

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

Kari was a five-month-old elephant. The narrator, a nine-year-old child, took care of him. Both grew together. Kari grew tall earlier than the boy. He lived in a shed with straw roof.

Kari once saved the life of a boy drowning in the river. He ate 40 pounds of twigs a day. Every morning he was taken to the river for his bath. The narrator rubbed his body with ash sand for an hour. Kari loved to roll in water for a long time. The narrator led him by the ear to the border of a jungle. He liked to eat tasty and sweet smelling leaves of the banyan tree.

One spring day in March, the narrator suddenly heard the call of Kari. He went to the river bank. He saw some creature trying to save itself from drowning. He felt helpless. Kari pushed him into the water to save the boy. Kari also stood firmly on the bank for help. Kari saw the narrator being carried away by the current. He rushed into the water and spread out his trunk around the boy's neck. He then pulled them both to the bank.

Kari was like a baby. He had to be trained to be good. He was naughty also. One day somebody gave him some bananas to eat. Very soon he developed a great love for ripe bananas. He then started taking away fruit from the dining table. One day all the bananas on the table disappeared. The family blamed the narrator and servants for eating all the fruit. The narrator child couldn't convince them that he was innocent. Then one day he saw Kari picking up fruits, with its trunk, through the window. He then found Kari eating bananas in its pavilion. He pulled the thief by the ear and presented him before his parents. He scolded Kari for that. Afterwards Kari never stole anything. He accepted the punishment for his mischief quietly.

Kari was a fast learner. He learnt what to do when the narrator said *dhat* or *Mali*, *Dhat* was a signal to sit down while '*Mali*' meant to walk. He took three weeks to learn *Dhat*.

The most difficult thing to teach an elephant is the master call. Kari took five years to learn it properly. The master-call is a strange hissing and howling sound, as if a snake and a tiger were fighting each other. Each sound was to be made in Kari's ear. It was necessary to teach him such a sound. If someone got lost, the only thing to do then was to give the master call. Kari would instantly come for his help.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

EXERCISE

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Answer the following questions:

1. The enclosure in which Kari lived had a thatched roof that lay on thick tree stumps. **Examine the illustration of Kari's pavilion on page 8 and say why it was built that way.**

Ans. Kari's pavilion was built under a thatched roof having its support on a thick tree trunk. The support was necessary to save the roof from falling down when he moved about and bumped against the bamboo poles.

2. **Did Kari enjoy his morning bath on the river? Give a reason for your answer.**

Ans. Yes, Kari loved to be taken to the river for his bath. He lay down on the sand bank. The narrator rubbed his body with clean sand. Then he washed his body with water. He used to make sounds joyfully.

3. **Finding good twigs for Kari took a long time. Why?**

Ans. The narrator had to work hard to gather soft new twigs for Kari. He had to climb all kinds of trees. If the twigs were deformed, Kari refused to eat them.

4. **Why did Kari push his friend into the stream?**

Ans. Kari pushed his friend (the narrator) into the stream because a boy was drowning in the water. Kari himself could not save and carry the boy to the shore.

5. **Kari was like a baby. What are the main points of comparison?**

Ans. Kari was like a human baby. He had to be taught a few lessons to become good. Like a baby he too played some mischief. He used to steal away the fruits from the dining-table.

6. **Kari helped himself to all the bananas in the house without anyone noticing it. How did he do it?**

Ans. Kari was a mischievous but intelligent creature. He started taking away the bananas kept on the dining-table. He used his black long trunk to steal fruits, through the window.

7. **Kari learnt the commands to sit and to walk. What were the instructions for each command?**

Ans. Kari learnt the commands to sit down or stand up and walk fast or slow. The word "Dhat" was the command to sit down. The word '*Mali*' was the command to walk.

8. **What is "the master call?" Why is it the most important signal for an elephant to learn?**

Ans. The master-call was a strange kind of hissing like a snake and howling like a tiger. It sounded like a fight between a snake and a tiger. The sound had to be made in the elephant's ear. It was a necessary signal for Kari to uproot trees and make a passage through the dense forest for the house.