



ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL



Sub: English Text

Class: 5

Date: 06/05/2020

Study Material

Chapter- The Puppy



About the author Oliver Herford

1863-1935

Oliver Herford (1863 - 1935) was a British born American writer, artist and illustrator who has been called "The American Oscar Wilde". As a frequent contributor to The Mentor, Life, and Ladies' Home Journal, he sometimes signed his artwork as "O Herford". In 1906 he wrote and illustrated the "Little Book of Bores". He also wrote short poems like "The Chimpanzee" and "The Hen", as well as writing and illustrating "The Rubaiyat of a Persian Kitten" (1904) and "Excuse It Please" (1930). His sister Beatrice Herford was also a humorist.

About the poem

Explanation:

The poet talks about a puppy that he is attached to. He makes fun of the puppy at first by telling the readers that the puppy cannot mew or talk and he does not know how to walk.

He is newborn; so finds difficulty even the simplest tasks of wagging its tail.

Due to this difficulty, the puppy walks zig-zag and hence cannot do simple tasks by its own.

The poet is drawing the reader's attention to the days of the childhood where we knew nothing but slowly as time passes, we could learn many things from life itself. The same way puppy shall also learn soon.

A. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

‘And when the gardener comes to see

He's sure to blame mamma or me.’

1. Who says these lines?

Ans. The poet says these lines.

2. What will the gardener see?

Ans. The gardener will see the destroyed tulip bed.

3. Who is 'he' in these lines?

Ans. 'He' is gardener in the lines.

B. Answer these questions.

1. What do the first two lines of the last stanza mean? Choose the correct option.

- a) The puppy is healthy though it isn't pretty.
- b) The puppy is kind and good-looking.
- c) The puppy is good and kind, even though it isn't pretty.

2. Why does the puppy 'walk zigzag'?

Ans. The puppy walks zigzag because his tail is difficult to wag.

3. What is it always looking for?

Ans. The puppy is always looking for something new.

4. What game does the puppy like best?

Ans. The puppy's favorite game is to chase his own tail.

5. What is the poet sorry about?

Ans. The poet feels sorry because the puppy will grow into horrid and noisy dog.

6. Why do you think the poet does not want the puppy to grow up?

Ans. The poet does not want the puppy to grow up because once it grows it would become a horrid and noisy dog.

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