

Chapter 12

Grandfather's Private Zoo

A. Q/Ans

1. Where was the family going and who were the travellers?
 - A. The family was going from Dehra to Lucknow for some months. The travellers were grandfather, grandmother, a teenaged tiger, a pet squirrel, a python, a parrot and the author himself.
2. How can you say that Timothy was the best passenger?
 - A. Timothy, the tiger was the best passenger because he was not stealing from the vendors, not shouting at coolies, not breaking away any railway property and not spitting on the platform.
3. How was the train a squirrel's paradise?
 - A. The train was a squirrel's paradise as almost all the passengers had bought large quantities of roasted peanuts.
4. Why was the narrator shocked after opening the lid of the large basket?
 - A. The narrator was shocked to see the python curled up happily in the basket.
5. What happened after midnight?
 - A. A dozen passengers began to gather outside the washroom door after midnight when they spotted a python curled up in the washbasin.
6. Who received the family at the station? How did they fit in the taxi?
 - A. Aunt Mabel received the family at the station. Timothy, the tiger got onto the back of the seat with grandfather and the author while grandmother and Aunt Mabel sat in the front seat of the big taxi.

B. Match the following (straight matching)

1. Timothy – teenaged tiger
2. Popeye – parrot
3. Chips – squirrel
4. overfed – python
5. Grandfather – private zoo

C. Fill in the blanks.

1. Trains in India were not so crowded in those days.
2. Grandfather had booked in the first-class.
3. An ideal passenger is one, who doesn't steal from the vendors, doesn't shout at coolies, doesn't break railway property and doesn't spit on the platform.

D. Word Meanings-

1. insisted – made sure
2. variety – wide range
3. admitted – agreed
4. paradise – heaven
5. whispered – spoke very softly
6. bursting – full, stuffed

E. Missing letters-

1. c r o w d e d
2. p a r a d i s e
3. v e n d o r s
4. c o o l i e s
5. v a r i e t y
6. p l a t f o r m
7. b u r s t i n g
8. w h i s p e r e d
9. p a s s e n g e r s
10. g a t h e r e d

Reference to the context

1. **“Well, I’m hungry,” I said.**

i. Who is 'I', and what was his next question?

A. “I” refers to the author. His next question was what had granny made for them to eat in the train.

ii. What reply did grandfather give?

A. Grandfather answered that grandmother has made sandwiches, boiled eggs, roasted chicken and gooseberry pie for them.

iii. Later, why did grandfather jump from his seat?

A. Grandfather jumped from his seat to see the pet python in the tiffin basket who has eaten a lot of food.

2. **“Everything is under control.”**

i. Who said these words and to whom?

A. Grandfather said these words to the passengers.

ii. Why did grandfather say that it was just a harmless young python?

A. Grandfather said that it was just a harmless young python as it was already fully fed and it was his pet python.

iii. What did the python have for dinner?

A. The python had sandwiches, boiled eggs, a roasted chicken and gooseberry pie for dinner.

3. **“We won’t let her see it. Back it goes into the tiffin basket.”**

i. Who said these words and to whom?

A. Grandfather said these words to grandmother.

ii. Why were these words spoken?

A. These words were spoken as the snake went back into the tiffin basket and Aunt Mabel could not see it.

iii. Who noticed the tiffin basket, and why did she pick it up?

A. Aunt Mabel noticed the tiffin basket as she was not aware that the snake was inside the tiffin basket. She picked up the tiffin basket thinking that food is inside it and she was very fond of grandmother’s cooked food.