

# ATOMIC ENERGY CENTRAL SCHOL-1, HYDERABAD

## CLASS X ENGLISH- SUPPLEMENTARY READER

### LESSON 1 THE TRIUMPH OF SURGERY- HANDOUT FOR MODULE 2/2

#### TITLE

- The title is interesting, and the story ends with these words, as a tribute to the vet by Mrs Pumphrey.
- Truly speaking, there was no medical treatment given to Tricky.
- Transformation of the dog - from “bloating sausage” to “lithe and hard muscled animal” is, indeed, a triumph of the surgeon!

#### INSIGHT INTO THE STORY

- The major focus is on the owner’s overfeeding to the pet out of love. Affection blinds the reason!
- All food and no play makes Tricky a dull doggy!
- The vet’s tactfulness as well as common sense – a triumph of surgeon!
- Mrs Pumphrey’s classiness
- Lesson from the story – Excess of anything spoils

#### CHARACTER SKETCH: MR. JAMES HERRIOT

Mr. James Herriot was a competent veterinary surgeon. He understands that the fault of Tricky is his greed for food. Mr Herriot instructs Mrs. Pumphrey to keep Tricky on a very strict diet. Mr Herriot is highly practical. He does not give any medical treatment to the dog. He provides the dog with plenty of water for the first two days at the surgery. His method works. The grateful mistress thanks Mr. Herriot and calls this feat “A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY”. Mr. Herriot humorously says that he is tempted to keep Tricky on as a permanent guest as he and his friends enjoyed eggs for breakfast, wine and brandy for lunch. He calls it a happy period for Mr Herriot and his friends.

#### CHARACTER SKETCH: MRS. PUMPHREY

Mrs. Pumphrey is a fabulously rich and resourceful lady. She is passionately attached to her pet dog, Tricky, and goes for over-feeding the dog. She is ignorant that the rate of the dog’s exercise is less as compared to its food intake. Instead, she thinks he is suffering from malnutrition. So when he falls sick she becomes very

anxious and seems to believe that something very serious has happened to him. She cries bitterly when Tricky has been taken to the hospital. She is a simple person and it is easy to convince her. She is overwhelmed when Tricky is all right. She is grateful to Dr. Harriot for making Tricky healthy. She goes to the extent of calling it a 'Triumph of Surgery'.

## CHARACTER SKETCH: TRICKY

Tricky is a small dog. His rich mistress pampers him a lot. He is given sumptuous food and princely comforts. His only fault is his greed for food. He loves cream cakes and chocolates. All food and no play makes Tricky a dull doggy! He falls sick and loses all energy and enthusiasm. Mr. Harriot took a personal interest in Tricky and his method of cutting no food but plenty of water to Tricky for the first two days at the surgery works well. Slowly but steadily, Tricky recovers from his illness. Eventually, Tricky is transformed into a flexible and hard muscled dog. Tricky shows his love for his mistress by jumping on to her lap when she comes to collect him. He is a kind, sensible and grateful dog.

## LANGUAGE STUDY FROM THE LESSON

The writer has used "First Person Narrating technique" in the story. The writer himself is one of the characters, and relays events from his point of view, using the first person, 'I'.

Lucidity in writing and the right mixture of real life episode and fiction makes the story interesting to read. To mean Mrs Pumphrey's car, the writer has used a metaphorical expression "**about thirty feet of gleaming black metal**".

Besides the words explained in the glossary, the following phrases are used in the story.

- 1) "Mrs Pumphrey **wrung her hand**"  
(The phrase 'wring one's hand' means an act of clasping and twisting one's hand as a gesture of helplessness.)
- 2) "For a few nights, the fine spirit was **rolled around**..."  
(The phrase "roll around" is used in informal contexts to mean something that happens again)

## MORAL OF THE STORY

- Exercise is equally important for the well being along with nutritious food
- Pampering spoils physical as well as mental health. Excess of anything is not good.

\*\*\*\*\*