

ENGLISH

THE ADVENTURES OF TOTO

~Summary~

-by Ruskin Bond

Toto is Bought by the Narrator's Grandfather

The narrator's grandfather was very fond of animals. He bought a monkey from a Tonga-driver for 5 and named it Toto. First, when the grandfather saw Toto tied up to a feeding-trough, he looked very ill and ugly. As the grandfather had his own private zoo with many other animals, he kept the little monkey in it. Toto used his tail as a third hand. He used it to hang from a branch and for scooping up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands. Toto's presence was kept a secret from grandmother as she didn't like animals. It was kept secretly in a little closet.

Toto Travels Secretly with Grandfather

One day, when grandfather was going to Saharanpur to collect his pension, he decided to take Toto along with him as he did not want to leave him at home. A big black canvas kit bag was provided for Toto so that he could not escape. However, he was caught at Saharanpur station by the ticket collector and classified as a dog, so that grandfather had to also pay his fare.

Toto is Finally Accepted in the Family

Gradually grandmother accepted Toto in the house and he was put in the stable with Nana, the donkey. But, Toto teased Nana (donkey) so much that Nana never became friends with Toto.

Toto Nearly Half Boiled Himself Alive

In winters, Toto had an elaborate bathing ritual and enjoyed bathing with warm water. Due to this, once Toto almost boiled himself alive. A kettle had been put on the stove for making tea for the family. When nobody was there, he felt the water warm enough for a bath, so he climbed in. As the water kept heating up, he kept hopping in it until grandmother took him out, barely alive. Toto continued his antics by tearing clothes to shreds, breaking plates and other utensils etc.

Toto is Sold Back to Tonga Driver

Toto caused too much loss in the family. Finally grandfather realised that Toto was not the type of pet to be kept in the house. They could not tolerate him any more. At last, grandfather found the Tonga-driver and sold Toto back to him for Rs. 3 and heaved a sigh of relief.

Conclusion of The Adventures of Toto

The chapter – The Adventures of Toto illustrates the lesson to students that one must behave responsibly in a congenial environment and should not create nuisance and become intolerable to others.