

**SUMMARY**

Mrs Packletide was an English lady who was overcome with a strong desire to shoot a tiger. Basically she was not adventurous or brave but she was smitten with jealousy when her friend, Loona Bimberton, had recently been carried in an aeroplane by an Algerian pilot. Mrs Packletide wanted to outshine her and longed to prove that she was no less. Her ultimate desire was to obtain a tiger-skin and display it on the wall of her house. If she succeeded in killing a tiger, her photograph would appear in the press and she would host a party in Curzon Street in Loona Bimberton's honour, but the talk would be of her hunting expedition. She also planned to present a tiger-claw brooch on Loona's next birthday. All her motives were largely dominated by her dislike of Loona.

Circumstances proved to be favourable. An old and weak tiger was visiting a neighbouring village in search of food. Mrs Packletide offered to pay one thousand rupees to anyone who would help her in shooting a tiger. The villagers got very tempted as one thousand rupees was a lot of money in those days. They made all the efforts to confine the tiger within the village. Children were posted day and night on the outskirts of the local jungle to drive the tiger back to the village. Cheaper kind of goats were scattered here and there, to keep the tiger there. Mothers were told not to sing lullabys to their children loudly, lest the tiger's sleep should be disturbed. The only anxiety was lest the tiger should die of old age before the day of hunting.

On the fateful night, Mrs Packletide came along with a paid companion Miss Mebbin. A platform had already been constructed in a comfortable and conveniently placed tree by the villagers. Both the ladies sat on the platform. A goat with a loud bleat was tied at proper distance from the tiger. Meanwhile the tiger appeared on the scene and slowly walked towards the goat. Mrs Packletide fired a shot with her rifle. The tiger fell down to one side. The excited villagers celebrated by beating drums and singing. Mrs Packletide was also too happy.

Miss Mebbin was very clever and alert. She drew Mrs Packletide's attention to the fact that the bullet had actually hit the goat and the tiger had died due to heart attack, caused by the loud report of the rifle. Miss Mebbin pointed out that the tiger bore no wound. Mrs Packletide was disappointed but she consoled herself with the thought that she possessed the tiger-skin. The villagers agreed to keep the secret for they were happy to receive the money.

Mrs. Packletide wasn't insecure about Miss Mebbin for she was a paid companion.

Mrs Packletide's picture appeared in two weeklies. Loona refused to attend the lunch-party but coldly accepted the tiger-claw brooch. Miss Mebbin was very money-minded and cunning. She thought of exploiting this weak point of Mrs Packletide. She blackmailed Mrs Packletide by saying what would happen if Loona learnt that Mrs Packletide had shot the goat and not the tiger. Shrewd and clever, Miss Mebbin hinted that she wanted money to buy a weekend cottage near Dorking. To keep her mouth shut, Mrs Packletide was forced to pay for that cottage. Miss Mebbin named the cottage, "The Wild Beasts." Since then Mrs Packletide never indulged in big game shooting. She confided to her friends that "incidental expenses were too heavy for such kind of hunting".

**सारांश**

श्रीमती पैकलटाइड एक अंग्रेज़ महिला थीं जिन्हें एक बाघ का शिकार करने की तीव्र इच्छा थी। वह स्वभाव से साहसी और जोखिम उठाने वाली महिला नहीं थीं, पर उन्हें अपनी सहेली लूना बिम्बरटन से अत्यधिक द्वेष था। एक अल्जीरियन हवाईजहाज़ चालक लूना को हवाई सैर करवा लाया था। बस, अब श्रीमती पैकलटाइड अपने को उनसे अधिक साहसी दिखाना चाहती थी। उनकी परम इच्छा थी कि उन्हें एक बाघ की खाल मिले जिसे वह अपनी दीवार पर टाँग कर प्रदर्शित कर सकें। अगर वह एक बाघ का शिकार करने में सफल हो जायें तो उनकी तस्वीर समाचार पत्रों में छपे, और वह एक शानदार भोज लूना बिम्बरटन के सम्मान में देंगी, पर जिसमें सब उन्हीं के शिकार के बारे में बात करेंगे और वह एक बाघ के पंजे का ब्रोच लूना को उपहार स्वरूप देने की योजना भी बना रही थीं। उनकी समस्त योजनाएँ लूना के प्रति उनकी इर्ष्या और द्वेष से प्रेरित थी।

परिस्थितियों ने भी उनका साथ दिया। एक अत्यंत कमजोर और बूढ़ा बाघ पड़ोस के गाँव में, खाने की खोज में घूम रहा था। श्रीमती पैकलटाइड ने गाँववालों को एक हजार रुपयों का पारितोषिक देने की घोषणा की यदि वह बाघ के शिकार में उनकी सहायता करें। एक हजार रुपये उन दिनों बहुत होते थे और ग्रामवासी प्रभावित हो गये। उन्होंने बूढ़े बाघ को गाँव में रखने का पूरा प्रयत्न किया। उन्होंने बच्चों को दिन-रात चौकसी करने को कहा जिससे वह बाघ गाँव के अन्दर ही रहे। सस्ती बकरियों को इधर-उधर घूमने दिया जिससे बाघ को अपना भोजन मिलता रहे। माताओं से रात में बच्चों को जोर से लोरी सुनाने पर प्रतिबंध लगाया, जिससे बाघ की निद्रा न भंग हो जाये। सबसे बड़ी परेशानी का कारण उनका यह डर था कि वह बाघ अपनी उम्र के कारण शिकार के पहले ही न मर जाये।

नियति की चुनी वह रात आई और श्रीमती पैकलटाइड अपनी किराये की साथी, कुमारी मेबिन के साथ आई। गाँव वालों ने एक पेड़ पर उनके लिए आरामदायक व सुविधाजनक मचान बनाई। एक बकरी, जो जोर से 'में-में' कर सकती थी, थोड़ी दूर एक पेड़ से बाँध दी गई थी। इतने में बाघ धीरे-धीरे सामने आया और बकरी की ओर बढ़ा। श्रीमती पैकलटाइड ने अपनी बन्दूक से गोली दागी। बाघ एक ओर गिर पड़ा। गाँववालों ने जोर-शोर से ढोल पीटने शुरू कर दिये और गाने लगे। श्रीमती पैकलटाइड बहुत ही प्रसन्न थीं।

कुमारी मेबिन एक अत्यन्त चालाक और सतर्क महिला थीं। उन्होंने श्रीमती पैकलटाइड का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित किया कि गोली तो बकरी को लगी और बूढ़ा बाघ गोली की आवाज़ सुनकर दिल के दौरों से मर गया। उन्होंने बतलाया कि बाघ के शरीर पर कोई घाव ही न था। श्रीमती पैकलटाइड को धक्का लगा पर उन्होंने यह सोचकर अपने को सांत्वना दी कि बाघ की खाल तो उनकी थी। गाँववालों ने भी सच को छुपाया क्योंकि उन्हें हजार रुपये मिल गये थे। श्रीमती पैकलटाइड को कुमारी मेबिन से कोई डर नहीं था क्योंकि वह उसे वेतन देती थीं।

श्रीमती पैकलटाइड की तस्वीर दो साप्ताहिक अखबारों में निकली। लूना ने खाने का निमन्त्रण स्वीकार नहीं किया, पर बड़ी रुखाई से बाघ के पन्जों का ब्रोच स्वीकार कर लिया। कुमारी मेबिन पैसों की भूखी और अत्यन्त धूर्त महिला थीं। उसने श्रीमती पैकलटाइड पर दबाव डाल कर धमकी दी कि यदि सच लूना को पता चल गया कि श्रीमती जी ने बकरी को मारा था, बाघ को नहीं, तब क्या होगा? उन्होंने बहुत चालाकी से इशारा किया कि वह इस सप्ताहांत झोपड़ी खरीदनी चाहती हैं, डोइकिंग के पास। उन्हें कुमारी मेबिन का मुँह बँद करने के लिए श्रीमती जी को पैसे देने पड़े। कुमारी मेबिन ने कुटिया का नाम, "जंगली जानवर" रखा। तबसे श्रीमती पैकलटाइड कभी जंगली जानवरों के शिकार पर नहीं गईं। उन्होंने अपने मित्रों को बताया कि शिकार में अचानक बहुत से भारी-भरकम खर्चे हो जाते हैं।

### WORD-MEANINGS

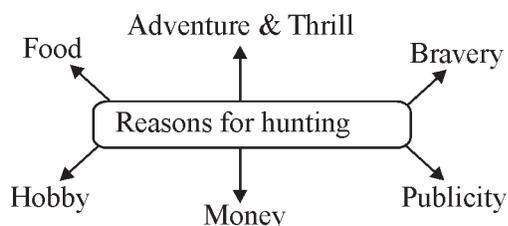
**descended** : came upon • **wholesome** : healthy  
**fraction** : a bit • **compelling motive** : strong desire

• **deviation**: change • **aviator** : pilot • **procured** : obtained • **heavy harvest** : large number • **counter**: oppose arranged in her mind : planned • **swayed** : dominated • **antecedents** : family background : past history • **infirmities** : weakness • **confine** : restrict • **game killing** : killing of other animals for food • **stimulated** : increased, encouraged • **curtail** : disturb, cut short • **venerable** : respectable • **herd-robber** : meant for someone who eats the animals of the herd, i.e. the tiger • **crouched**: a sitting position • **persistent** : continuous • **sighted rifle** : a rifle with a clear aim • **morbid** : unhealthy, unnatural • **an atom** : a bit • **irrespective** : without bothering • **denomination** : face value of currency • **intervention**: disturbance • **dissipating** : destroying, wasting away • **rouble** : Russian money • **francs centimes** : French currency • **speculation** : thoughts • **depreciation** : loss in value • **remnants** : leftover • **tethered** : tied • **thumb-nail** : small sized • **commencing** : starting • **patience** : a game of cards • **ambush**: in hiding or lying in wait hidden • **ambling**: moving slowly • **report** : noise • **tawny** : yellowish brown • **swarmed** : collected in large number • **thumping of tom-toms** : beating of drums • **chorus of triumph** : combined sound of victory • **rejoicing** : celebration • **death throes** : deadly pain, fatal • **succumbed**: given way • **accelerated** : increased • **connived** : silently approved • **repressed** : hidden • **unbecoming** : ugly • **seeming** : pretending • **irrelevance**: indifferent • **christened** : named • **marvel** : wonder • **pictured form** : photos in newspapers due to being famous • **verdict** : judgement • **indulges** : takes interest.

## SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS (SOLVED)

1. Why do people hunt? Complete the web-chart given below :



2. Read the lines and guess the answers to the questions given below.

(a) Why did Mrs Packletide want to kill a tiger?

**Ans** : It was her desire to outdo her friend that drove her to kill a tiger.

(b) What does it tell you about her?

[C.B.S.E., 2011, T-1]

**Ans** : She was publicity-crazy and jealous of her friend.

(c) *What is the tone of the story-writer?*

**Ans** : It is a tone of mockery, as if Mrs Packletide is an object of ridicule.

(d) *Do you think she was successful in her mission?*

**Ans** : Apparently she succeeded, but in reality she succeeded at a great financial loss.

(e) *What do you think the story is all about?*

**Ans** : The story is all about Mrs. Packletide's jealousy and a desire to outshine Loona Bimberton.

**3. Answer the following questions in your own words :**

(a) *Why did Mrs Packletide wish to shoot a tiger?*  
[C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans:** Mrs Packletide was very jealous of Loona Bimberton and Loona's adventure made her feel belittled. So to outdo her exploits, and get publicity, she decides to shoot a tiger. She was fed up of Loona's talk of flying in an aeroplane, so she wanted to counter that kind of fame.

(b) *What made her decide to give a party in Loona Bimberton's honour? What did she intend to give Loona on her birthday?*

**Ans** : Mrs Packletide was a very vain and jealous lady. She had planned to throw a party in Curzon Street, pretending to honour Loona for her adventure but had decided that most of the talk would revolve around her bravery in killing a tiger. This would make Loona squirm with embarrassment. Moreover, to humiliate her more, she would present a tiger-claw brooch to Loona, on her birthday.

(c) *How was the tiger shooting arranged? What kind of a tiger was chosen for the purpose?*

**Ans:** Mrs Packletide offered a thousand rupees to anyone who would help in hunting a tiger. A tiger who was old and sick was found in the neighbouring village and the villagers promised all kinds of help for the money promised.

(d) *In what way did the villagers help Mrs Packletide to shoot the tiger?* [C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans:** The villagers made all efforts to confine the tiger in their village. Children were posted day and night on the outskirts to drive the tiger back to the village. Cheaper kind of goats were scattered here and there to keep the tiger happy and satisfied. Mothers were not allowed to sing to their children so that it might disturb the tiger. Many leaders of the village hid in the bushes to help Mrs Packletide, while shooting.

(e) *Who was Miss Mebbin? Was she really devoted*

*to Mrs Packletide? How did she behave during the tiger shooting?*

**Ans** : Miss Mebbin was a paid companion of Mrs Packletide. She was mean, selfish and very cunning and all her life centered around money. She was not bothered for the safety or had any concern for her employees. She was more alert and she was the one who pointed out that it was the goat that had been shot by Mrs Packletide and not the tiger.

(f) *Mrs Packletide was a good shot. Discuss.*

**Ans** : Mrs. Packletide had an automatically arranged rifle. But still she could not shoot the tiger and shot the goat instead. She had never held a rifle before and didn't know how to aim.

(g) *What comment did Miss Mebbin make after Mrs Packletide had fired the shot? Why did Miss Mebbin make the comment? How did Mrs Packletide react to this comment?*

**Ans** : Miss Mebbin pointed out that Mrs Packletide had shot the goat who was in death-throes, whereas no trace of the bullet could be found on the tiger. The tiger had succumbed due to heart failure, due to the loud noise of the bullet. Miss Mebbin wished to puncture Mrs Packletide's ego and also remind her that her shooting spree had turned into a mockery. Mrs Packletide was very annoyed at this discovery but consoled herself that at least she had got a tiger skin to show off.

(h) *How did the villagers react to the tiger's death?*  
[C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans** : The villagers felt ecstatic at the tiger's death and started singing and beating drums. When they discovered the truth, they agreed to keep the secret, for they had earned their thousand rupees.

(i) *Do you think Mrs Packletide was able to achieve her heart's desire? Give reasons for your answer?*

**Ans** : Yes, Mrs Packletide had accomplished her mission. She was not adventurous nor did she have any interest in game-shooting. She was able to make Loona jealous, her photograph appeared in weeklies and she was able to gift the tiger-claw brooch to Loona. She was able to outshine Loona and that was her sole intention and purpose in life.

(j) *How did Miss Mebbin manage to get her weekend cottage? Why did she plant so many tiger-lilies in her garden?*

**Ans** : Miss Mebbin is very selfish and money-minded. She threatens to divulge the secret to Loona that the tiger had died of heart failure and not from the shot of Mrs

Packetide. So she blackmailed her employer and got hush money to buy the week-end cottage. She planted tiger lilies to recognise and honour the fact that it had been a tiger who had brought her this fortune of owning a cottage.

(k) “*The incidental expenses are so heavy,*” she confides to inquiring friends. Who is the speaker?

*What is she referring to here?*

**Ans :** The speaker is Mrs Packetide, who says that tiger hunting ends up as a costly affair. So she had decided not to indulge in game-shooting. Mrs Packetide is referring to the blackmail money that she was forced to pay to Miss Mebbin to hide her secret.

**Q.6 Choose extracts from the story that illustrate the character of the people listed in the table given below. There are some words given to help you. You may add words of your own. One has been done as an example:**

vain jealous competitive shrewd manipulative stingy materialistic spiteful

Character	Extract from the story	What this tells us about the character
<b>Mrs Packetide</b>	(i) The compelling motive for the sudden deviation towards the footsteps of Nimrod was the fact that Loona Bimberton had recently been carried eleven miles in an aeroplane by an Algerian aviator, and talked of nothing else; only a personally procured tiger-skin and a heavy harvest of press photographs could successfully counter that sort of thing.	competitive jealous vain publicity-crazy
	(ii) Mrs Packetide had offered a thousand rupees for the opportunity of shooting a tiger without over-much risk or exertion,	unscrupulous pretentious non-adventurous
	(iii) Mrs Packetide faced the cameras with a light heart, and her pictured fame reached from the pages of the Texas Weekly Snapshot to the illustrated Monday supplement of the Novoe Vremya.	vain frivolous unscrupulous
<b>Louisa Mebbin</b>	(i) “If it’s an old tiger I think you ought to get it cheaper. A thousand rupees is a lot of money.”	materialistic
	(ii) Louisa Mebbin adopted a protective elder-sister attitude towards money in general, irrespective of nationality or denomination.	stingy money-minded miserly
	(iii) “How amused every one would be if they knew what really happened,” said Louisa Mebbin a few days after the ball.	shrewd manipulative spiteful
	(iv) Louisa Mebbin’s pretty week-end cottage, christened by her “Les Fauves,” and gay in summer-time with its garden borders of tiger-lilies, is the wonder and admiration of her friends	clever treacherous cheater
<b>Loona Bimberton</b>	(i) As for Loona Bimberton, she refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks, and her letter of thanks for the gift of a tiger-claw brooch was a model of repressed emotions.	jealous vain
	(ii) there are limits beyond which repressed emotions become dangerous.	suppressed anger

7. There are many amusing lines in the story. Here are a few of them. Rewrite each one in ordinary prose so that the meaning is retained. One has been done for you as an example:

(a) *It was Mrs Packletide's pleasure and intention that she should shoot a tiger.*

**Ans.** Mrs Packletide wanted to shoot a tiger.

(b) *Mrs Packletide had already arranged in her mind the lunch she would give at her house Curzon Street, ostensibly in Loona Bimberton's honour, with a tiger-skin rug occupying most of the foreground and all of the conversation.*

**Ans.** Mrs Packletide had planned to give a luncheon party to outshine Loona.

(c) *Mothers carrying their babies home through the jungle after the day's work in the fields hushed their singing lest they might curtail the restful sleep of the venerable herd-robber.*

**Ans.** The villagers wanted to ensure a restful sleep for the tiger.

(d) *Louisa Mebbin adopted a protective elder-sister attitude towards money in general, irrespective of nationality or denomination*

**Ans.** Louisa hated spending money.

(e) *Evidently the wrong animal had been hit, and the beast of prey had succumbed to heart-failure, caused by the sudden report of the rifle, accelerated by senile decay*

**Ans.** The goat was shot instead of the tiger and the tiger died due to heart attack.

(f) *As for Loona Bimberton, she refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks, and her letter of thanks for the gift of a tiger-claw brooch was a model of repressed emotions.*

**Ans.** Loona was jealous of Mrs Packletide's fame.

## SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. Sometimes writers highlight certain negative aspects in society or human beings by making fun of it. This is called satire. In your groups discuss whether you would classify this story as a satire?

**Ans :** This story highlights the vanity of two women who can go to any foolish extremes. The writer pokes fun at socialites like Mrs Packletide and Loona who are largely governed by passions like 'jealousy'. They are far removed from normal human beings and their world comprises of parties, media attention and meaningless adventures. Their ultimate ambition in life is to outdo and outshine others. They are far removed from the basic problems of life that other people face. These women have character-traits that don't, in any way, do them justice. Mrs Packletide has never seen struggle or dearth of money or comfort so she behaves like a social butterfly without any substance. Thousands of rupees are wasted for a tiger hunt. The people who surround them also exploit them like Miss Mebbin and the villagers. The writer clearly states that Mrs Packletide's hands were used to holding generally a game of cards. Mrs Packletide's birthday is celebrated not for fun or enjoyment but to humiliate and demean others. Birthday presents like tiger-claw brooch is to hurt Mrs. Loona. Despite being bitter enemies and having extreme hatred for each other, both Loona and Mrs Packletide pretend to be part of the same friends circle.

The writer satirises the frivolous attitude of these vain women who exploit friendship, throw parties and celebrate birthdays to humiliate others. Their activities are not for the welfare of the society but only to fulfil their

eccentricities and whims. Saki openly laughs at the hollow values of women who become targets of ridicule and mockery. The writer also creates characters like Miss Mebbin who have no sense of loyalty for the employer and resort to blackmail for their optimum benefit. So Saki has a dig at the superficiality of the luxurious section of society who appear to be a drag for the society in general.

2. How does the writer create humour in this story?

**Ans :** The writer uses various techniques to create loads of humour and laughter throughout the story. The plot, situations, characters and versatile use of language has packed bundles of laughs, one after another.

The bare idea of tiger hunting on the part of a rich socialite, just to outshine another, is quite funny. Mrs Packletide's strategy to humiliate Loona, at the luncheon party with the tiger in the background is full of humour. The selection of tiger who has a royal past and the steps taken by the villagers are quite entertaining. The behaviour of the tiger when he sights the goat, or the killing of goat instead of tiger, add to the reader's interest. Miss Mebbin, the paid companion, exploits the entire situation to her credit and proves to be the smartest.

Saki scores in characterisation of Mrs Packletide and Loona who are vain to the extreme and their concept of adventure and media attention is funny. Miss Mebbin's money-mindedness, greed and the way she safeguards money at all costs is very interesting. All the three female characters are epitomes of vanity and pretension. Even the villagers, in their innocence, connive to keep the funny secret.

Mrs Packletide's comparison to a mighty hunter like 'Nimrod', or the tiger being called a venerable 'herd robber', is extremely witty. Miss Mebbin's 'elder sister attitude' towards money, Mrs Packletide facing the cameras 'with a light heart' are other touches of humour. Finally a clever lady like Mrs Packletide is fooled by Miss

Mebbin, who manages to extract a weekened cottage with 'tiger lilies' and ironically calls it 'The Wild Beast'. The climax of humour erupts in the situation when the goat is seen in the death-throes and no evidence of the rifle's work is seen on the tiger. So this is Saki's excellent rendition of a humorous piece of the first order.

## REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – MCQs

Read the following extracts and choose the correct option.

1. "How you shot the goat and frightened the tiger to death," said Miss Mebbin.

- (i) Miss Mebbin wanted to —  
 (a) sympathise  
 (b) point out the blunder  
 (c) make fun of Mrs Packletide  
 (d) wanted to blackmail her
- (ii) Miss Mebbin was by nature —  
 (a) clever (b) miser  
 (c) greedy (d) manipulative

(iii) This proves that Mrs Packletide was in reality —  
 (a) vain (b) not a hunter  
 (c) had a bad aim (d) fearful

Answers : (i) (c) (ii) (d) (iii) (b)

2. "..... and a thumbnail pack of patience cards, the sportswomen awaited the coming of the quarry."

- (i) The tone of the writer in the above statement is —  
 (a) humorous (b) ironical  
 (c) mocking (d) sarcastic
- (ii) Patience refers to —  
 (a) a game of cards  
 (b) waiting patiently  
 (c) to sit still  
 (d) to remain quiet

(iii) 'quarry' refers to —  
 (a) the villagers (b) Loona  
 (c) Miss Mebbin (d) the tiger

Answers : (i) (b) (ii) (a) (iii) (d)

3. "Only a personally procured tiger-skin and a heavy harvest of press photos could counter that sort of thing".

- (i) "that sort of thing" refers to —  
 (a) the tiger hunt  
 (b) Loona's fame  
 (c) Mrs Packletide's party  
 (d) The help of the villagers
- (ii) A tiger skin was needed to —  
 (a) increase Mrs Packletide's fame  
 (b) to make Loona jealous  
 (c) to get photos  
 (d) to reduce and undermine Loona's fame

(iii) The above statement reflects upon Mrs Packletide's character that she was —  
 (a) opportunistic (b) publicity-crazy  
 (c) adventurous (d) driven by jealousy

Answers : (i) (b) (ii) (b) (iii) (d)

4. "No one would believe it", said Mrs Packletide, her face changing colour as rapidly as though it were going through a book of patterns before post-time.

- (i) Mrs Packletide was literally \_\_\_\_\_ at this comment of Lousia —  
 (a) surprised (b) shocked  
 (c) irritated (d) confused
- (ii) A book of patterns refers to  
 (a) colours for furnishings  
 (b) colours for painting  
 (c) colours for dresses  
 (d) colour patterns for races
- (iii) Mrs Packletide understood that Miss Mebbin's remark is meant to  
 (a) malign her (b) blackmail her  
 (c) displease her (d) annoy her

Answers : (i) (b) (ii) (d) (iii) (b)

## REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – NON-MCQs

Read the following extracts and answer the questions.

1. *“In a world swayed by hunger and love, Mrs Packletide was an exception, her motives were largely governed by ...”*

(a) **How was Mrs Packletide an ‘exception’?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Packletide was obsessed by hatred of Loona, which was not normal.

(b) **What were Mrs Packletide’s motives?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Packletide’s motives were to hunt a tiger and more fame than loona Bimberton.

(c) **What governed her ‘motives’?**

**Ans :** Her motives were governed by extreme hatred of Loona.

2. *‘Favoured rendezvous of an animal of respectable antecedents’.*

(a) **Explain ‘rendevous’.**

**Ans :** It means ‘meeting place’.

(b) **Point out the humour in the above statement.**

**Ans :** Even the tiger to be shot had to be from the family of famous killers. No other tiger could prove useful.

(c) **What were the qualifications of the animal mentioned?**

**Ans :** The tiger selected for the hunt was old, sick, and was from a background of great killers..

3. *Mothers carrying their babies home through the jungle after the day’s work in the fields hushed their singing lest they might curtail the restful sleep of the venerable herd-robber.*

(a) **What were the steps taken by the mothers for the animal?**

**Ans :** The mothers did not sing lullabies to their children, so as not to disturb the tiger’s sleep.

(b) **Point out the literary device in ‘venerable herd-robber’.**

**Ans :** This is an oxymoron, when contradictory elements are brought together to prove something. On the one hand, the tiger is a robber and, on the other, he is respectable also.

(c) **How did all this care benefit the animal?**

**Ans :** The tiger had his full sleep, was not disturbed so that he is ready for the final day of shooting.

4. *Louisa adopted a protective elder sister attitude towards money in general.*

(a) **Explain ‘protective’ elder sister attitude.**

**Ans :** Lousia was so miserly and never allowed money to leave her as an elder sister would protect a younger sibling.

(b) **What does the above reflect about Louisa’s character?**

**Ans :** She was most greedy, miserly and a stingy person.

(c) **How did she manipulate this quality of hers?**

**Ans :** She derived maximum benefit from her manipulative and greedy nature by saving maximum money from being wasted in tips etc.

5. *The luncheon party she declined, there are limits beyond which repressed emotions become dangerous.*

(a) **Explain ‘repressed emotions.’**

**Ans :** This term refers to the emotions or feelings that have been hidden for a long time.

(b) **Why did Loona decline the invitation?**

**Ans :** Loona couldn’t tolerate Mrs Packletide’s fame after the tiger-hunt. So she declined to be a part of such festivity.

(c) **How do such emotions become dangerous?**

**Ans :** Many times emotions cannot be controlled and they may overflow, causing embarrassments or lead to strifes.

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. **What was precisely the motive for Mrs Packletide to shoot a tiger?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Packletide was not compelled by any adventurous feelings and she was least inclined towards any such kind of dangerous activities. Her sole aim was to counter Loona Bimberton’s fame, who had flown in an aircraft. So Mrs. Packletide wanted to hunt a tiger and get her photos in magazines, to make Loona jealous.

2. **What was Loona’s adventure? How did Mrs Packletide react to it?**

**Ans :** Loona had flown in an aircraft 11 miles with an Algerian pilot, so she had graced the cover pages of some magazines. Mrs Packletide had been smitten by

jealousy. So, to outshine Loona, she decided to do something more adventurous like a tiger hunt.

3. **How did circumstances prove favourable?**

**Ans :** Circumstances were favourable because an old and sick tiger was reportedly inhabiting the neighbouring village. He was of a royal background to suit Mrs. Packletides’s style. And the villagers also agreed to cooperate for the lure of a thousand rupees, as their earning.

4. **Why is Mrs Packletide compared to ‘Nimrod’?**

**Ans :** Nimrod was a legendary hunter. Mrs. Packletide was not at all adventurous and had no inclination towards such a sport. The writer has used this comparison to create mockery and lash at such vain females.

**5. How did Mrs Packletide plan to celebrate after hunting the tiger?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Packletide had decided to throw a luncheon party at Curzon Street, with lot of media around. The tiger-skin would be publically displayed and Loona would be the guest of honour. But all the talk would centre around Mrs. Packletide's tiger hunt. This would irritate and humiliate Loona.

**6. What were the two reasons for which the villagers agreed to help Mrs Packletide?**

**Ans :** The villagers were ecstatic to earn a thousand rupees. Moreover, they were happy and excited at the prospect of watching this tiger-hunt. This would provide them with the much needed thrill that was sadly lacking in their lives.

**7. Why was the tiger called 'herd-robber' and 'venerable'?**

**Ans :** The tiger would attack and eat the goats of the villagers. So they hated him and called him a herd robber. The same tiger was old and that is why he is called venerable, in mock respect.

**8. What was the greatest worry for the villagers?**

**Ans :** The tiger selected for the hunt was so old and sick that the villagers were really worried that he should not die before the tiger-hunt. So they took all kinds of precautions to keep him healthy and fresh before the hunt.

**9. "I suppose we are in some danger." Why does Louisa make this remark and what does it reflect about her nature?**

**Ans :** Louisa was very money-minded and she did not wish to perform even a tiny bit of extra work, over she was paid for. When both Louisa and Mrs. Packletide were seated on the platform, waiting for the tiger to arrive, then Louisa made the above remark. Basically she wished to ensure whether there was any danger to her life or not, from the tiger.

**10. Louisa had a 'protective elder-sister attitude' towards money. How?**

**Ans :** Louisa could never part with money, like an elder sister's protective attitude. Whether it was tips, her salary, or her blackmail for money, everything was thoroughly planned and worked out. She loved to cling to money, whatever the denomination or currency.

**11. Why did Loona avoid looking at the newspapers? How did she react to the tiger-claw brooch and**

**the invitation to the luncheon party?**

**Ans :** Loona also suffered a similar reaction at Mrs. Packletide's achievement. She did not wish to see her photos in the newspapers. She was suffering extreme pangs of jealousy. Loona could not refuse the gift of the tiger-claw brooch and she boycotted the luncheon invitation by declining it.

**12. Bring out the similarities in the characters of Mrs Packletide and Loona Bimberton.**

**Ans :** Both the ladies are vain, jealous and dominated by superfluous desires. They are social butterflies who spare no thought to civility or grace. Both of them could go to any limits to humiliate, embarrass or degrade each other. They are publicity-crazy and pretentious females who derive sadistic pleasure in hurting each other.

**13. How much money did Mrs. Packletide pay to the villagers and why?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Packletide was very jealous of her friend, Loona Biberton. Loona's adventure of flying an aeroplane, made her feel belittle. In order to outdo Loona, she decides to shoot a tiger and obtain a tiger skin. She offered a thousand rupees to anyone who would help her in hunting a tiger.

**14. How did Miss Mebbin exploit Mrs. Packletide? [C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]**

**Or**

**How did Miss Mebbin blackmail Mrs. Packletide into gifting her a cottage?[C.B.S.E., 2011, T-1]**

**Ans :** Miss Mebbin was very selfish and money-minded. She knew the fact that Mrs. Packletide had shot a goat and the tiger had succumbed due to heart failure, caused by the loud noise of the bullet. She threaten Mrs. Packletide with revealing the same secret to Loona. Thus she blackmailed her employer and got hush money to buy the weak-end cottage.

**15. Depict the instances of humour in the chapter, Mrs. Packletide's tiger? [C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]**

**Ans :** The writer uses various instances to create loads of humour throughout the story. The bare idea of tiger hunting on the part of a rich socialite, just to outshine her friend, is quite funny. The selection of tiger with royal past, the behaviour of the tiger at the sight of the goat, killing of the goat instead of the tiger, Miss Mebbin's money mindedness, etc., are instances of the humour created by the writer.

## LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. **Miss Mebbin, after acquiring the cottage at Dorking, writes to her sister how she managed to get the cottage, taking advantage of the vanity of two women. Draft a letter on her behalf.**

[C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

Ans : Smith Street  
ABC city  
25 July, 20.....  
Dear Molly,

I am floating on Cloud Nine these days. Can you believe that I have fulfilled my lifelong ambition of acquiring a weekend cottage, near Dorking. It is so beautiful and scenic. All my friends were wonderstruck at my fortune and even you would feel that it is a 'marvel' and a great asset. Can you believe that your sister is so smart that she benefitted the most from the tug-of-war between two jealous social butterflies, who could go to any length to hurt each other. One of them tried to hunt a tiger and shot the goat instead. I grabbed this opportunity and got lot of hush-money to keep her secret. These women really deserve this treatment. One of them has already learnt a lesson and decided no more to indulge in game-shooting.

Rest of the details, I'll give later.

Your sister,  
Louisa.

2. **What plans did Mrs Packletide make to outshine Loona Bimberton? Was she successful?**

Ans : Mrs Packletide had made quite an elaborate plan to outshine Loona, in all respects. She decided to hunt a tiger to counter her fame. Moreover, she had planned a luncheon party, at Curzon Street, to pretend that it was given in Loona's honour. The tiger skin would be in the background, media people were to be called. And she had also decided that a tiger claw brooch would be given to Loona as her birth day gift. Yes, she was, but at a great financial cost.

3. **Why was Mrs Packletide's tiger-hunt not thrilling and adventurous? What precautions did Mrs Packletide take to hunt the tiger without risking her life?**

Ans : Mrs. Packletide was neither adventurous nor sporting. She had never held a rifle before, nor had she ever shown any inclination for any kind of game or shooting. The sole objective of the tiger-hunt was to make Loona jealous. So the tiger-hunt took on the flavour of some kind of exploit that is undertaken to degrade others.

Mrs. Packletide sat on a high platform which was far from the reach of the tiger, she had an automatic rifle, and a goat with a persistent bleat was selected to attract

the tiger. Moreover, she had taken help from the villagers and had her paid companion with her for any kind of emergency.

4. **After reading the lesson, you have come to the conclusion that 'False vanity ends up in loss.' On the basis of your observation and reading of the lesson, write an article.**

Ans : **FALSE VANITY ENDS UP IN LOSS**

Man is a slave to his passions and when it comes to women, whims and fancies rule the roost. Women belonging to the upper rung of society, often end up making a farce of their eccentricities and become subjects of ridicule. It is a fact now known to all, how a top socialist shot a tiger just for making her friend jealous and have her photos splashed all over the newspapers. Heedless killing of animals for one's whims is the greatest cruelty one can inflict on poor helpless creatures. That lady, to satisfy her vanity, resorted to tiger-killing which can never be pardoned in any way. These days we are pledged to 'SAVE TIGERS' campaign, so such kind of wanton acts cannot be forgiven. Strict laws should be made to punish such heedless acts, which resort not only to cruelty but also end in financial losses like expenditure or even blackmail. One never knows.

5. **You are Mrs Packletide. You are indebted to the villagers who never let you down at any juncture whereas your companion Miss Mebbin, on whom you relied heavily, stabbed you in the back. Write a letter to a friend regarding the faith and betrayal you faced from the people around you, giving vent to your inner feelings.**

Ans : Oxford Street  
ABC City  
10 July, 2011  
Dear Alice,

I could not write to you since there were so many preoccupations that needed to be sorted out in my personal life. If you remember, I had mentioned that I was planning to shoot a tiger. The tiger was shot and all the villagers helped me in every way. Some lay in ambush for my protection, others tried their best to stop the tiger from going to the neighbouring village. They even arranged for a goat and gave all kind of support, when it was discovered that I had shot the goat instead of the tiger. But my paid companion, Louisa who was supposed to be loyal, threatened to divulge this secret to my arch rival Loona. Out of compulsion, I had to honour her by gifting her a very expensive cottage as blackmail. Imagine my state of mind when people on whom you depend stab you in

the back. Now I have lost faith in people I trusted earlier.

Your sister,  
Mrs. Packletide

- 6. Mrs. Packletide develops extreme jealousy for Loona Bimberton. She gives vent to her feelings by writing a diary entry. As Mrs. Packletide, write the diary entry. [C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]**

**Ans :**Dear Diary,

Today I am feeling extremely jealous for Loona Bimberton who had recently been carried in an aeroplane by an Algerian pilot. I have been belittled by her adventure. I am no less than her in any way, be it money, life style or fame. I could not bear to see her photographs in the newspapers. So, I have decided to outshine her by hunting a tiger and possessing its skin. I will invite photographers of all the leading magazines to click my photographs with the tiger. I have also planned to throw a party pretending to honour Loona for her adventure but most of the talk would revolve round my bravery of killing a tiger. This would make Loona squirm with embarrassment. To humiliate her more, I would even present a tiger-claw brooch to Loona on her birthday.

What do you say???

Isn't it a brilliant idea?

Packletide.

- 7. Do you think the writer is trying to make fun of the main characters in the story i.e., Mrs Packletide, Miss Mebin and Loona Bimberton? Narrate the instances from the story that point to this fact.**

**Ans :**Through the characters like Mrs. Packletide and Loona Bimberton, the writer wants to highlight the vanity of two women who can go to any foolish extremes. He pokes fun at them who are largely governed by passions like jealousy. They are far removed from normal human beings and their world comprises of parties, media attention and meaningless adventures. They unnecessarily waste thousands of rupees just to outshine each other. Despite being bitter enemies and having extreme hatred for each other, both Loona and Mrs. Packletide pretend to be the part of the same friends circle. Their activities are not for the welfare of the society but only to fulfil their eccentricities and whims.

The writer has created another character like Miss Mebbin who has no sense of loyalty for her employer and resorts to blackmail Mrs. Packletide for her optimum benefit. After threatening Mrs. Packletide that she would tell Loona that she had shot at goat and not the tiger and the latter's death was caused by a heart attack, she was able to procure a week-end cottage from her.

All the three characters are the epitome of vanity and pretensions.

## FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

- 1. Selfish and cruel attitude of man has led to the extinction of some animals.**

**Write an article**



- 2. Research the names of other animals who are fast disappearing in great number like the Pandas.**

- | List them out.
- | Suggest measures to protect them.

- 3. You are a member of PETA. Prepare an emotional speech to be delivered in the morning assembly motivating the students to exercise restraint regarding the maltreatment meted out to the poor helpless animals around them.**

- 4. An arrow is being shot towards the bird. The bird, lost in its thoughts, is totally unaware of it.**

**Answer these questions and make a story around this.**

- | What do you think will happen?
- | Who has shot this arrow?
- | Why has this arrow been shot?

