

A TIGER COMES TO TOWN – I

LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills			Grammar/Figures of speech	Activity	Life Skills
		Listening/ speaking	Reading	Writing			
5	A Tiger comes to Town – I	Dialogue using appropriate words	Prose (narrative story)	Slogan writing, Paragraph writing (narrative)	Past perfect tense, Reported speech (imperatives), Similes	Ethical treatment to animals – some Do's and Dont's	Understanding human nature, Ethical treatment to animals

SUMMARY

“A Tiger Comes to Town” is a story about a circus tiger that managed to escape unnoticed from his cage one day and went strolling in the streets of the town. He was accustomed to giving performances in a circus where the audience showed no signs of fear. This made him think that men were strong and fearless.

As he walked down the street, he realised how wrong he was. Men behaved totally differently. Their behaviour was both surprising and amusing as they ran for their lives on seeing him. He wondered why they were scared of him when he did not mean to harm them.

Feeling tired after a long day's stroll, he looked for a place to lie down and rest. He entered a school where the children got excited but their teachers sent them into a big hall for safety. The tiger entered the Headmaster's room and finding it cool, went off to sleep. The terrified Headmaster jumped to the loft for safety. Meanwhile the teachers locked up the room from outside till they found a safer method to pull out the tiger.

When the tiger woke up, he heard his master arguing with the teachers who were not letting him in and also about their use of the term 'brute' for the tiger which he thought was an unkind word.

The story is told in the first person where the tiger, who is the central character, narrates his experiences in his own words as though he were a talking and feeling tiger.

The story is narrated from the tiger's point of view. The author has put words in his mouth as though he were a talking and feeling character and therefore it is written in the first person.

PRINCIPAL POINTS

- People at the circus do not feel scared of a tiger because they know that he has been trained and all safety measures are taken care of.
- The tiger is a noble animal. It is an insult to use words like 'beast' or 'brute' for a tiger.
- A tiger does not attack human beings unless he has been treated cruelly or is starving.
- Animals too have intelligence because of which they can be tamed and trained.
- We should never underestimate anyone.

LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

1. While reading literature, readers often come across uncommon uses of words or expressions where the intended meaning is different from the literal meaning of the words/expressions.

The author uses a number of such expressions, e.g. 'I got a totally wrong idea of human beings **at that angle.**' means a point of view held by someone in a given situation.

Find out other such expressions from the text.

2. **'You are asking a profound question. I've no idea who I am. All my life I have been trying to find the answer, Are you sure you know who you are?'**

In the above statement, the Master is trying to tell the teachers that the question 'Who are You ?' is not a simple question. It has a much deeper meaning. He was trying to refer to philosophy where great scholars have been trying to find out the real purpose of life on earth but have not got any answer. In other words, he was trying to tell them politely and indirectly that if they themselves did not understand their own selves they had no right to ask him such a question.

ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE

Slogan writing

We generally use slogans on posters or advertisements. Slogans are generally written in short phrases which are catchy and make an impact on the mind of the readers. They carry the

main essence of the advertisement or the message meant to be conveyed.

Slogans must be catchy. They can be poetic too. Hence, they need not follow any rules. of

Writing a narrative

Refer to the tips given in lesson 3.

GRAMMAR

Reported speech

When we try to convey someone's words in our own words without changing the meaning, we use 'Reported Speech'. In doing so, we have to make some changes in the form and structure of certain words. Example

Hari said to his boss, "Sir, I am planning to go to Goa this month." (Direct Speech)

Hari told his boss that he was planning to go to Goa that month. (Indirect Speech/Reported Speech)

TEST TYPES

1. **MCQ/Objective type question (extrapolatory)**

Complete the following statement by choosing the best option from the ones given below:

Tigers are superior to men because they:

- A. are physically much stronger.
- B. are more obedient.

C. do not kill anyone without reason.

D. can perform difficult tricks in a circus.

2. **VSA (inference)**

The sentence, "... some even thought that I was some extraordinary creature who might pass through the walls and lie in wait on the roof or in the basements ..." implies that people were extremely

3. **SA (inference)**

Why do you think the teachers were rude to the Circus Master?

4. **LA (extrapolatory)**

'The tiger's day out was an adventurous and exciting one.' Do you agree? Justify your answer giving two or three examples from the story.