

The Bear Story

Axel Munthe

CLASS VII- ENGLISH
SUPPLEMENTARY READER - LESSON 8

MODULE- 1/2



AXEL MARTIN FREDRICK MUNTHE

- ▶ Axel Munthe was a Swedish-born medical doctor and psychiatrist, best known as the author of *The Story of San Michele*, an autobiographical account of his life and work.



- ▶ He spoke several languages, grew up in Sweden, attended medical school there, and opened his first practice in France.
- ▶ **Born:** 31 October 1857 **Died:** 11 February 1949

(Source: Wikipedia)

There was once a lady who lived in an old manor house on the border of a big forest.

This lady had a pet bear, she was very fond of it.



It had been found in the forest, half dead of hunger, so small and helpless that it had to be brought up on the bottle by the lady and her old cook.



- ▶ This was several years ago and now it had grown up to a big bear, so big and strong that he could have slain a cow and carried it away between his two paws if it wanted to. But he did not want to.
- ▶ He was a most amiable bear who did not dream of harming anybody, man or beast.



- ▶ He used to sit outside his kennel and look with his small intelligent eyes most amicably at the cattle grazing the field nearby.
- ▶ The three shaggy mountain ponies in the stable knew him well and did not mind in the least when he shuffled into the stable with his mistress.



The children used to ride on his back, and had more than once been found asleep in his kennel, between his two paws.



- ▶ The three dogs loved to play all sorts of games with him pull his ear and his stump of a tail and tease him in every way.
- ▶ But he did not mind in the least



- ▶ He had never tasted meat, ate the same food as the dogs and often out of the same plate – bread, porridge, potato, cabbage, turnip.
- ▶ He had a fine appetite, and his friend, the cook, saw to it that he got his fill.



- ▶ In the autumn he used to sit and look with wistful eyes at the ripening apples in the orchard, and in his young days he had been sometimes unable to resist the temptation of climbing a tree.



- ▶ There had also been some difficulties about the beehives; he had been punished for this by being put on the chain for two days with a bleeding nose. And he had never done it again. Otherwise he was never put in the chain.



Next part of the story...

- ▶ Follows in the module 2/2.

