

Grade: 10 CBSE

SUPPLEMENTARY -1

1. A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY

by JAMES HERRIOT

Theme of the Story

The humourous story 'A Triumph of Surgery' is about an ill dog named Tricki who is over-pampered. The story revolves around the blind love Tricki's mistress possesses for her dog because she loves him the most in this world. Her life for all practical purposes revolves around him. Mrs. Pumphrey had no idea that her blind and extreme love for her dog Tricki put him into serious health trouble. Excessive love made Tricki sick and it became a reason for his illness. The story stresses that excess of everything is bad.

Summary

The story 'A Triumph of Surgery' revolves around an ill dog named Tricki and his mistress, Mrs. Pumphrey. The dog was overfed and fat. His eyes were blood-red and rheumy. Mrs Pumphrey gave him malt, cod-liver oil, and bowls of Horlicks. Still, Tricki had no energy. The doctor advised her to cut down on sweet things. Tricki left eating and kept vomiting. He was to be hospitalised. The doctor gave Tricki nothing to eat for the first two days except water. On the third day, there were signs of improvement. Tricki started getting interested in his surroundings as well as playing with other dogs. The doctor didn't give him any medical treatment. Tricki just ran around, got exercise and ate in measure. Soon, he recovered completely. Mrs. Pumphrey continued enquiring about Tricki on phone. When she came to collect the dog, tears were shining in her eyes. She called this magical recovery: 'A Triumph of Surgery'

Read and Find out

1. Why is Mrs Pumphrey worried about Tricki?

Ans. Mrs Pumphrey is worried about Tricki because he has become listless and weak. She feels that the condition of Tricki is very serious.

2. What does she do to help him? Is she wise in this?

Ans. She gives him malt and cod liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks to make him energetic. She gives him an extra diet of cream cakes and chocolates to make him feel better as he loves to eat all this. She is not giving him exercises as he is very weak and the gardener is not feeling well to take him for a long walk. She is not being wise in spoiling her greedy dog.

3. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

Ans. 'I' refers to the veterinary doctor who is the narrator of this story.

4. Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's Mistress?

Ans. No, the narrator was not as rich as Tricki's mistress because Mrs Pumphrey was spending lavishly even on her pet whereas the narrator could not afford luxuries like owning a big car.

5. How does he treat the dog?

Ans. He wants to be very strict with the dog especially regarding the diet. He treats him by curtailing his food in the hospital and by keeping him under strict observation. For two days he is given only water and no food at all.

6. Why is he tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?

Ans. The doctor was tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest because Mrs Pumphrey used to send two dozen fresh eggs and bottles of wine. The doctor did not want to lose the treat that he and his partners were relishing.

7. Why does Mrs Pumphrey think that the dog's recovery is 'a triumph of surgery'?

Ans. Mrs Pumphrey thought that the dog's recovery was a triumph of surgery because according to Mrs Pumphrey the dog was very serious and needed an urgent surgery to save his life. But the different treatment given by the doctor saved the life of the dog.

Think About It

1. What kind of a person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as full of common sense?

Ans. The narrator, Mr Herriot, is a tactful doctor. He uses his practical wisdom in curing his patients. He does not want to give treatment to the dog if he could manage without going for the surgery. When he sees Tricki who is swollen like a ball, he at once concludes that he needs freedom from the love and care of Mrs Pumphrey to save the young one. Instead of giving him medicine to be consumed at home, he advises Mrs Pumphrey to send the dog to the hospital. He frightens Mrs Pumphrey about the surgery and makes her leave Tricki with him. He is able to cure the dog by being strict with him regarding his diet.

2. Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?

Ans. At home Tricki had no company, no friends to play with but in the hospital he knew the pleasures of sharing his food and things and he played with other animals. He even enjoyed catching rats. Naturally, he would not feel comfortable at Mrs Pumphrey's house with no friends and no games at all.

3. Do you think this is a real-life episode, or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?

Ans. The story seems to be quite real because rich people overfeed their children. As Mrs Pumphrey loved Tricki like her own child she overfed him. She was very emotional towards the cute puppy and could not bear the separation from her doting pet. There is nothing unusual in a wardrobe of dresses for the dog as rich people believe in showing the world that they are very rich to spoil even their pets.

Long Answer Type Questions

Mrs. Pumphrey, the over-indulgent and caring mistress of Tricki, pampers her pet dog like a spoiled child. Comment. [Delhi 2020]

Ans. Mrs Pumphrey was a rich lady with a lot of love for her pet dog Tricki. She loved to live comfortably in a luxurious way. She took an extra care of Tricki by overfeeding him. She was not able to make out that the excess of weight and the fur coats do not allow the dog to move and play. She was so fond of her dog that she had got a wardrobe separate for daytime and night time beds, and a number of lovely fur coats. She pampered Tricki by giving him the food, that should not be given to a dog. She could not refuse delicious and favourite food to Tricki which made him overweight and inactive. Even in the hospital, she sent him eggs and brandy.

Her fondness for the dog and care were in excess. She forgot that excess of every thing is bad. She fed him like anything and made him sick. No doubt, Mrs Pumphrey was a very loving and caring mistress but her excess pampering of Tricky proved otherwise.

2. Give a brief character sketch of Mrs Pumphrey.

Ans. Mrs Pumphrey was a rich lady with a lot of love for pet dog, Tricky. She loved to live comfortably in a luxurious way. She took an extra care of Tricky by overfeeding him. She was not very intelligent as she was not able to make out that the excess of weight and the fur coats do not allow the dog to move and play. She thought that her loving pet was serious. She was so fond of her dog that she had got a wardrobe separate for daytime and night-time beds, and a number of lovely fur coats. She pampered Tricky by giving him the food, that should not be given to a dog. She was really a loving lady as the news about the surgery of her pet dog shocked her and her eyes brimmed with tears. She could not refuse delicious and favourite food to Tricky which made him overweight and inactive. Even in the hospital, she sent him eggs and brandy. Her fondness for the dog and extra care showed that she had motherly attitude towards Tricky.

3. Write a brief character sketch of Mr Herriot, the veterinary surgeon. What impresses you the most in him? Do you think he is a good judge of human nature?

Ans. Mr Herriot was a genius veterinary surgeon and above that he was a good human being. Mr Herriot had a deep understanding of veterinary medical science and psychology. Mr Herriot was quick to analyse the factors responsible for lack of fitness and ill health of Pumphrey. Apart from being an expert veterinary surgeon, he also had a lighter side which is evident from what he did with the eggs and brandy sent for Tricky. Hence, we can say that Mr Herriot was a successful veterinary surgeon with a caring heart for animals as well as for human beings.

4. Animals also understand the language of love. They have loving attitude towards their masters. Elaborate with reference to the story 'A Triumph of Surgery'.

Ans. Tricky was a very lucky dog to be looked after by a very sensitive lady Mrs Pumphrey, who looked after him like a pampered child. Tricky was fed on such delicacies and delicious food as might be a matter of jealousy for other dogs. Tricky also loved the heart that cared for him. After he had stayed with Mr Herriot for about a fortnight, he was eager to meet his mistress. The moment he saw her come to pick him up, he rushed to her with a tremendous leap. He expressed his love for her by licking her face and barking. He was excited when he met her after sometime. He

wanted to thank Mrs Pumphrey for giving him a lot of love. He was so loving and excited on meeting her that she could not hold back her tears. This behaviour of Tricki makes us realise that the animals are also grateful to their loving masters.

5. Obesity is a common problem nowadays. People live to eat and don't eat to live. What should be our approach to our diet? Does being rich mean to eat and feed too much like Tricki and Mrs Pumphrey?

Ans. The lethargic life led by Tricki at home makes us feel that probably he lived to eat. Tricki had become very greedy. He would never refuse to eat whatever and whenever it was given to him. His mistress overfed him to increase his intake of nutrients in order to give him vigour. But that affected adversely and made him obese and a dull dog. He suffered from the sickness called obesity. Obesity is a common problem nowadays. People live to eat and don't eat to live. Junk food and fast food have become a status symbol. Even students in schools bring food from branded food chains to show off. Being rich does not mean to eat too much. We should eat balanced and natural food. We should eat to earn stamina and good health and not to gain weight. We should eat to improve our health and not to spoil it