

I BECAME A GREAT FRIEND OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS

-GEORGII ORLOV

VALUE: "All human beings are capable of doing good. All we need is the will and a heart to do it."

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

a. What was the narrator's purpose of going to the forester's house?

Ans: The narrator had caught a grouse while walking along the forest towards the Volga. He was very proud of his hunt and wanted to show it to the forester.

b. What did the narrator see the hawk do? What impact did the sight have on the narrator?

Ans: The narrator saw the hawk appear suddenly overhead and take the poor starling which was singing on the bird-box on the roof of the forester's house. The hawk clutched it between its sharp claws and soared up into the sky. The narrator felt very sorry for the starling. He also felt really bad for the starlings which were left behind.

c. Why did the narrator feel guilty?

Ans: The narrator felt guilty because he had hunted a grouse and was proudly taking it to the forester's house to make him jealous. He felt that he was worse than the hawk because it was hunting as a necessity but he was hunting as a hobby.

d. Why did he take the grouse home? What did he finally do with it?

Ans: He took the grouse home because he felt guilty and wanted to change his ways. Instead of hunting and hurting animals, he wanted to help them. He and his wife looked after the grouse till they were on their feet and then he released them.

e. How did the narrator connect with the hedgehog?

Ans: The hedgehog had been bitten by a large snake. The narrator cleaned the wounds on its stomach and used remedies available in the forest as medicine. He picked up a long silky blade of grass, took a sharp pine and sewed up his stomach. He gave the hedgehog birch juice to drink. Then, he put it under a shade where it curled up like a ball and slept.

Critical thinking:

1. We have a saying: "If you swim across to the other side of the Volga, then you'll become clever." Had the narrator become clever? How?

Ans: The narrator had become wise if not clever. He had become wise enough to care for animals and not hurt them in any way. He felt really bad for the starling and its family and took a vow that he would help animals whenever he got a chance.

2. The narrator learnt that one good deed leads to another. How did he learn this lesson?

Ans: Once the narrator took the oath of helping animals in need, he kept on finding animals in distress and helping them to get better. It started with the grouse. Then he helped the ducks, the hedgehog and the bear cub. This is how one good deed led to another for the narrator.

3. The narrator did not like the fact that humans hunted animals. Do you agree? Share your views about hunting.

Ans: I completely agree with the narrator. Humans should stop hunting animals because now humans have become civilized and do not have to depend on hunting for their sustenance. Hunting for sport, entertainment and commercial purposes should stop. We should focus more on protecting animals and ensuring they get to live a good life on earth rather than endangering their existence.

4. Poaching is the illegal killing, hunting or capturing of wild animals. It is one of the major reasons for the decline of wildlife across the world; the others being habitat loss and forest fires. As a young student, what can you do to prevent this?

Ans: As young students, we can spread awareness on poaching. We can monitor the animal products sold in the market to see if poaching is taking place. We can also help the forest officials to maintain data of the wild animals present in a forest. People living close to the forest can be educated about the harmful effects of poaching on our environment. They can form their own groups to keep the poachers away from the forest.

Prepared by

HOD

PRINCIPAL