

CLASS X ENGLISH- SUPPLEMENTARY READER

LESSON 1. THE TRIUMPH OF SURGERY

HAND OUT 1/2

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: James Alfred Wight (3 October 1916 – 23 February 1995), known by the pen name James Herriot, was a British veterinary surgeon and writer, who used his many years of experiences as a veterinary surgeon to write a series of books each consisting of stories about animals and their owners.

He is best known for these semi-autobiographical works, beginning with *If Only They Could Talk* in 1970, which spawned a series of movies and television series.

CHARACTERS IN THE STORY:

MR. Herriot - a vet

MRS.PUMPHRY - a rich lady

TRICKI- Mrs Pumphery's pet dog

STORY IN BRIEF:

- Mrs. Pumphrey was a wealthy woman who had a pet dog named Tricki. She loved her dog excessively.
- Tricki was greedy & loved food, but did not exercise.
- One day when Mrs. Pumphrey was out with Tricki for a walk, the narrator, Mr Herriot, the family vet saw them and stopped to talk.
- He was shocked to see Tricki because he looked like a bloated sausage. He had become very fat, his eyes were red and watery.
- He advised her to reduce Tricki's diet. He warned Mrs. Pumphrey that Tricki would soon fall ill if she did not keep him on a strict diet and increase his exercise hours.

- As the vet expected, there was a call from Mrs Pumphrey within a few days, informing about Tricki's illness. She told him that Tricki was not eating anything, and was vomiting frequently.
- Being a veteran in his field, he realized that the only way to get Tricki well was to get him out of the house for a few days. He told Mrs. Pumphrey that Tricki needed immediate hospitalization for keeping under observation at his surgery for a fortnight.
- Even though Mrs. Pumphrey was crying because she did not want her dog to go away from her, he brought the dog to his surgery and kept him along with a pack other dogs.
- For the first two days, he gave him no food no medicine but plenty of water. On the third day, Tricki, began to whimper when he heard the other dogs at the yard.
- Gradually he became an accepted member of their gang, and started playing with them. He had a lot of exercises & fun.
- He was completely recovered and transformed into a hard muscled dog.
- After a fortnight, Herriot called Mrs Pumphrey and informed that Tricki was all right and was awaiting collection.
- Within minutes, Mrs Pumphrey was there at the surgery. To her surprise, Tricki had been transformed into a hard muscled and active animal.
- On seeing his mistress, Tricki swarmed over her. Mrs Pumphrey was overwhelmed to see her pet to be very active.
- She thanked Mr.Herriot & said the treatment of her pet was nothing but "a triumph of surgery".
- James Herriot had treated the dog without medicine or surgery.
