

CLASS – 10

ENGLISH

First Flight

CH-6 : Mijbil the Otter

Part – 4

The Everlasting Bond

KOMAL JETWANI



OVERVIEW

1. Introduction

2. Author's Yearning For A Pet

3. His Unusual Decision

4. Mijbil : A Hesitant Creature

5. Its Hidden Talents

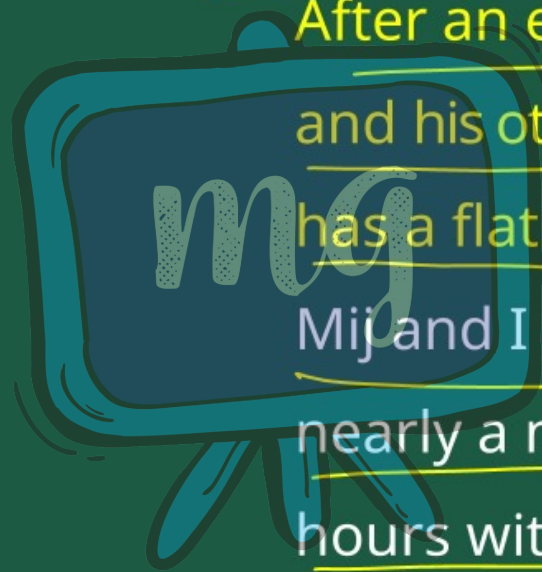
6. The Everlasting Bond



Camusfearna IV

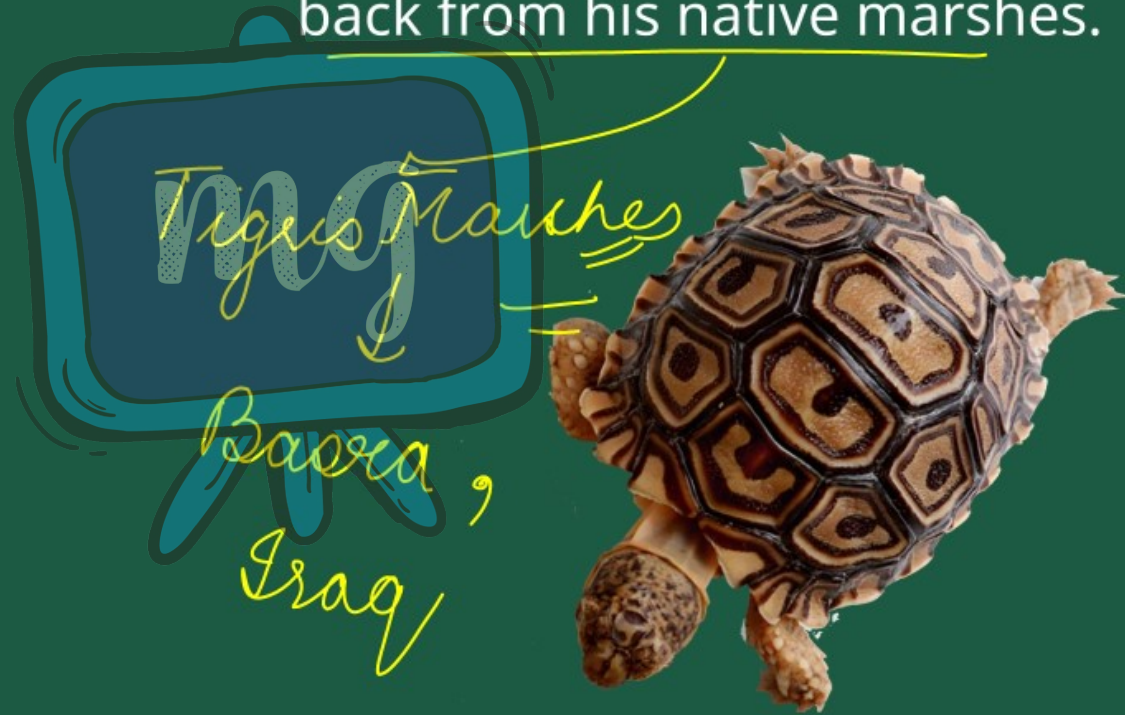
After an eventful journey, Maxwell and his otter reach London, where he has a flat.

Mij and I remained in London for nearly a month. He would play for hours with a selection of toys, ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit,

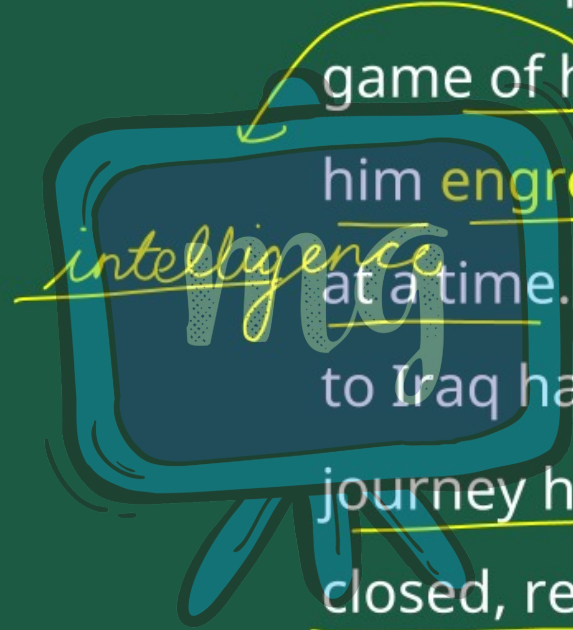


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and a terrapin shell that I had brought
back from his native marshes.



With the ping-pong ball he invented a game of his own which could keep him engrossed for up to half an hour at a time. A suitcase that I had taken to Iraq had become damaged on the journey home, so that the lid, when closed, remained at a slope from one end to the other.



Engrossed : busy

Mij discovered that if he placed the ball on the high end it would run down the length of the suitcase. He would dash around to the other end to ambush its arrival, hide from it, crouching, to spring up and take it by surprise,

- Dash : to run fast
- Ambush : hide in order to attack
- Crouching : to sit bending knees

grab it and trot off with it to the
high end once more. Outside the
house I exercised him on a lead,
precisely as if he had been a dog.
Mij quickly developed certain
compulsive habits on these walks in
the London streets,

Trot off : here, walking
Compulsive habits : repetitive
behavior

like the rituals of children who on
their way to and from school must
place their feet squarely on the
centre of each paving block; must
touch every seventh upright of the
iron railings, or pass to the outside
of every second lamp post.



Upright : straight

Opposite to my flat was a single-
storied primary school, along
whose frontage ran a low wall some
two feet high. On his way home,
but never on his way out, Mij would
tug me to this wall, jump on to it,
and gallop the full length of its
thirty yards,

Tug : to pull

Gallop : to run fast

to the hopeless distraction both of
pupils and of staff within.

It is not, I suppose, in any way
strange that the average Londoner
should not recognise an otter, but
the variety of guesses as to what
kind of animal this might be came
as a surprise to me.

Otters belong to a comparatively small group of animals called Mustellines, shared by the badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink and others.



I faced a continuous **barrage** of **conjectural** questions that sprayed all the Mustellines but the otter; more random guesses hit on 'a baby seal' and 'a squirrel.' 'Is that a walrus, mister?' reduced me to giggles, and outside a dog show I heard 'a hippo'.



Barrage : a continuous attack
Conjectural : speculative

A beaver, a bear cub, a leopard —
one, apparently, that had changed
its spots — and a 'brontosaur';

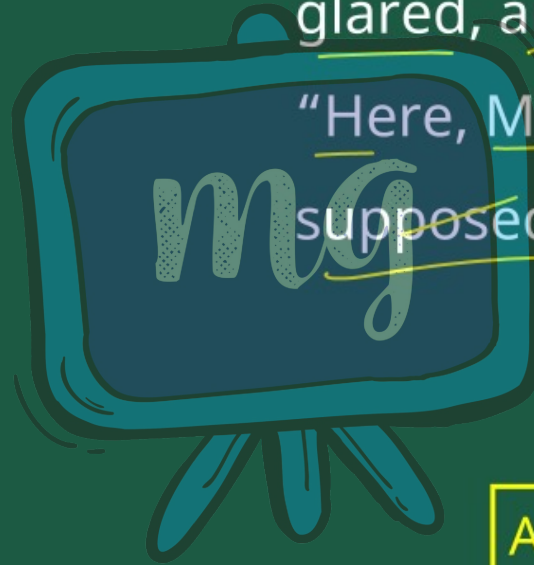


Mij was anything but an otter.

But the question for which I awarded the highest score came from a labourer digging a hole in the street. I was still far from him when he laid down his tool, put his hands on his hips, and began to stare. As I drew nearer I saw his expression of surprise and **affront**, as though he would have me know that he was not one upon whom to play jokes.

Affront : insult

I came abreast of him; he spat,
glared, and then growled out,
“Here, Mister — what is that
supposed to be?”



Abreast : next to

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1 | Public Perception of Animals

2 | Otters are not commonly recognized animals

ASSESSMENT

1

The statement "reduced me to giggles" implies the author felt:

- A Annoyed
- B Amused
- C Confuse
- D Threatened

ASSESSMENT

2

Based on this part, Mij can best be described as:

- A ~~Well behaved and obedient~~
- B ~~Playful and curious~~
- C ~~Aggressive and unpredictable~~
- D ~~Lazy and uninterested~~

ASSESSMENT

3

The author mentions Mij playing with various objects EXCEPT:

- A Rubber fruit
- B A terrapin shell
- C A dog leash
- D Ping pong balls