

## RUSKIN BOND

**VALUE: 'The story teaches us to be kind and compassionate towards animals, and to face unexpected situations with courage and humor.'**

**Answer the following questions.**

**1. Grandfather loved exotic pets. Justify.**

ANS: Grandfather loved exotic pets. After retiring and settling in Dehra, he often enlivened his days by keeping unusual pets, such as a young python, to add excitement and variety to his life.

**2. How did the other pets react to the python?**

ANS: The other pets, Toto the monkey and Popeye the parrot, reacted with fear and distress to the python. Popeye set up awful shrieking and whistling, and Toto fled squealing with fright as the python was an ancient enemy of monkeys.

**3. Why did Grandfather decide to return the python to the snake charmer? Why could he not do so?**

ANS: Grandfather decided to return the python to the snake charmer because Grandmother was intolerant of reptiles and drew the line at having a snake in the house. However, they couldn't return it as the snake charmer had returned to his village, looking for another python.

**4. Aunt Ruby had a dislike for the pets and the feelings seemed to be well reciprocated by the pets. Explain.**

ANS: Aunt Ruby had a dislike for pets and her feelings were reciprocated by all three pets. Toto would make faces at her, Popeye would shriek the loudest when she was in the room and the python would appear unexpectedly and often, causing her distress.

**5. The python did not let the passengers get respite during the journey. What did it do?**

ANS: The python did not let the passengers get respite during the journey by escaping and causing commotion. It was discovered in the toilet, surprising and alarming the passengers. From there, it went to the engine room, leading to the stoker running out on the embankment, waving his hands and shouting. The engine-driver was paralyzed by fear upon seeing the python which caused the train to stop.

**6. How did Aunt Ruby discover the python again? What was her reaction?**

ANS: Aunt Ruby discovered the python again when she saw it in the hamper. She promptly fainted upon seeing it. Her hysterical reaction was fueled by fear, leading her to laugh uncontrollably.

**7. Why did the narrator say that teaching is a taxing profession? What was he covering up for?**

ANS: The narrator mentioned that teaching is a taxing profession to cover up for the discomfort caused by Aunt Ruby's aversion to the python. To protect Aunt Ruby's feelings and avoid revealing the true cause of her distress, the narrator used the excuse that teaching is a taxing profession. By attributing Aunt Ruby's uneasiness to the taxing nature of teaching, the narrator attempted to divert attention from the unconventional and unexpected challenges posed by the pets in their home.

**8. Write the character sketch of the grandfather.**

ANS: Grandfather is a kind – hearted, humorous, and adventurous man who loves animals deeply. He shows compassion and a sense of responsibility towards the snake, wanting to keep it as a pet. His fearless and light- hearted attitude brings humor to the situation and reflects his deep connection with nature. He is wise, gentle, and handles the trouble with maturity, making him a lovable and central figure in the story.