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This is Jody's Fawn

Marjorie Rawlings

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

In this story, Jody's father is bitten by a rattlesnake. He quickly kills a doe and uses its heart and liver to draw out the poison. Jody wonders what will happen to the little fawn left without its mother.

Jody could not forget the incident. He loved the little fawn. His father, Penny lay in bed. Jody enquired after his health. Penny said he had escaped death narrowly. He felt proud of his son for his help. He owed his life to the she deer or the doe whom he had killed to press out the snake poison in his body.

Jody was worried about the little fawn. He wanted to find the fawn and bring it home. Penny allowed the boy to save the little animal. It would be ungrateful to leave the fawn to starve. Doc Wilson also supported Jody.

Jody decided to go to the forest with Mill-wheel in search of the fawn. He hoped to be back home for dinner. The two rode out. Jody had a vague idea of the place where his father had been bitten by the snake. The bushes there were thick. So he proposed to go on foot. The twigs under his feet creaked and broke the silence.

Suddenly he saw a large vulture like bird flying into the air. Soon he found that many birds were feeding on the dead body of the doe. He threw his stick at them to keep them away. The incident had occurred only 24 hours ago. He went round but did not find the fawn. Even the footprints on the grass had been washed away in the rain.

Just then he was startled to see the fawn lifting its face. It was shaking. Jody walked upto it and put his arms around its

body. Its skin was soft and clean. It did not kick, nor bleat. He saved its face from the thorny plants. He picked it up and walked as fast as he could until he came to the intersection with the road home. When tired, he set it down and rested for a while. He again carried it on his arms to some distance. Finally, he reached home and took the fawn into his father's room. Penny was glad to see it. Jody gave it milk to drink. He dipped his fingers into the milk and let it suck. Then it drank off the last drop of milk. Jody was happy now.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

COMPREHENSION CHECK

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- 1. What had happened to Jody's father?
- Ans. Jody's father had been bitten by a rattlesnake.
 - 2. How did the doe save Penny's life?
- Ans. Jody's father killed the doe or she dear. He used her heart and liver to draw out the snake's poison. In this way the doe saved Penny's life.
 - 3. Why does Jody want to bring the fawn home?
- Ans. Jody's father had killed the doe. Without the mother-deer, the fawn was likely to starve to death in the forest. So Jody wanted to bring the young fawn home.
 - 4. How does Jody know that the fawn is a male?
- Ans. The spots on the fawn's body made Jody know that it was a male.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

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- Jody didn't want Mill-wheel with him for two reasons.
 What were they?
- Ans. Jody didn't want Mill-wheel to join him in the search for the fawn. The reason was that he was not sure about the fawn's safety. He didn't want Mill-wheel to see his disappointment.
 - 2. Why was Mill-wheel afraid to leave Jody alone?
- Ans. Mill-wheel was afraid that Jody might be lost in the jungle.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

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- 1. How did Jody bring the fawn back home?
- Ans. Jody picked up the fawn into his arms and proceeded to home. After some distance, he kept the fawn down and took rest. Later on, the fawn followed him. Thus he brought the fawn back home.
 - 2. Jody was filled with emotion after he found the fawn. Can you find at least three words or phrases which show how he felt?
- Ans. (i) (The fawn) shook him through with the stare of its liquid eye.
 - (ii) The touch of the fawn made him delirious.
 - (iii) As though the fawn were a china deer.
 - 3. How did the deer drink milk from the gourd?
- Ans. Jody dipped his fingers in the milk. Then he left the fawn suck his fingers. He did so several times. Finally, the fawn drank off all the milk from the gourd.
 - 4. Why didn't the fawn follow Jody up the steps as he had thought it would?

Ans. The fawn didn't know how to raise its feet to climb the steps.

WORKING WITH THE TEXT

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- 1. Why did Penny Baxter allow Jody to go find the fawn and raise it?
- Ans. Penny was convinced by Jody's argument that it would be ungrateful if they left the fawn in the forest to starve. He realised that Jody was right.
 - 2. What did Doc Wilson mean when he said, "Nothing in the world ever comes quite free"?
- Ans. Doc Wilson meant that Penny must pay back to the doe whom he had killed for his own gain by bringing up her fawn.
 - 3. How did Jody look after the fawn, after he accepted the responsibility for doing this?
- Ans. Jody looked after the fawn like a mother. He made it drink milk with his fingers dipped in milk. This is how a mother feeds her baby. Jody was glad that he had found the fawn.

4. How does Jody's mother react when she hears that he is going to bring the fawn home? Why does she react in this way?

Ans. Jody's mother turned her nose when she heard that he was going to bring back the fawn. She gasped with surprise because she didn't want to see an animal in her home.

WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

THIS IS JODY'S FAWN

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1. Look at these pairs of sentences.

Penny said to Jody, "Will you be back before dinner?" Penny asked Jody if he would be back before dinner. "How are you feeling, Pa?" asked Jody. Jody asked his father how he was feeling.

Here are some questions in direct speech. Put them into reported speech.

- (i) Penny said, "Do you really want it son?"
- (ii) Mill-wheel said, "Will he ride back with me?"
- (iii) He said to Mill-wheel, "Do you think the fawn is still there?"
- (iv) He asked Mill wheel, "Will you help me find him?"
- (v) He said, "Was it up here that Pa got bitten by the snake?"

Ans. (i) Penny asked his son if he really wanted the fawn.

- (ii) Mill-wheel enquired if Jody would ride back with him.
- (iii) Jody asked Mill-wheel if he thought the fawn was still there.
- (iv) He asked Mill-wheel if he would help him find the fawn.
- (v) Mill-wheel wanted to know if that was the place where Pa had got bitten by the snake.

2. Look at these two sentences.

He tumbled backward.

It turned its head.

The first sentence has an intransitive verb, a verb without an object. The second sentence has a transitive

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verb. It has a direct object. We can ask: "What did it turn?" You can answer. "Its head. It turned its head."

Say whether the verb in each sentence below is transitive or intransitive. Ask yourself a 'what' question about the verb, as in the example above. (For some verbs, the object is a person, so ask the question 'who' instead of 'what').

- (i) Jody then went to the kitchen.
- (ii) The fawn wobbled after him.
- (iii) You found him.
- (iv) He picked it up.
- (v) He dipped his fingers in the milk.
- (vi) It bleated frantically and butted him.
- (vii) The fawn sucked his fingers.
- (viii) He lowered his fingers slowly into the milk.
- (ix) It stamped its small hoofs impatiently.
- (x) He held his fingers below the level of the milk.
- (xi) The fawn followed him.
- (xii) He walked all day.
- (xiii) He stroked its sides.
- (xiv) The fawn lifted its nose.
- (xv) Its legs hung limply.

Ans. (i) intransitive (ii) intransitive (iii) transitive

- (iv) transitive (v) transitive
- (vi) intransitive, transitive
- (vii) transitive (viii) transitive
- (ix) transitive
- (x) transitive (xi) transitive
- (xii) intransitive
- (xiii) transitive (xiv) transitive
- (xv) intransitive
- 3. Here are some words from the lesson. Working in groups, arrange them in the order in which they would appear in the dictionary. Write down some idioms and phrasal verbs connected to these words. Use the dictionary for more idioms and phrasal verbs.

close draw make wonder scrawny parted clearing sweet light pick

Ans. The words would appear in the following sequence in the dictionary:

clearing, close, draw, light, make, parted, pick, scrawny, sweet, wonder.

Idioms or phrasal verbs connected to the above words.

Clearing: clearing, campaign

Close: close shave, close up, close quarters

Draw: draw the curtain on/over, draw a blank

Light: in the light of, bring to light

Make: make the most of, make up

Part: part with, parted comparing

Pick: pick up, pick and choose

Scrawny: the scrawny neck

Sweet: have a sweet tooth, sweet seventeen, sweet tongued, sweet nothings

Wonder: wonder world, wonder load, nine day's wonder, wonder about, do wonders.

SPEAKING

1. Do you think it is right to kill an animal to save a human life? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. Most of the animals are our friends. Dogs, horses, elephants, cows are a few such animals that serve us. But man has been killing codfish or the whales for oil. Tigers are killed for their skin and bones. This is not fair. But there is no harm if any of them are killed strictly to save human life, property and agriculture.

However, killing animals is a crime. It is wrong to kill wild life for their hide or for pleasure.

2. Imagine you wake up one morning and find a tiny animal on your doorstep. You want to keep it as a pet but your parents are not too happy about it. How would you persuade them to let you keep it? Discuss it in groups and present your arguments to the class.

Ans. The young ones of cats, dogs and some birds attract us as does a human child. When I was a child, I wanted to adopt a kitten or a puppy as pet. I found a good breed puppy at my doorstep one day. But it created a commotion in the house. My mother got irritated at the very presence of pets in the house. They bite and bark, enter the kitchen or sit on our beds and make things dirty. But I assured her that I would look after my puppy and train it. The loyal dog would act as security guard and a playmate. My parents finally relented and let me have the poor puppy as a pet.

WRITING (Page 96)

1. Imagine you have a new pet that keeps you busy. Write a paragraph describing your pet, the things it does, and the way it makes you feel. Here are some words and phrases that you could use.

frisky, smart, disobedient, loyal, happy, enthusiastic, companion, sharing, friend, rolls in mud, dirties the bed, naughty, lively, playful, eats up food, hides the newspaper, drinks up milk, runs away when called, floats on the water as if dead.

- Ans. I have taken a kitten as my pet. It is female with silky fur and skin. She keeps me busy. My mother does not take interest in my pet. She curses the little one for doing mischief, for moving about in the house, for making the bed and floor dirty. The kitten enters the kitchen and drinks up milk. She is naughty and disobedient also. She is most unlike a dog which is loyal, obedient and strong. Still I like my pet because it is lively, playful and frisky.
 - 2. Human life is dependent on nature (that's why we call her Mother Nature). We take everything from nature to live our lives. Do we give back anything to nature?
 - (i) Write down some examples of the natural resources that we use.
 - (ii) Write a paragraph expressing your point of view regarding our relationship with nature.
- Ans. (i) Man and nature are complementary to each other. Man for ages has been using forests, minerals and chemicals

for his survival. Earth and nature are our lifelines. They help us directly or indirectly. Take for example the paper we print, our books and newspapers. They are products of trees. We get fruits, flowers and fodder from nature. We get water and air free from nature. It is unfortunate that we are over using the limited resources and are also polluting them.

Nature is our Mother. We must not use up anything to the extent that it is not restored naturally. By cutting down trees or killing whales we are, in a way, depriving our children of their share. Let us give back to nature for the benefits we get from it.

- (ii) Some of the natural resources that we use are water, coal, mineral oil, etc.
- Q3. In This is Jody's Fawn, Jody's father uses a 'home remedy' for a snake bite. What should a person now do if he or she is bitten by a snake? Are all snakes poisonous? With the help of your teacher and others, find out answers to such questions. Then write a short paragraph on—What to do if a snake chooses to bite you.
- Ans. Snakes are the most dreaded of wild creatures. This is why we use sticks to kill them. There are many poisonous snakes. Green snakes or water snakes are not poisonous. Still we cannot be sure of it. So we don't take a chance. We call in a snake charmer to draw the cobra out of the house. A snake-bite can kill the victim in a few minutes. But the victim can be saved if he gets the first aid in the form of blood-letting and anti-venom serum. The cure for snake bite is prepared from the snake's poison.

In case I am bitten by a poisonous snake, the first thing I would do is to put a band tightly over the bitten part. Then I shall use a blade or knife to make a small cut on the bitten part, and press the poisonous blood out. Then I shall go to hospital for medical help. I shall not go to sleep until I feel better and safe.

Edward Lear

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

The Duck and the Kangaroo were good friends. The Duck wanted to go on a long pleasure trip. She asked the Kangaroo to let her sit on his back. She was feeling bored in her dirty pond. She wished she too could hop like the Kangaroo.

The Kangaroo gladly granted the request. But he put two conditions. Firstly, the Duck would sit at the end of his tail. Secondly, she would sit still. The Duck accepted both the conditions. She further assured his friend that her wet and cold feet would not give him rheumatism, because she had bought four pairs of woollen socks and a gown.

Together they set out happily on a world tour. They were the happiest pair.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

WORKING WITH THE POEM

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1. Taking words that come at the end of lines, write five pairs of rhyming words. Read each pair aloud.

For example, pond - beyond

Ans. Kangaroo — too; hop — stop back — quack; pond — beyond; duck — luck.

2. Complete the dialogue.

Duck : Dear Kangaroo! Why don't you ___

Kangaroo : With pleasure, my dear Duck, though

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Duck : That won't be a problem. I will____

Ans. Duck : Dear Kangaroo, why don't you plan a world

tour with-with me.

Kangaroo : With pleasure,my dear Duck though I am afraid your webbed feet would trouble

me.

Duck : That won't. be a problem. I will cover them with woollen socks.

3. The Kangaroo does not want to catch 'rheumatism. Spot this word in stanza 3 and say why it is spelt differently. Why is it in two parts? Why does the second part begin with a capital letter?

Ans. roo — Matiz = rheumatism

The word 'roo' rhymes with the Kangaroo.

The other word 'Matiz' refers subtly to rheumatism. The word 'rheumatism' has been split in two parts for the sake of rhyme and a disease.

4. Do you find the poem humorous? Read aloud lines that make you laugh.

Ans. Yes, the poem is humorous. Take for example:

"But quite at the end of my tail."

"And every day a cigar I'll smoke".