



**ATOMIC ENERGY CENTRAL SCHOOL**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**CLASS: IX**

**MODULE-3**

 **9. The Bond of Love**

**-KENNETH ANDERSON**

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## Glossary:

1. *gnarled*: rugged; twisted
2. *hoisted*: raised by means of ropes or pulleys
3. *Accomplished*: completed
4. *Squad*: team
5. *Gnarled*: rugged, twisted
6. *Genuine*: true; real



## THEMES:

- \* Separation from Bruno
- \* Visit to the superintendent
- \* Baba came back to home
- \* An island is made for him
- \* Affectionate bear



For the next three hours she would not leave that cage. She gave him tea, lemonade, cakes, ice-cream and what not. Then 'closing time' came and they had to leave. His wife cried bitterly; Baba cried bitterly; even the hardened curator and the keepers felt depressed. As for him, he had reconciled himself to what he knew was going to happen next. She wanted Bruno back but now it was government property. But the curator said that if his boss (superintendent) agreed then he could give Bruno back.



Back they went to Mysore again, armed with the superintendent's letter. Baba was driven into a small cage and hoisted on top of the car; the cage was tied securely, and a slow and careful return journey to Bangalore was accomplished. Once home, a squad of coolies were engaged for special work in our compound. An island was made for Baba. It was twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide, and was surrounded by a dry pit, or moat, six feet wide and seven feet deep. A wooden box that once housed fowls was brought and put on the island for Baba to sleep in at night. Straw was placed inside to keep him warm, and his 'baby', the gnarled stump, along with his 'gun', the piece of bamboo, both of which had been sentimentally preserved since he had been sent away to the zoo, were put back for him to play with.



In a few days the coolies hoisted the cage on to the island and Baba was released. He was delighted; standing on his hindlegs, he pointed his 'gun' and cradled his 'baby'. Autho'r wife spent hours sitting on a chair there while he sat on her lap. He was fifteen months old and pretty heavy too!

The way his wife reaches the island and leaves it is interesting. He has have tied a rope to the overhanging branch of a mango tree with a loop at its end. Putting one foot in the loop, she kicks off with the other, to bridge the six-foot gap that constitutes the width of the surrounding pit. The return journey is made the same way. But who can say now that a sloth bear has no sense of affection, no memory and no individual characteristics?



*Thank You*