We know this from his words "An Otter fixation" used to describe his feelings towards the otter.

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Question 4. Why was the otter named 'Maxwell's otter'?

Answer : The otter was named by zoologists as Lutrogale Perspicillata Maxwelli. Hence, it was called Maxwell's otter in short.

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Question 5. Tick the right answer. In the beginning, the otter was

- A • aloof and indifferent
- B • friendly
- C • hostile.

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Question 6. What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? What did it do two days after that?

Answer : When Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom, for half an hour the otter went wild with joy in the water. He plunged and rolled in it. He shot up and down the length of the bathtub underwater.

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He made enough slosh and splash. After two days he escaped from the author's bedroom. He entered the bathroom to play in water and with the tap.

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Question 7. How was Mij to be transported to England?

Answer : Mij was to be transported to England by air. The British airline didn't fly animals. So the author booked a flight to Paris on another airline and from there to London. The airline insisted that Mij should be packed into a box not more than eighteen inches square, to be carried on the floor at the writer's feet.

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Question 8. What did Mij do to the box?

Answer : Mij had torn the lining of the box to pieces in his efforts to escape from it.

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Question 9. Why did Maxwell put the otter back in the box? How do you think he felt when he did this?

Answer : Maxwell put the otter back in the box. It was because the airline would not fly him without the box. He was anxious and felt sorry by looking at the otter's condition as it had hurt itself while trying to escape from the box.

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Question 10. Why does Maxwell say the airhostess was "the very queen of her kind"?

Answer : The airhostess was very friendly and showed sympathy to Maxwell after listening to his story. She respected his feelings and concern about the incident with the box and suggested that he should keep his pet on his knees.

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Hearing this, the author developed a profound admiration for the kind lady and referred her as "the very queen of her kind".

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Question 11. What happened when the box was opened?

Answer : When the box was opened the otter disappeared at high speed down the aircraft. There were noises all around "A rat ! A rat !"

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Question 12. What game had Mij invented?

Answer : Mij had invented the game of a ball and a suitcase. The lid of the suitcase, when closed, remained at a slope from one end to the other. Mij would place the ball on the high end. He would run to the other end to ambush the arrival of the ball, grab it and trot off with it to the high end once more.

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Question 13. What are 'compulsive habits'? What does Maxwell say are the compulsive habits of

(i) school children

(ii) Mij

Answer : 'Compulsive habits' are those habits which are indulged in by the people at any cost. They become the integral part of the people's lives through constant use.

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(i) School children :-

The writer described some of the compulsive habits of school children. As they place their feet squarely on the centre of each paving block. They touch every seventh upright of the iron railings. They pass to the outside of every second lamp post.

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(ii) Mij :-

Mij would tug the author to the wall of the school near his house. He would jump on to it. He would then gallop the full length of its thirty yards.

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Question 14. What group of animals do otters belong to?

Answer : Otters belong to the small group of animals called Mustellines. These are shared by the badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink etc.

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Question 15. What guesses did the Londoners make about what Mij was?

Answer : The Londoners made guesses that Mij was 'a baby seal', 'a squirrel' or 'a walrus'. It was also 'a beaver', 'a bear cub', 'a leopard' and 'a brontosaur'. Mij was anything but an otter.

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Question 16. What things does Mij do which tell you that he is an intelligent, friendly and fun-loving animal who needs love?

Answer : Mij proved his intelligence when he invented his own game of ping-pong ball on a worn out suitcase of Maxwell.

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Another instance of his intelligence was when he opened the tap in the bathroom and got into the tub to play with water.

He used to play and juggle small objects between his paws lying on his back. He nuzzled the author's face and neck. All these things show that he was friendly and fun loving animal.

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Question 17. What are some of the things we come to know about otters from this text?

Answer : From this text we got so much information about otters and their behaviour aspect. Otters belong to a comparatively small group of animals called Mustellines, shared by bedger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink and others.

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They are found in large number in marshes.

Arabs keep them as pets. Otters love to spread water and splash in it. They are friendly, fun loving and playful animals.